

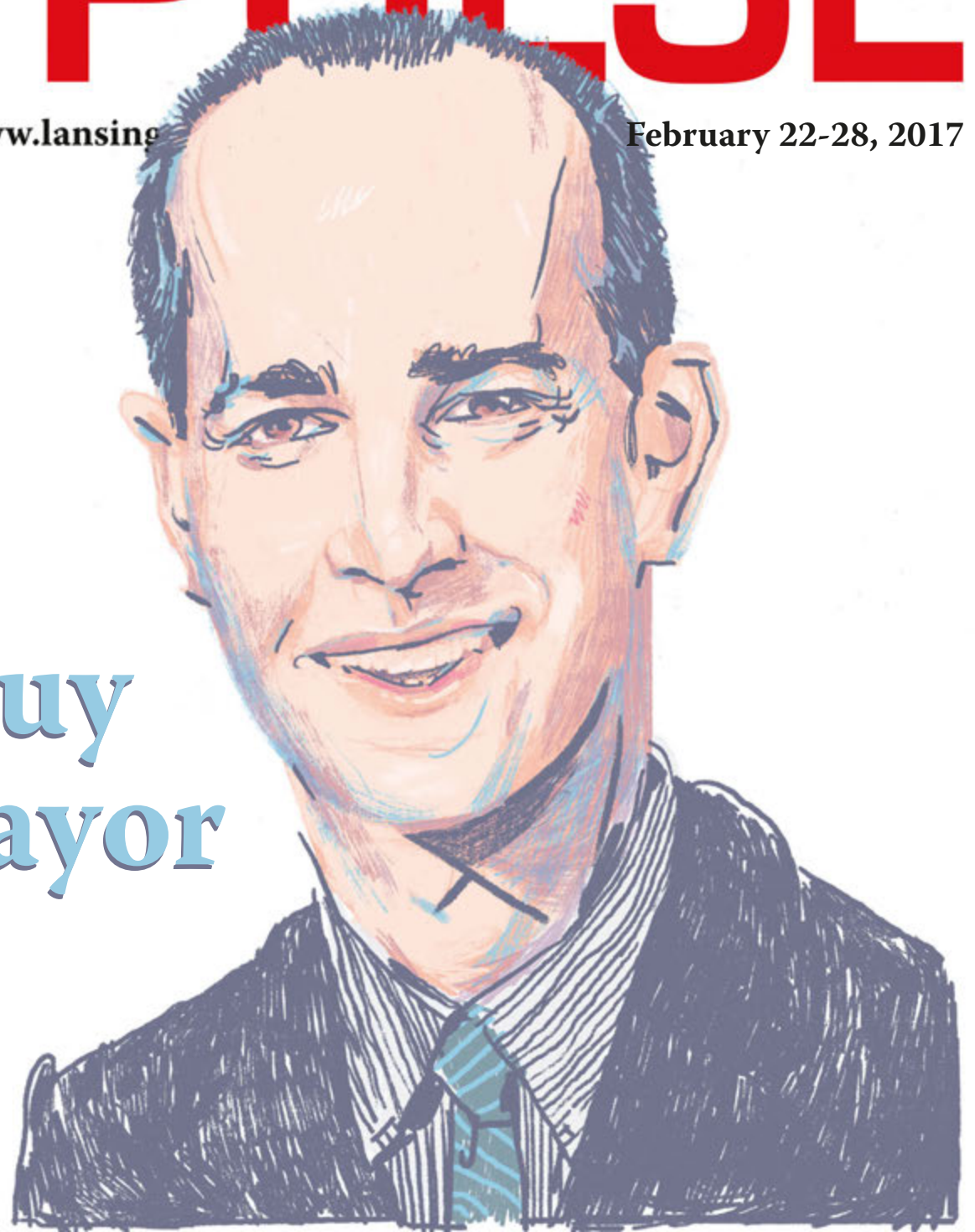
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CityPULSE

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February 22-28, 2017



Mr. Nice Guy runs for mayor p. 7

**"DIVINELY, DANGEROUSLY
DECADENT."**

BEN BRANTLEY
The New York Times



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM to 12 NOON and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 15 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 15, 2017. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30 PM, March 16, 2017. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2017

INGHAM COUNTY	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

EATON COUNTY	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00


CLINTON COUNTY	RATIO	FACTOR
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:
 Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

CP#17-015

CityPULSE
NEWSMAKERS




HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

THIS WEEK
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ANDY SCHOR

State Representative (D-Lansing)
and Lansing Mayoral Candidate



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1206

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to add Section 1460.04, Home Occupation Registration And Inspection, to Chapter 1460 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to provide for the registration and inspection of any building or structure in a residentially-zoned district where the operation of a home occupation within such building or structure utilizes electricity that exceeds 3500 kwh (kilowatt hours) per month or where the operation emits gases, fumes, smoke, or odors outside of the building or structure and across the building or structure's property line; and to provide civil infraction penalties for noncompliance with Section 1460.04

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk

www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

Feedback

Yes on making Lansing a sanctuary

Should Lansing be a sanctuary city? It's a loaded question for sure. This is without a doubt directly related to president trump's recently proposed travel ban. I personally believe that everyone deserves to be treated equal regardless of the color of their skin, their religion, or their current immigration status. The intentions are good, all president trump wants is for us to be safe and secure while living our lives. But forcing officials to stop people of "interest" is not only rude and invasive but in some circles could be considered racial profiling. Dr. Martin Luther King fought his entire life to get fair and equal treatment for people of all colors. He was once referred to as "an outsider coming in". This statement is damaging and wrong in so many ways I don't have the time to count them all. But the main point I'm trying to get across is that we are all people. I deserve to be treated the same as a Muslim with brown skin would be treated, I sure as hell wouldn't appreciate a government official stopping me and asking me for my immigration status. No one should stand for that, let's take the power out of trumps tiny hands and make our city safe for all.

— Andrew Olson
Lansing

Nothing's in a name

On 15 February 2017 your newspaper published an article that I had the chance to read. The article was called "What's In A Name." This article basically talks about the city of Lansing, Michigan and a debate that is going on about whether or not they should be considered a sanctuary city. I want to bring to your attention that Lansing should just be left alone and that labels shouldn't matter.

We are trying to protect immigrants here. Naming Lansing, Michigan a sanctuary city would hurt these exact people we are trying to protect and it would give them less money too. I don't think that is very fair at all. This shouldn't happen in my opinion because it's already been

said that Lansing, Michigan's police department doesn't and won't ever ask about immigration status in their encounters with Lansing residents. It was also already said that they will not cooperate with state or federal authorities if they try to transform the police officers into immigration agents.

MLK, Jr. said in his letter to Birmingham that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I believe that if this was to actually happen then this one injustice being done to immigrants will then threaten to destroy all the justices that are already in place. That would be an all time low thing to ever then happen to the city of Lansing, Michigan. I believe that it shouldn't matter what Lansing is considered because they are doing just fine now.

— Amber Lefanty
Nashville, Mich.

Mixed on sanctuary city status

I was taken back when reading your article. I was unimpressed by your idea to make our capitol a "sanctuary city". There are laws in place to keep us safe, and maintain order. The proposal is that our officers are selective on what laws to enforce. This sets a very dangerous precedent for the future. We all have a different moral compass that we base our decisions on. To what end do we decide what laws are, and aren't relevant.

Our former Attorney general also decided to go with her political views, and go against the law, and our President. That was a poor choice for her future. Our officers swore an oath when accepting their job to serve, protect, and enforce the laws that have been made. Immigrants that are here illegally should be detained, and deported. The question is how do we go about that. That being said I don't agree with harassment of any individual based solely upon appearance. However, if one does break the law, and is here illegally I would expect them to be deported. I would also consider the financial impact that having illegals in the city, which is the poorest capitol in the surrounding Great Lakes area.

There is no easy solution for the problem at hand. You would think that our Mayor would be tackling issues such as our horrible road situation, the selling of Marijuana on almost every corner, or trash blowing throughout the city. Instead of renaming the Capitol of Michigan. Furthermore each article I read about Mayor Virg Bernero makes me question his ability to be an effective Mayor.

— Linda Truax
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- 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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Schwartz: Send Trump a message on sanctuary city status



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Modern politics push 'Cabaret' back into relevance



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Sommelier feature puts DeWitt on the wine map



COVER
ART

By VINCE JOY

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NOW AT 10:30 A.M.
SATURDAYS ON

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IT BEGINS WITH A NEW EARLY-MORNING TWEET.

Hell-demons (or "monsters") from another dimension invading our country with help from Satan-worshipping Dems! Only D.J.T. can MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!!!!

ADVISORS SCRAMBLE TO ADAPT THE LATEST MISSIVE TO THEIR OWN AGENDA.

OH FOR CHRISSAKES, DID SOMEONE PULL UP INFOWARZ FOR HIM AGAIN?

WE COULD SAY THE DEMONS ARE SHAPE-SHIFTERS--DISGUISED AS ILLEGAL MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS!

OOH, I LIKE THAT.

SPICER HOLDS A PRESS CONFERENCE.

SEAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE REGARDING THESE ALLEGED HELL-DEMONS?

DON'T BE STUPID! THEY'RE SHAPE-SHIFTERS! THEY COULD BE ANYONE! THEY COULD BE YOU!

GUARDS--ARREST THAT MAN--JUST TO BE SAFE!

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

SURROGATES GO ON THE OFFENSIVE. THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST TWEET SEEMS DISCONNECTED FROM REALITY--

YOU KNOW WHO'S DISCONNECTED, JAKE? THE FAILING LAMESTREAM MEDIA!

THE PRESIDENT JUST WANTS TO KEEP AMERICA SAFE FROM TOTALLY REAL HELL-DEMONS-- NO THANKS TO YOU!

CNN

REPUBLICAN LEADERS TRY DESPERATELY TO AVOID THE SUBJECT.

WE, UH, DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ EVERY SINGLE THING THE PRESIDENT TWEETS! WE'RE TOO BUSY WORKING TO GET THINGS DONE FOR AVERAGE AMERICANS!

SLASHING HEALTH CARE, ENDING CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND LABOR PROTECTIONS, CUTTING TAXES FOR BILLIONAIRES-- THINGS LIKE THAT!

AND THEN IT STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN.

So-called "scientists" (or eggheads), bombard me with mind-control rays from Space--but my thick natural HAIR protects me! Trump wins AGAIN!!!!

LOOK, NOBODY SAID DESTROYING AMERICA FROM WITHIN WAS GOING TO BE EASY.

TOM TOMORROW © 2017

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Million-dollar mayor's race

Spending and dark money become hot button issues

Lansing's 2017 candidates and dark money groups could spend as much as a million dollars in eight months in a bid to elect a new mayor. Dark money — untraceable money ostensibly spent to educate voters about a candidate's views — is already a front and center issue in a campaign that is still forming.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said in a press release Friday that he was “prepared” to reapply for my job” for a fourth term. Today, State Rep. Andy Schor announced his run. And Lansing City Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke confirmed Monday she

improper robocalls. It also sent out mailers in the 1st and 3rd Ward Council races aimed at hobbling candidates not favored by Bernero. The group is a political education nonprofit, or a 501(c)4, which are not required to disclose donors. It's been tied to the bipartisan political consulting firm of Grassroots Midwest, and that group's communications director is identified in filings as the contact for the group.

Jody Washington, who was a target of those mailings in 2015 as she successfully sought reelection to represent the city's 1st Ward, said developer Pat Gillespie confirmed

that they support a pro-jobs, pro-growth agenda and they care enough about metro Lansing to oppose candidates who they believe are an obstacle to progress.”

Schor has a history of introducing legislation to shine a light on groups like No Secret Lansing Deals, Reform Lansing and Capitol Region Progress. The latter two operate as political education nonprofits, which means the donors don't have to be revealed. The groups can use the money raised to “educate” voters, as long as they don't use the so-called magic words of vote for or against a given candidate. Those groups are governed by federal law.

Bucholz said that No Secret Lansing Deals is not a political nonprofit but a loose coalition of business owners and citizens who are raising awareness about Lansing area development issues. He won't disclose who is funding the program, which has retained Bucholz to handle the “digital footprint” and communications. He said members fear retaliation from Bernero and City Hall.

Steve Japinga, director of government relations for the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, said candidates need to disclose their ties to the dark money organizations, and that the organizations need to disclose their donors. The chamber is a major player in local politics through its political action committee's endorsement.

He also expressed skepticism that the tactics of Capital Region Progress will work in this year's city elections.

“It didn't work in 2015,” he said, “I don't know why they think it will work in 2017.”

The candidates themselves will be raising cash to promote their visions as mayor. Schor said he expects to raise and spend \$250,000 and he expects the mayor will raise and spend double that. Brown Clarke said if she runs for mayor she expects to raise and spend \$150,000.

At stake are the keys to Lansing City Hall for the next four years and the \$128,000 annual salary to the top voter getter. Most important, whoever voters select in November will establish a vision for the city.

Schor can transfer the balance of his state representative campaign committee into a committee for his run for mayor. At the beginning of December, Schor had nearly \$70,000 on hand according to campaign finance reports on file with the



Brown Clarke



Bernero



Schor

is “leaning” toward a run for the top executive office.

Bernero's press release attacked Schor for his “ties” to No Secret Lansing Deals, a group that claims to be made of small business owners and citizens fed up with “secrecy” in Lansing politics. The group's spokesman, PR guy TJ Bucholz, is helping Schor roll out his candidacy.

Bernero's attack piece accused Schor of adding Bucholz to his payroll, but both Bucholz and Schor said Bucholz is a volunteer, although they don't rule out a paid position for him as the campaign progresses.

Bernero said the tie between Bucholz and No Secret Lansing Deals — which won't reveal who its members are or how much money is being spent — was “an ironic twist.”

But Bernero appears to have his own ties to a shadowy dark money group, Capitol Region Progress. That group made headlines and racked up Federal Communications Commission complaints in 2015 with what neighborhood activists labeled

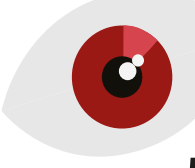
to her, following the election, that Bernero had asked him to donate to the group.

Reached by phone Monday, Gillespie said, “I don't know what she is talking about.” He promised to check his records for any donations to the group and call back. He did not call back.

An associate of a Lansing developer confirmed being approached by Bernero to donate to Capitol Region Progress. He did not wish to be identified out of concern for retaliation by Bernero.

For his part, Bernero has never confirmed or denied his involvement with the group. He did not respond to a request for an interview through his campaign consultant, Kody Vitale, for this story.

Previously, Bernero ignored questions in 2015 about whether he is involved in the organization. Instead, he responded with a statement: “Capitol Region Progress has been active in city elections for the past four years, so it is no surprise they are involved in this cycle. While I may not agree with all their tactics, I appreciate



SORE

OF THE WEEK

REVISITED



Property: 902 E. Grand River Ave.
Lansing

When this location was featured as an Eyesore in April 2014, it was “vacant and boarded, its falling soffit precariously held up by the former restaurant's mechanical equipment.” The site had served as the home of Lansing's Famous Taco and now houses the Fish Market of Grand River.

The earlier feature notes the beneficial relationships that develop when zoning ordinances allow commercial enterprises in and near residential neighborhoods. Businesses gain ready access to possible clients. Needed services can be located within an easy walk from one's home.

Recently, the damaged soffit was repaired and painted and the runaway plantings were trimmed. Colorful lights bring a touch of brightness around the windows. A few fish decals offer fun ornamentation at the main entrance.

More important than its exterior appearance is the fact that community is once again served with a viable business, offering services to the neighborhood. We hope to see it continue and succeed.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



“Eyesore of the Week” is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates each week with Eye Candy of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

See Mayoral race, Page 6

Fear is winning

Lansing needs a drink of courage on sanctuary cities

Action, not words, is usually what counts. And in normal times, that would be enough on the undocumented immigrant issue.

But with a bully in the White House, it's time for Lansing to take the extra step and declare itself a sanctuary city.

The City Council has been debating this issue since President Donald Trump signed an executive order last month threatening to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities.

That could mean losing \$6 million or more for programs that aid the city's most vulnerable citizens. And a "Sanctuary Policy Prohibition Act" that's been introduced in the state Legislature would cost Lansing upward of another \$5 million in revenue-sharing funds. No small stakes.

The Council will take up the issue again on Monday for a third time. Jessica Yorke, Kathie Dunbar and Tina Houghton are pro-sanctuary city. But the majority seems to



BERL SCHWARTZ

share Carol Wood's sentiment: "The moral question is not complex, but the potential impact is complicated and potentially harmful."

In other words, we're concerned about putting our money where our mouth is.

Some argue that we can have it both ways: a policy that does what sanctuary cities do — which is to not become an arm of the feds in identifying undocumented immigrants — while not calling ourselves a sanctuary city.

"What matters is our policies and practices," said a statement issued by Mayor Virg Bernero's office last week, "and Mayor Bernero has been very clear that our police department does not and will not ask about immigration status in their encounters, nor will we cooperate with state or federal authorities if they attempt to transform our police officers into immigration agents."

But the question that goes unanswered — as it did when I asked it last week — is, if all this is so, why not put a name on our policy, which is sanctuary city?

Trump's executive order and the pending state legislation are aimed at policies, not titles.

Why the administration thinks that calling Lansing a "welcoming city," as it now does, is somehow bullet proof is beyond me. God may have spared the Jews in Egypt, but I very much doubt Trump is going to pass over the communities that paint "we're only

a welcoming city" over their city halls.

What's more likely is that even the Nut Job in Chief is going to have to accede to reality: Scores of cities — indeed, four entire states — call themselves sanctuaries. Is the White House really prepared to get bogged down in such a battle? Especially given the dubious legality of the order? Many courts have ruled that the federal government cannot coerce local and state governments — the best example of late being the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that reversed the Obama administration's Medicaid expansion requirement.

More important, though: This is the time we need to stand up for what we believe in. As I listen to the debate in City Hall, I am not hearing anyone disagreeing with Carol Wood when she says the morally right thing to do is to be a sanctuary for undocumented Lansing residents. These are our friends and neighbors. They are not Mexico's "most unwanted people ... criminals, drug dealers, rapists," as Trump claims. These are people trying to make a better life. They are like all Americans who came from other countries — in other words, all of us except for Native Americans. They were able to come here legally because we had a compassionate and sensible immigration policy.

What I am hearing is, at best, fear — exactly what bullies thrive on. We're trying to go around the threat, just like kids do in tak-

ing another path home. And I understand that — when it doesn't result in hurting other people.

This is a time we need leadership on this issue, and unfortunately we're not getting it from the one person who could most influence this debate: Virg Bernero. Where's the angriest mayor in America? Ducking. In an election year. Shocking.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear his declared opponent, state Rep. Andy Schor, is any more courageous on this front. In an interview for this week's cover story on him, he sides with those who stop would short of labeling Lansing a sanctuary city.

And another potential mayoral candidate, Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke, is no better. "I'm not trading one life for another," she said, referring to the loss of funds for social programs. Social programs aren't any help if you're deported.

Our mayor, our mayoral candidates and most of our Council need to visit the wizard and get a glass of courage.

Something dangerous is afoot in Washington. History is going to judge us on our morality during this chapter. Calling ourselves a sanctuary city would be one way that the history books will reflect positively on Lansing. It can be our contribution to the growing resistance movement we are seeing around the country.

Resist.

Houghton challenger

Neighborhood activist files for Council in 2nd Ward

Julee Rodocker grew up in southeast Lansing, and now she wants to represent the area on the City Council.

Rodocker, who has filed to run in the 2nd Ward in the August primary election, sees an area of the city overrun with medical marijuana dispensaries and shuttered businesses along crumbling roads. That, she said, was evidence the ward was not being represented.

"I pledge right here and now, that when I, Julee Rodocker, am elected as Lansing 2nd Ward City Councilperson, that will no longer be the case," she said in an interview. "They will have a voice and I will be responsive to their concerns as their councilmember."

Rodocker, 47, who graduated from Everett High School and Michigan State University, is poised to take on incumbent Tina Houghton and challenger Jim DeLine, the former city internal auditor. DeLine has filed but Houghton has not. The deadline is 4 p.m. April 25. The top two vote-getters will face each other in the November general election.

Rodocker has a long record of neighborhood activism, including serving as president of the Old Everett Neighborhood Association. She has served on the board of the Lansing Board of Water & Light and was an unsuccessful candidate for the Lansing School Board.

She said she would like to see the city move quickly on an ordinance to regulate

medical marijuana dispensaries. She believes that there should be no more than 12 such facilities throughout the city. By some estimates, Lansing has 70 or more.

"Government has not been conducted in the interest of the voting public, and there has been a failure to control the large amount of the high visibility and proliferation of marijuana dispensaries around Lansing. And it's peculiar on the south side," she said.

On another controversy facing the city, Rodocker said she would not have voted in favor of allowing the BWL to build the Central Substation at Scott Park in Lansing. As a former BWL commissioner and a current buyer for Consumers Energy, she said she saw no reason for the "rush." Incumbent Houghton voted for the BWL plan.

"There could have been another way to do this all together," she said. "I don't think that the Board of Water & Light has been very transparent with a public, and, plus, I am against getting rid of all of our parks."

That she said, also ties into her belief that preservation of Lansing's past is a key tool in moving the city forward.

"I'm not for bulldozing all of our historical sites in Lansing because I think there's a way that we can do this in a better light," she said.

Rodocker said she opposes designating Lansing a sanctuary city, which the Council will address again on Monday. She said the city will "certainly" lose \$6.5 million in feder-

al funds because of an executive order signed by President Trump threatening a cutoff to the nation's scores of sanctuary cities.

But she does support the current policies of the Bernero administration of not inquiring about immigration status when contacting residents. She said the current designation of "Welcoming City" was adequate and she hopes that through dialogue community members will come to better understand the city's policies and procedures and that will "reduce the fear."

And don't expect her to be a cheerleader for tax abatements and other development deals in the city. She said she thinks it's time to stop helping "elitist" developers and focus on Lansing's blue-collar community.

"Our city is a working class town," she said, "and we need to start focusing on just that, not pandering to the exclusive idealist class that come in and live outside in the suburbs."

She said it was her "perception" that most of the tax abatements and development incentives have been used for the downtown area and along Michigan Avenue.

While she opposed in general the use of tax incentives for most developments, she said she would be more favorable — "on a case by case basis" — to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) proposals. That's where developers creating housing for low-income or disabled persons or seniors make a payment that is representative of a small percentage of the net profits on the project. That particular incentive has been the cause of friction on the Council and even resulted in a federal lawsuit against the city alleging a denial of such a credit was housing discrimination. A

federal judge last week removed three Council members who had been named in the suit but left the case against the city standing.

In addition to Rodocker, Christopher Jackson, a legal aid attorney for Elder Law of Michigan, filed to run in the at-large race. Efforts to reach him for an interview have been unsuccessful.

— Todd Heywood



Mayoral race

from page 5

Michigan Secretary of State's Office. He has since held his annual beer tasting fundraiser event so that nest egg is likely higher now.

On the other hand, Bernero's end of the year campaign report showed he had nearly \$142,000 on hand as of Dec. 31.

Brown Clarke's campaign owes nearly \$12,000 to her and her husband, 54-A District Court Judge Hugh Clarke. But she said that was a deliberate move on her part.

"There's some things that I've done strategically that probably make me look like an underdog," Brown Clarke said Monday afternoon. "But the bottom line is once I come out I'm coming out strong — just as I did athletically," a reference to the Silver Medal she won in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

— Todd Heywood



SCHOR VS. THOR

Rep. Andy Schor pitches a gentler style in bid for mayor of Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

After a long day as a minority voice in Michigan's Republican-controlled Legislature, Rep. Andy Schor likes to unwind with a book before bed.

The problem is, power struggles from Norse mythology (fabulist Neil Gaiman's "The Greatest Hits," borrowed from the library) don't sound like much of a break from politics.

Saturday night, Schor got into the story about the lusty giant who offered to build a wall around Asgard to protect it from its enemies, asking for the sun and the moon and a goddess to grab as payment.

Big infrastructure projects seem to bring out the worst in people.

"He tried to con them and got conned," Schor said. "Norse mythology is all about cons and power."

Other Norse sagas must hit closer to home for a 41-year-old Democrat who's just announced a primary run against Lansing's potent three-term "mayor for life," Virg Bernero.

"The stories of Thor are fascinating," Schor said. "Thor is made out in Marvel Comics to be a nice guy. Thor is a jerk. He was arrogant, he was the most powerful god, he did whatever he wanted."

Schor didn't explicitly compare Thor to Bernero, but he's made it clear that swinging a hammer isn't his style. Until the specifics of his "vision for Lansing" take shape, Schor's pitch consists mainly of a promise to bring a more collaborative, less combative style to the internal and regional challenges the city faces.

SETTLING INTO LANSING

Sunday afternoon, Schor took advantage of unseasonably warm February weather to run three miles through his Moores River neighborhood. In a couple of hours, his family was due at Advent House Ministries on



Courtesy Photo

Andy Schor and former state Sen. Gary Peters schmooze at Schor's wedding in 2001. From 1997 to 2002, Schor "learned a lot" while serving as a staffer for Peters, now Michigan's junior U.S. Senator.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Schor lives on the Grand River on Lansing's west side with his wife, Erin, and children Ryan, 12, and Hannah, 10.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, to serve food to poor and homeless people.

In a quiet interval, he and his wife, Erin, sat on the couch for a chat in their westside home, perched on a bluff overlooking the Grand River. Somewhere in the vicinity were their two kids, Hannah, 10, and Ryan, 12.

Schor grew up on Long Island, about an hour and a half from New York City, at the edge of the suburbs, just short of the vineyards and the ultra-rich Hamptons.

"I feel as if I've always been a Democrat, although I might not have known at the time," he said.

His dad was a diamond distributor and his mom worked at a nursing home. She was laid off when the employees tried to unionize and the owners retaliated by firing the entire staff.

His parents were independent voters. "I'm pretty sure they voted for Reagan and Clinton," he said. "Now they're Florida Democrats. They really don't like the Republicans in Florida."

Being a moderate Republican in New York, like former Gov. George Pataki, is like being a moderate Democrat in Michigan, Schor explained.

"We didn't sit around the dinner table and talk about politics," he said. "I got it from school." Twentieth-century American history interested him most. He still has his fourth-grade history textbook.

His parents wanted him to study law, but he wasn't keen on the idea. He majored in history and political science at the University of Michigan, but he doesn't have a crush on any particular historical figures.

"I do better with people I know," he said.

One such person is a friend, former boss and role model, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who was a state senator for Michigan's 14th district when Schor was at U of M.

Schor met Peters when he took a semester off from his senior year in Ann Arbor to be a paid staffer on the Clinton-Gore campaign.

"I learned a lot from him," Schor said. "He was the one who taught me that you have to look at how a policy will affect your constituents."

When Peters' home turf of Oakland County was considering pulling out of the Detroit water and sewer system, Schor advised him to support the move, because it would save his constituents money.

Peters told Schor that many people in Oakland County formerly lived in Detroit and feel that they paid into the Detroit water and sewer system. "They are not thinking of Southfield; they are thinking of where they came from and don't want to hurt Detroit," Peters told him.

They agreed to disagree, but Schor absorbed a lesson in taking his constituents' point of view.

On a visit to Washington last week, Andy and Erin Schor visited Peters and got a big hug, but Schor's run for Lansing mayor will add an interesting wrinkle to their friendship. Peters' wife, Colleen, is from Waterford, where Bernero was raised, and helped Bernero's aunt, Betty Fortino, run for office in Waterford.

While working for Peters, Schor came to appreciate the understated, working-class charms of Lansing. He lived in an apartment

State Rep. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, will formally announce his candidacy for mayor of Lansing at a press conference at 11 a.m. today at Strange Matter coffee shop at 2001 E. Michigan Ave. This package of stories is based on an exclusive interview Schor gave City Pulse's editor and publisher Berl Schwartz and reporters Todd Heywood and Lawrence Cosentino.

on Main Street — now Malcolm X Street — not far from the Capitol and walked or rollerbladed to work.

"Ann Arbor was nice but it feels a little pretentious," he said. "[In Lansing] you find people working at the plant, at MSU, the Capitol, the insurance industry, IT — it's a good mix."

He married Erin in 2001. They met in 1995 at a U of M student government meeting and started dating within a month. Erin went on to do a master's study in public policy and now works for the Community College Association, also based in Lansing.

CATS AND DOGS

In 2002, Schor embarked on a 10-year run as an Ingham County commissioner. He admits the office can be "wonky," but it wasn't without its thrills.

In 2003, Schor's first year as county commissioner, animal rights protesters marched outside the county courthouse to protest the practice of euthanizing animals from the overcrowded county shelter or selling them to MSU for research.

One sign read, "Andy Schor will kill your cat."

The trouble subsided when the commissioners cut out middlemen dealers in the sales to MSU, an advisory board was formed and animal control advocates were given a voice in shelter hiring.

Most county concerns weren't as hot to the touch. Schor already had an affinity for issues like public safety, health care and parks, and enjoyed learning about unfamiliar areas of governance such as the judiciary and budgeting. He was the commission's law enforcement committee chairman in his second year.

Hawk Island Park, now a county gem, had just been reclaimed from a gravel pit and turned into a wooded pond with a swimming beach. Schor and the commission put in a popular splash pad, dog park and community-built playground.

"I love the parks," Schor said. "I'm proud of what we did with Hawk Island." As mayor of Lansing, Schor said, he would do more to promote and make accessible Lansing's many neighborhood parks. In the late 2000s, when budget constraints hit Ingham County, Peters fought hard against a push to close Hawk Island.

Regionalism was a recurring theme of Schor's tenure on the commission. In addition to championing regional assets like Hawk Island, Schor supported putting a consolidated 911 dispatch center in Lansing.



State Rep. Andy Schor sat down with editor and publisher Berl Schwartz and reporter Todd Heywood for an hour and a quarter on Friday to answer questions about his decision to run for mayor of Lansing. A portion of the interview will air at 10:30 a.m. Saturday on MY18. The entire audio will be available at www.lansingcitypulse.com on Thursday. Here are excerpts.

Leadership and style:

I have a different style than we've seen recently. I want to bring everyone together. I want to work with our Council. I want to work with our employees. I want to work with regional partners. I want to work with the state. I want to take these pieces and cooperate, and

have conversations, and then move forward for what's best for Lansing. I'm going to present that as my vision, as my leadership style. ... leadership is trust. It's respect. It's transparency, and then it's moving forward and fighting for what's best for Lansing.

Is the mayor's unwillingness to disclose why he approved paying former City Attorney Janene McIntyre \$160,000 a campaign issue?

It's not something that I am talking about. Again, I'm going to talk about me and how I plan to move forward. Others may raise that, and I don't know, but for me I'm talking about my vision and again, more of the leadership style. If we want to talk about how I'm

going to provide transparency, then I'm going to talk about that. These are the pieces that I want to talk about with voters. This is what they've asked me. They've asked me to provide a change, a change that is different for us moving forward into the future, so that's what I'm going to focus on.

Mayor Bernero warns the city could face bankruptcy because of legacy costs. Your thoughts?

These are promises we made to our employees, to the people that have worked for Lansing over the years, have done great work for us, and are now either retired or are still currently working. I don't believe we need to go after those employees to fix this problem. It's got to be a variety of solutions, and that's what I pitch as a legislator. That's what I would pitch as mayor.

Are you open to selling the Lansing Board of Water & Light, which Bernero's Financial Health Team is studying?

I would like to see a variety of other options. I think we have a very unique situation with the Board of Water & Light where we as ratepayers are owners of that board. I think it works pretty well. The rates have been relatively lower than our neighboring utilities, and I would not like to see that happen. Now again, I'm not taking anything off the table until I get in there and get a chance to look at the books and see what our expenses are, what our budget is, so I would say nothing is prohibited.

On whether Lansing should declare itself a sanctuary city at the risk of losing \$6 million or more in federal funds:

We're a welcoming city. We've got policies. Does that qualify as what a sanctuary city is now? I don't want us to lose \$6.5 million federally. That's important dollars that we use for our residents, for our low income residents, for a variety of things. I think that we need to make sure that our police are doing the job they're supported to do, which is enforcing our laws here. They're not immigration agents. They're not ICE agents. They're not trained for that. For me, it's a matter of protecting immigrants and refugees and making sure we're not collecting their information, but do we need to stand up and yell it and say, "Take away our money"? That I don't know.

How many medical marijuana dispensaries should we have?

Is this a "Not in my backyard" issue? Maybe, and I don't want to say there's going to be none. I think the neighbors in the neighborhoods understand that, that it's not going to be there is none. Maybe some want none and maybe some don't, but that's not going to be the reality. But we also don't need an overabundance ... We should have it and we should have it available so that those with the cards can get the marijuana that helps them for their conditions. That being said, it should not be every shop on a block. I think that there's an in between,

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SCHOR

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Both Schor and Bernero supported — in a milestone of Lansing-area regionalism — the 2006 county takeover of Potter Park Zoo. Bernero came to the board with the plan to rescue the small but nationally accredited zoo from succumbing to city budget shortfalls and becoming a "petting zoo."

"There was a lot of intricacy because you had employees moving from a city to a county work system, different retirement, different work pools," Schor said. "We had to go to the ballot for a millage. There were a lot of parts."

Schor heard from a lot of rural county residents who didn't like the takeover, but the zoo wasn't the most controversial regional project he worked on.

Schor said his toughest fight as county commissioner was convincing the county's small townships to pay for sheriff's patrols, a service paid for by local millages in cities like Lansing and Mason.

"We hit hard times and told the townships they'd need to pay," Schor said. "They did not like that. I held eight or nine hearings and hundreds of people came from the townships."

Out of 14 townships, only one (Williamstown Township) approved a millage for patrols.

"They were so mad at the county they contracted with Meridian Township [to get the patrol services]," Schor said. As time

passed, out-county patrols were reduced through attrition.

Schor got a closer window into municipal finance, economic development, transportation and other issues while working for the Michigan Municipal League from 2005 to 2012.

"I learned a lot about running cities," Schor said. "It's complicated. You have sewer and water, public safety, budget pressures."

Schor has a particular interest in supporting corridors like Lansing's South Cedar Street, Michigan and Pennsylvania avenues. Having represented large chunks of Lansing's south side as county commissioner and as state representative, Schor is sensitive to a widespread feeling "the city ignores them."

While at the League as an assistant director for state affairs, he helped develop the Corridor Improvement Authority, a tool he hopes to apply as mayor of Lansing. Owners of buildings in struggling urban corridors can freeze their taxes for one to 10 years and use the savings to improve the building. "Communities use that tool now," Schor said.

He is submitting a bill that would devote 5 percent of the money from the Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s Commercial Revitalization Program toward urban grocery stores in downtowns and corridors.

"It's not just about downtown," he said. "People on MLK are saying, 'we need something walkable.'"

TRADING HEADACHES

Schor swapped the minutiae of county politics and the Municipal League for a different



Courtesy Photo

Schor is sworn in as state representative for his first term in 2013.

set of headaches when he ran for state representative and won for the first time in 2012.

Schor felt he knew enough about the legislative process from his years with Peters to believe he could make a contribution, but with Republicans entrenched in the majority, Democrats wouldn't be able to set the agenda.

"You know it going in," he said. "But being in a safe seat in the minority means you can work effectively with the other side of the aisle to get important things done as long as they're not too partisan."

Schor's proudest moment in the House was the 2013 passage of the Healthy Michi-

gan initiative, the state's version of Medicaid expansion under Obamacare.

Schor and then-state Rep. Kate Segal negotiated on behalf of the Democrats with the governor and Republicans in the House and Senate.

"I had been in office eight months, and I said that was the most important vote I make in my career," he said. "And it very well may have been. I thought we might get 300,000 people [signed on to the plan], but we know now that it's 650,000 people."

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SCHOR

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Last week, Chris Priest, deputy director of medical services for the state's Department of Health and Human Services, reported to the Legislature that the Healthy Michigan plan had reduced uncompensated care in the state by 47 percent.

"That's huge," Schor said. "People are not going to emergency rooms and are going to their primary care doctors. The business community loved it. These are people who are not missing work."

More recently, Schor worked with Republican lawmakers to craft a bill that softens zero tolerance expulsion policies in schools. Gov. Rick Snyder signed the bill into law in December.

"Kids are getting thrown out of schools for bringing butter knives, hunting knives — without intent," Schor said. "I was able to have conversations with the Governor's Office, our Republican colleagues and the committee chair, and get to a place where everybody agreed."

CAPITOL TO CURBSIDE

Schor's bid for mayor of Lansing fits the Capitol-to-curb pattern he's followed so far, as he zigzags from working for Peters to the county commission to the Legislature and back to local government, if he's successful.

What would it take to break the pattern? Schor said he hasn't given "a minute's thought" to national office.

The same day in March 2014 that longtime U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers announced he wasn't going to run, Schor got a call from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee asking him to consider running for Congress.

He laughed into the phone.

"That is a recipe for failure to me," he said. "I've got my wife and two kids here. Running for Congress, for me, means being away three days a week and the other four days a week doing everything I can to keep my job — if I win."

As a young boy, Andy told his mother he wanted to be a U.S. senator, according to a story his mom told reporters when he was elected to the state House.

Schor doesn't remember saying that.

He pointed to a mayor he admires, Detroit's Mike Duggan, as a role model.

"He insists he's not going to run for governor, and I believe him," Schor said. "He keeps coming out high in the polls but he really wants to make Detroit better. I look to that and that's where I am."

While his campaign is short on specifics so far, Schor is ready to assume the "bully pulpit" and tout the city's assets, especially its schools.

"People move to Lansing, they buy their home, meet their spouse, have their kids and say they need to move out because of the schools," he said. "We need to promote the great job they're doing. That's a big piece of

placemaking for here in Lansing and taking that next step toward being a great city."

He cited his own kids as examples. Hannah is in Chinese immersion at Post Oak Elementary and is playing King Louis in the school play, "The Jungle Book," supported by the Disney Musicals in Schools program. Middle schooler Ryan is in the new tech program at Everett.

"And it goes on, through the International Baccalaureate Program," Schor said. "You have to go to the International Academy in southeast Michigan for the nearest one."



Courtesy Photo

Schor lights candles for Holocaust survivors at a 2015 ceremony at the state Capitol, as he has done every year since he took office.

SHODDY WORK

It was after 3 p.m. and Schor's family was due for its volunteer stint at Advent House. (The Schors declined to get their photo taken there.)

Later that night, the Norse sagas awaited him.

Don't look for the book at the South Lansing Library until it's due, though. Schor is the type of person who finishes a book once he has started it. It took him 10 months, but he plowed all the way through Gaiman's epic "American Gods" last year.

"I get a lot of books from the library," he said.

As he gathered the troops and headed for the garage, Schor cheerfully dropped a spoiler-filled wrap-up to the story about the wall. To get out of paying for the giant's growing wall around Asgard, the trickster god Loki waits until the wall is almost done, turns into a female horse, seduces the giant's mighty workhorse and cuts the greedy giant out of the picture. (He wanted the sun and moon, remember?)

The gods finish the wall themselves and it turns out to be shoddy work.

Maybe they should have regionalized the project among the Nine Realms, like the Potter Park zoo, the trail system and the libraries.

"We have a wonderful library system," Schor said with a grin. "I wish East Lansing was a part of it. That's another issue we ran into at the county commission."

Q&A

from page 8

and I think that you need to put the people together and collaborate, and find out where that middle ground is, and then move forward for what's best for the city.

A rap against Bernero is he can't get along with other regional leaders.

I've got relationships with all of them, with most of them, and I've got several leaders who have told me that they'd like to see a change so that they can more effectively work with the city. I'll let those leaders state for themselves what they believe, but I've got the relationships with other leaders in other neighboring communities that I think will help us. We've left a lot of things on the table that we could be doing regionally, and that will be high on my list of what we need to do. We need to partner with our neighbors in the region to make our city and our residents better.

You haven't gone after the mayor on his leadership style. Is your style not to be confrontational?

It'll be confrontational when I have to be confrontational. Getting into this race for me is not about going after Mayor Bernero or anyone else. Getting into this race for me is using my leadership style to provide what I feel is the best vision for the city moving forward. When I want to ... When we need to compare

and contrast, we'll compare and contrast. I'm not going to shy away from that, but I'm not getting into the race to beat up on someone else. I'm getting into it to provide a choice for the residents. They can choose the leadership style that they've had if he runs again, they can choose someone else's leadership style and vision, or they can choose mine.

Why do you think you can win?

I think that in doing doors in the primary is when I first starting hearing it. I mean, not a week went by when someone didn't say, "Will you run for mayor? We think that your leadership has been good at the Capitol and good in the past, and we would like to see that here." It started then, but I mean I go to neighborhood groups, and business groups, and meetings and I have people all the time asking me.

What is he not getting done that people want?

I think the change really is in leadership style. It is in how you approach things. I'm not going to come out there and say, "It's my way. This is what it's going to be, and if you don't like it, run against me." ... I'm not going to leave voicemails on other elected officials' voicemails and yell and scream. It's a different style. It's a different approach.

How will you work with other officials?

When I was a county commissioner under Mayor Hollister, once a month he met with the city and county commissioners, and just talk about what was going on in the city, and

we talk about what was going on in the county, and we shared information. They used to meet with labor. I plan, should I be the next mayor of Lansing, I plan to meet regularly with council members. I plan to meet regularly with our county partners, with the business community, with labor. I plan to do a lot of that.

Will you run on a slate with candidates for the City Council?

I'm not. I am not going to endorse in any of the council races. My belief is that I would like to come in on day one having relationships with all of the council members, and I have good relationships with I think just about all of those that are running and those that are there.

What's your take on the outcome of the fight over Scott Park?

I followed this as a citizen, and as a citizen I just didn't see the same case made. I think there is a case that Eckert needed to close, but in terms of other sites and why they were eliminated, I would have liked to have seen a little bit more and taken a little bit more time. But again, I'm not on the council, so I'm not into the weeds on this.

What should be done about Eastern High School, which Sparrow has purchased?

Should I be the mayor come Jan. 1, I would have that conversation with Sparrow to say, "Don't knock this down. Let's find another use for it. Let's find a way to repurpose this, because it's an important

piece of our history." It's not just Eastern, you know? We've got properties all over the place. Preservation Lansing gave out a book. I saw it a year ago, and it listed all the incredible previous properties in Lansing that had been torn down, and it was pretty tough to see that because a lot of that is our history.

TJ Buchholz, who is helping you announce your candidacy, is the spokesman for a dark money group, No Secret Lansing Deals. Will you tell him not to engage in dark money activity while he is assisting you?

I will publicly say that I am not going to be part of that. If consultants decide to be part of that on behalf of their clients, I would say publicly that I am not asking nor do I want someone to use that on my behalf. What TJ does is his business decision.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a mortgage given by Harold Jay Leeman, Jr. to Diane K. Abbott, Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr., dated July 21, 2015, and recorded August 12, 2015, in Ingham County records at 2015-031073, is being foreclosed on by The Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr. The property subject to this foreclosure is described as: Lots 358 and 359 Foster Farm, City of Lansing, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 39, Ingham County records. Commonly known as 529 North Francis Street, Lansing, MI. Parcel Number 33-01-01-14-126-351. There is currently due and owing on the mortgage \$25,310.40 exclusive of taxes, costs and attorney fees, bearing interest at a default interest rate of 6.0%. The period within which the premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale. The foreclosure sale of this property will take place on March 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ingham County Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan. In the event this property is sold at foreclosure sale, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damages sustained by the property during the redemption period. Thomas E. Woods Cummins Woods 421 West Ionia Street Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 487-0800 Dated: February 2, 2017 ICLN 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 2017 CP#17-033

ARTS & CULTURE

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MAKING 'CABARET' GREAT AGAIN

Politics push a Broadway classic back into its discomfort zone

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Instead of settling into the complacent valley of the classics, Broadway's "Cabaret" manages to keep dangling at the edge of the abyss.

On the show's latest national tour, which opened at the Wharton Center Tuesday, director B.T. McNicholl and the cast have been blindsided by fresh reactions to a 50-year-old show that peeps in on the denizens of a nightclub in 1930s Germany.

McNicholl has been involved in the show since he played the louche Emcee character in a high school production. He's directed this revival production in one form or another since 1999, but he's never seen reactions like this.

"Everything is ringing the bells," McNicholl said. "We are very fortunate, in a sense, that we are out there with this show now."

Late in the show, Herr Schultz, a Jewish storekeeper, says to a young American about the Nazis, "Don't worry, it'll pass, I promise."

The audience gasps.

"You feel it," McNicholl said. "Lines of dialogue get applause.

"Cabaret"

Roundabout Theatre Co.
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.
21-Thursdays, Feb. 23; 8
p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 2
p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday,
Feb. 25; 1 p.m. and 6:30
p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Tickets start at \$41/\$28
students
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East
Lansing
(517) 432-2000,
whartoncenter.com

Not the numbers, where you expect it, but the dialogue, because of the ideas and themes. It's scary."

"Cabaret" was a risky project in 1966, when director Hal Prince enlisted composer John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb (later to become the musical team behind "Chicago") to bring novelist Christopher Isherwood's memoirs of Weimar Germany to Broadway, complete with hot-button subject matter such as abortion, anti-Semitism and Nazi xenophobia.

"Hal Prince conceived the show as an answer to the civil rights movement in the United States," McNicholl said. "It's about how racism can happen here."

But another side of "Cabaret" is hitting people upside the head these days.

The show's characters try everything they



Photo by Joan Marcus

The cast and crew of the latest touring production of "Cabaret," which arrived at the Wharton Center Tuesday, have found the show's political themes are as relevant as ever.

can think of, from music to sex to drugs, not to notice the bellicose rhetoric, nationalistic fervor, clampdowns on speech and roundups of "undesirables" happening all around them.

"We see ourselves in them," McNicholl said. "That's how we behave."

McNicholl called Hitler's rise to power "the central mystery of the 20th century."

"This show helps the audience understand what happens when you let extremists run the show, and also the consequences of not being engaged politically," he said.

The touring version coming to East Lansing, produced by the Roundabout Theatre Co. of New York, is based on Sam Mendes' and Rob Marshall's 1998 revival, which McNicholl called "definitive."

Building on Prince's theater-within-the-theater concept, Mendes tightened up the action and musical numbers and confined the entire show to the colorful, claustrophobic Kit Kat Club, where the dancers doubled as orchestra members.

Mendes went for a seedier, more realistic feel, spicing the fleshy pallor of the cast with decadent touches such as the Emcee's rouged nipples, the rips in the Kit Kat girls' stockings and the needle marks on their arms.

McNicholl called it "a complete and thor-

ough integration of concept and material."

The revival won a second shelf full of awards for "Cabaret" and pushed the show back to its discomfort zone.

McNicholl saw the revival for the first time in 1999, the day before he interviewed for the job of taking over the show as resident director.

"It was mind-blowing to see the power unlocked from the material in such a brilliant way," he said. "It was being treated in a very mature, gritty, edgy, sexy, historically accurate way, which had never been done."

The 1998 revival ran for 2,377 nights at Studio 54 and earned four Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical.

Since McNicholl took over the production, he has done the show in cities that were once part of Nazi-occupied Europe. Ten years ago, the tour stopped at the Folies Bergère in Paris.

"Underneath it is a cabaret that was the basement playground of the Nazis during the occupation," McNicholl said. "It was derelict, but I went down into this cavern theater where you knew Nazis had been cavorting. Upstairs, 10 feet above, we were performing a show about them and about

that time in history."

Many revivals, McNicholl said, draw the frequent comment, "It was great at the time, but now — eh."

With "Cabaret," the opposite has happened.

"People say, 'Oh my God, it was more powerful than we thought,'" McNicholl said.

However, there's no way "Cabaret" would have lasted so long if it were only a grim lesson on the rise of fascism.

"It's a good, rowdy musical on top of everything," McNicholl said.

The tender romance between the German landlady, Fräulein Schneider, and the Jewish shopkeeper, Herr Schultz, gives the audience a moral compass in the Kit Kat Club's den of decadence.

Some songs have been pulled and others added over the years, but standards such as "Cabaret," "Money," the saucy "Don't Tell Mama" and the sentimental "It Couldn't Please Me More" have a lot to do with the show's lasting appeal.

"That goes back to Hal Prince," McNicholl said. "They knew they had to entertain, as well as enlighten and engage. You have to care about the characters."

Another song that has stuck around, to devastating effect, is the Nazi-inspired "Tomorrow Belongs to Me."

It's a powerful moment for modern audiences.

"You go along with the cabaret, you're having a great time, and then at some point in the second act, the doors slam shut behind you," McNicholl said. "You start this slow toboggan ride down into the depths. You go with that feeling because you've been complicit in the revelry of Act I and the first part of Act II."

McNicholl credits the shock ending of the revival entirely to Sam Mendes.

"It was not in the original production at all," he said. "It's a total surprise, and people are so shocked there is absolute silence. The curtain call starts in silence and slowly they begin to applaud. That's not typical when you see a musical."

There's no telling how long "Cabaret" will last, but it's not hard to picture a sweaty crew of colonists in a space dome on Mars, 50 years from now, escaping from their grim duties into the sexy, doomed world of the Kit Kat Club.

"Cabaret" composer John Kander said the show will continue to be relevant as long as people hate each other.

"We hope that ends, but until then, we keep touring," McNicholl said.

If he meant that literally, he's in for a long haul.

Look for our review
of "Cabaret" on p. 13

Beyond February

New event series puts a spotlight on black artists

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

While REO Town Sessions is only a few months old, local rapper and organizer Michael “Mikey” Austin thinks the monthly artist spotlight is already helping to build community in Lansing’s arts scene.

“Yeah, it’s definitely surreal,” Austin said. “This past event, I just kind of stopped at the end, as all the art was on the wall and as people were exiting out, and just had that sense of like — an extreme, proud moment.”

Black Arts Matter Celebration

6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24

\$10

Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
therobintheatre.com

REO Town Sessions is part of a growing web of activities Austin is spinning out as part of his Art Matters project. The goal of the project is to not only promote local artists but also to further the arts education of students, especially minority students, in the Lansing community. Austin is gearing up for his biggest event so far, the Black Arts Matter Celebration, which comes to the Robin Theatre Friday. The event, organized in honor of Black History Month, will feature performances by Austin, as well as local hip-hop artists like Ozay Moore and Sareem Poems. Detroit rapper Jahshua Smith and local writer/spoken word artist Suban Nur Cooley will serve as hosts for the evening.

While this event falls at the end of February, Austin intends to keep the focus on black artists through the spring.

“We don’t want to just celebrate it because they tell us it’s Black History Month, so we’re going to plan to do another one in April, and it’s going to have the theme of ‘If black arts do matter, black arts don’t just matter in February.’”

All proceeds from the events will go toward a scholarship fund Austin hopes

to have ready by May.

“The whole point of it is to raise the \$5,000 for five Lansing seniors that are continuing their education in the arts,” Austin said. “We had the idea like the third week of November. I remember talking to James (Gardin) that this could be really cool.”

Local rapper James Gardin, formerly known as P.H.I.L.L.T.H.Y., is heavily involved in putting on the monthly REO Town Sessions events. According to Gardin, the three-month-old series has progressed quickly from a fledgling idea to well-attended events. He compared the positive level of community among artists in Lansing to that of Detroit.

“I think they have a really tight-knit community of artists. I know there’s places where I have performed where it’s not like that, where it’s very disjointed,” Gardin said. “I remember there were spots like Boise, and no offense to Boise, but there weren’t a lot of people there. Lansing’s had its ebbs and flows where we’re not as connected, but I think right now we’re going to a new resurgence of us actually working together and just working as one unit.”

The first REO Town Sessions event features local singer/songwriter Taylor Taylor, and next month highlighted the work of local rock vocalist Sierra Dena. But REO Town Sessions is not just limited to musical artists. Photographer and videographer Elzie Cannon, owner of LACED photography business, followed with a show of his own earlier this month.

“Once we realized the time frame and what we wanted to do about the arts in Lansing and celebrating the arts in general, it was cool to put it all together,” Austin said.

Adam Bingman, a member of the Adante Group, a soul/funk/jazz band that will be performing at the Black Arts Matter Celebration, stressed the importance of giving young artists an outlet, especially black artists.

“We see the athletes doing their thing, and we hear the academics doing their thing, but when it comes to being an art-



Courtesy Photo

Local rapper Mikey Austin hosts the Black Arts Matter Celebration in REO Town Friday. The event is part of web of events designed to raise money for arts scholarships.

ist — and I’ve always been a young black artist — I feel like our talent is often taken for granted, and our contributions to the community are often taken for granted,” Bingman said. “And it shows other black artists to not wait to grow up, but do it now. I think that expression is everything.”

The addition of REO Town Sessions as an expressive outlet ultimately aims to create a more comfortable understanding of the arts among potential young artists in the Lansing area. Gardin said art is often misunderstood, though it’s absolutely vital in society.

“It doesn’t seem safe. It doesn’t seem like a safe life road,” Gardin said. “I think it’s interesting that we look at the arts as something we do take for granted.”

Gardin compares events like the Black Arts Matter Celebration to the protest songs of the Civil Rights Movement.

“It makes me think about the fact that every social movement, probably in every culture, has some sort of soundtrack,” he said. “While people are marching, while people are fighting for those rights, there’s someone making music to document it or energize those people through it.”




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Not your average comic con

MSU Comics Forum celebrates ten years with two keynote speakers

By ALLISON HAMMERLY

It's Michigan State University's best-kept secret.

MSU has the largest public collection of comics in the world, according to comics professor Ryan Claytor. The collection has over 200,000 items, and includes everything from newspaper comic strips to scholarly books.

MSU Comics Forum

Feb. 22-25

See web for panel times and dates

FREE

Snyder/Phillips Hall

362 Bogue St., East Lansing
comicsforum.msu.edu

The tenth annual MSU Comics Forum, which kicks off today, highlights the collection with an exhibit on underground comix, a movement of comics popular in the 1970s that dealt with taboo topics. The exhibit lasts until March 3. Forum visitors can schedule private tours of the rest of the collection.

Claytor, the director of the forum, has been involved since 2009, when a decade of MSU Comics Forums seemed unlikely.

"My first years here, the panel discussions felt incestuous. There weren't many people around," said Claytor. "But I was just sit-

ting down with the panel coordinator, Zack Kruse, and we realized we have submissions from all over the world."

To celebrate the forum's tenth year, organizers have invited two keynote speakers, a creator and a scholar. James Sturm, founder of the Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont, speaks Friday.

"James Sturm is someone I've wanted to be here for a long time," said Claytor. "He has the Time Graphic Novel of the Year, two Eisner Awards, which are the Oscars of comics, and has worked with every major publisher."

Comics scholar Charles Hatfield speaks the following day. Hatfield has written several books, including the Eisner Award-winning "Hand of Fire: The Comic Art of Jack Kirby."

"A lot of work about comics is sort of head-in-the-clouds," said Claytor. "Hatfield, while being extraordinarily smart, is also very accessible. He writes in a very practical way."

Saturday's other panels are equally academic, diving in to multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism and the use of new narrative structures in comics. However, the panel schedule faced a hiccup last week — the recent travel ban has made some international panelists unable to participate.

"We're disappointed," said Claytor, "but we're focused on the considerable amount of programming we've lined up for this coming week."

In between panels, visitors can meet one-on-one with creators from near and far at the Artist Alley. Around three dozen artists have set up tables to show off their work and



Photo courtesy Ryan Claytor

The Artist Alley at last year's MSU Comics Forum, pictured here, featured comic book makers from all over Michigan and beyond. This year's alley features over three dozen creators.

peddle their wares.

One such artist is Jonathan Griffith, comic artist, illustrator and former City Pulse creative director who until recently lived in Lansing. For Griffith, sitting down at his table will be a big checkmark on his bucket list.

"I've gone to the comics forum several years in a row now," said Griffith, "so to be on the other side of the table is incredibly rewarding."

Griffith published his first comic book, the time travel tale "1964," this year. Already the first printing has sold out, but he plans to have more at the forum.

The book is heavily inspired by the 1964 film "What a Way to Go!" starring Shirley MacLaine.

"I found a striking photo of MacLaine on

set, smoking a cigarette and wearing a pink dress, that's iconic to the film," explained Griffith. "Suddenly it hit me that I wanted to do something that would involve a person seeing a photograph and willing themselves back into history."

Griffith researched MacLaine and found her to be different from the person he imagined her to be, and it changed the direction of his book. "The result was this fun contemplation of what it would be like to meet a celebrity crush," he explained. "Oftentimes in our fascination we think they're so great, but we really don't know who these people actually are."

At the forum, Griffith also plans to show off promo art for upcoming projects, including "Together Alone," a full-color fantasy/sci-fi graphic novel he intends to publish later in the year.

For those who don't get their fill of comic-y goodness at the forum, Claytor publishes a monthly podcast at msucomics.libsyn.com, interviewing cartoonists and artists. Comics bibliographer Randy Scott highlights selections from MSU's comics collection.

The podcast and the forum are just part of Claytor's work with comics at MSU. Claytor was instrumental in establishing the Comic Art and Graphic Novels minor this academic year.

When he started teaching at MSU in 2009, comics were not a large part of the curriculum. "They gave me one class for one semester," he said, "and it was over-enrolled. Ever since then, I've been moving towards making a permanent place for comics at MSU."

CURTAIN CALL

Don't stay

MSU's latest Theatre2Film project plagued by poor pacing, lack of realism

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

It's no secret that to avoid being harsh, reviewers will sometimes focus their comments on set design, lighting or some other facet of the production. After seeing the opening night performance of Michigan State University Department of Theatre's latest Theatre2Film project, "Stay With Me," I must say the set was fantastic.

The sizeable Fairchild Theatre stage was filled with an impressive two-story, five-room framed structure, complete with a vaulted roof, designed by Lex Van Blommestein. An authentic kitchen with '50s-era appliances, a furnished living room and a dining room occupied the first level. A lengthy stairway led to two upper bedrooms. A real screen door creaked when it opened. Thanks to props master Peter Verhaeghe, the entire farmhouse had homey details and embellishments.

Shannon Schweitzer cleverly designed the lighting, including effective backlighting, a projected moon and extensive interior and exterior lights. Jason Painter Price created the sounds, ranging from a babbling river and wind to vehicle sounds to the mewling of tiny kitties.

Theater2Film: "Stay With Me"

MSU Department of Theatre
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22
Thursday, Feb. 23; 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
\$17/\$15 seniors and faculty/\$12 students
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000,
whartoncenter.com

With Me" had lots of yelling, too. LOTS AND LOTS OF YELLING!

There was also a ghost, one who could handle objects and touch people, but only two characters could see or touch it. I had

a hard time with that. Sometimes the ghost was seemingly solid yet other times seemed sometimes incapable of exerting its presence. The ghost once handed a jelly jar to a "seeing" character in front of a "non-seeing" character who never reacted. Maybe the jar was a ghost, too.

What started as a "gonna lose the family farm" story turned into more of a teen-slasher-movie but without any hints of gore. The play's violent murders were more comical than brutal. Some of the biggest laughs came during the killings. The lack of blood or visible wounds to accompany the exaggerated screams made it hard to take the murders seriously.

Save for the dying scenes, the cast cannot be faulted for incompetent acting. The family at the center of the story — Mark Colson as the father, Megan Cochrane as the mother and Nicole Tini and Shelby Antel as the sisters — were all portrayed with professional-grade performances. Lukas Jacob was convincing as Brody and Keana Sade was a credible Caitlyn. Minor players like Janette Angelini, as Liz, and even the ensemble members never gave perfunctory performances.

But that doesn't absolve the cast and director John Lepard from all blame. They all share some responsibility for a troublesome script.

The "Stay With Me" story is credited to Colson and C.J. Valle, but six other writers joined them in three "teams" to help com-

plete the story. In the program notes by Colson, the MSU media acting professor explained how the goal of the play, the third installment of the Theatre2Film project, is to create a collaborative stage show that will be made into a film. His students, cast, and director were part of that process, which began in May of 2016.

Maybe I'll enjoy it more if it comes out as a movie — with lots of extraordinary special effects and some even more fantastic sets.

Sugar-coated truths

Riverwalk's 'Superior Donuts' delivers message of inclusion

By TOM HELMA

The structure of a stage play, the skeleton, if you will, often informs the audience as to what it is about to see. "Superior Donuts," now playing at Riverwalk Theatre, has good bones.

The play opens on the titular Superior Donuts, a dingy, unkempt hole-in-the-wall Chicago donut shop. It has been trashed by vandals, with heinous graffiti sprayed on the shop walls.

Enter one Max Tarasov, portrayed excellently by Doak Bloss. Tarasov is a Russian immigrant with a clear understanding of the underbelly of the American Dream. He is cynical, calculating and shrewd, and he hopes to buy out the owner of the shop, Arthur Pry-

See Curtain Call, Page 13

Review

Review

Curtain Call

from page 12

zbyszewski, played by James Houska. Bloss, in this featured role — he shows up only at the very beginning and end of the show — is highly animated with a perfect Russian accent. Max prances across the stage, full of himself, chest expanded and ready to be thumped at any minute. This contrasts well with Houska's take on the Polish shop owner, a burned-out aging survivor of the hippie anti-war generation who fled to Canada to avoid the Vietnam War. Houska's character is costumed well, raggedy clothes draped over a perpetually slumping body. His stance is that of world weary insouciance. Houska's beard, a fully grown out steel wool gray hot mess, speaks volumes about his character.

"Superior Donuts"

Riverwalk Theatre
7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23; 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24-Saturday, Feb. 25; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26.
Friday-Sunday tickets: \$15/\$12 seniors, students and military; Thursday tickets: \$10/\$8 students, seniors and military
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

Enter our second major character, the young and hip Franco Wicks, played by Daniel Bonner, and from here the story begins to unfold. Wicks is the newcomer to this multi-ethnic neighborhood, an African-American who is bright-eyed and optimistic. He has written — in his eyes, at least — the next great American novel. He lands a job at the donut shop and soon begins to persuade Arthur to make a few changes to daily operations to improve business.

Bonner, who is relatively new to theater, might have benefited from some better stage direction. His lines often faded as he turned away from the audience to deliver them. Nonetheless, the dynamic between he and Houska is rich, and through their interaction we learn that Arthur once had big dreams of his own.

Things begin to get dark as two local Mafioso street creeps of unknown ethnicity arrive on the scene to squeeze Franco, who owes them a gambling debt. This is where the production goes awry, with Angela Dawe, a talented actor, being thrown into the role of Luther Flynn, a thug-like enforcer. She/he is accompanied by her back-up, Kevin Magee (Jeff Magnuson). Magnuson is dressed in what appears to be evening clothes for a ballet, and he mostly sneers and snickers. Both characters seem highly improbable, Luther being anything but a gender neutral character. A staged conflict between she/he and Arthur seems incongruous.

Eve Davidson and Erin Hoffman have small roles in this play, intended to add richness to the overall story, but neither sells their role entirely. Davidson gives it her best shot, but she is simply too articulate for her down-and-out homeless character. Hoffman, as the Irish cop with a heart for Przybyszewski, sleep-walks her way through the role.

In the end, this small story of despair ends with a flickering spark of hope, advancing the idea that people of different ethnici-

ties and cultures can overcome those differences to pass along the small flame of the American dream.

Let it snow LCC brings colorful, child-friendly take on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

To be honest, a child should probably be writing this review. Lansing Community College's latest production, "The Snow Queen," is unabashedly meant for children. The adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic story, with book and lyrics by Stuart Paterson, will surely enchant most of the 6-to-12-year-old demographic.

Review

The colorfully costumed and talented actors on the Dart Auditorium stage are sure to keep children engaged. Some portrayed humans, while others were animals or magical beings. The cast even involved the audience by encouraging them to shout at the characters. When the comical Scruff the raven (Tyler Frease) asked for everyone to yell "Shut your beak!" at Peck, another raven comically played by Ann Marie Foley, a roar of compliance followed — a roar that was mostly an octave higher than any adult's voice.

"The Snow Queen"

LCC Theatre Program
7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25-Sunday, Feb. 26
\$15/\$10 seniors, staff and alumni/\$5 children and students
Dart Auditorium
500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
(517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo

of Grin's face as he hurried with mock distress back to the stage.

Once the youngsters in the audience figured out the power of their voices, they did not hesitate to scream directions or taunts to the actors — often without solicitation. Sometimes, a single, excited voice would yell at a villain or warn a heroine. A note to director Paige Tufford: Be careful what you wish for.

Comedic characters like Cobweb, played with finesse by Ian Whipp, and Katie Duffort's likeable and animated lead robber helped make "The Snow Queen" worth making noise about. Slapstick and silliness by Corey Weston and Tyler Brown, as robbers and polar bears, as well as the heroic actions of Michelle Danaj as Gerda, added to the audience's howls of amused approval.

A simplistic-yet-epic set also helped keep the audience engaged. Designer Renée Surprenant created a massive painted back curtain, a large snowflake-decorated proscenium and large, folding flats of cutout trees. Sound designers Tufford and Andrew Birchmeier signaled majestic entrances and whipped up mighty wind noises. But it was the costumes designed by Kate Hudson

Koskinen that were the most royal additions to "The Snow Queen."

Ravens' wings were layered with individual vinyl feathers. Wool, tweeds, furs and ruffles embellished other costumes. Polar bears with massive, fuzzy heads had capes that replicated what real bears look like in profile. There was nothing mundane about any character's outfits, hairstyles or footwear.

The Snow Queen, played with a sinister charm by Kathryn Willis, was adorned with



Courtesy Photo

Jason Durr, as Kay (left) and Michelle Danaj, as Gerda, star in LCC's child-friendly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen."

rich velvet that had a glittery lining. Her crown was a complex collection of jewels and frosted sticks.

Props by Melody Teodoro-Kurtis and Ray Kurtis were also noteworthy. Elegant scepters sometimes lit up. A wheelbarrow was hand made from rough wood. Knives and swords seemed real, and coins in a box shimmered like real gold.

"The Snow Queen" is billed as "a fairytale with music," with Scottish harpist Savourna Stevenson credited for its music. The play had only a few incidental songs sung a cappella. There were no grand solos or sing-alongs. There was also a noticeable loss of momentum in the second act of the play, which clocked in under two hours, including intermission.

But the show's intended audience, the children, were very physical in their unconditional appreciation. My seat back was repeatedly kicked from behind or jostled by kids close to me moving around. Nearby shrill screams hurt my ears. If any of that happened on a plane ride, I would have been utterly aggravated. But such an experience during the performance of "The Snow Queen," however, was a pure delight.

History repeating

"Cabaret" a period piece
with timeless relevance

By PAUL WOZNIAC

Review

"Cabaret," John Kander, Fred Ebb and Joe Masteroff's Tony-winning musical, is both somewhat dated and extremely relevant. While

this version of "Cabaret" struggles at times, it finishes strong, accompanied throughout by first class music and dancing.

Set during the rise of Nazi Germany, "Cabaret" follows several characters in and around the seedy Berlin Kit Kat Club. As the country's political climate shifts toward fear and fascism, everyone must decide whether to flee or stay and face the music. Directed by B.T. McNicholl and based on the revival staging by silver screen giants Sam Mendes ("Skyfall," "American Beauty") and Rob Marshall ("Into the Woods," "Chicago"), "Cabaret" is a beautifully simple yet ominous play within a play.

As the club's master of ceremonies and story narrator of sorts, Jon Peterson is chiseled and charming. He restrains himself from broad, flamboyant gestures, instead focusing his emotions through his eyes. While his first act songs — including "Willkommen," "Two Ladies" and "Money" — are all show highlights, Peterson is devastatingly effective in Act II. As his clownish makeup begins to run, Peterson's call to "leave your troubles behind" sounds especially desperate. His final costume change at the show's conclusion is an emotional gut punch.

As the show's young loving couple, American author Clifford Bradshaw (Benjamin Eakeley) and British lass Sally Bowles (Leigh Ann Larkin) have decent chemistry in Act I. Larkin's Bowles is a spoiled, rebellious girl who can't see the writing on the wall. But Bradshaw can, and his breakup with Bowles in Act Two is heartbreaking.

But the strongest performances come from Mary Gordon Murray as landlord Fräulein Schneider and Scott Robertson as the Jewish fruit salesman Herr Schultz. In community and school productions of "Cabaret," this old couple is often the weak link

of the show. Here, the late-in-life romance between Schneider and Schultz is the emotional glue of the show, anchoring the first act especially with the song "It Couldn't Please Me More." Murray gets a chance to blow the audience away with "What Would You Do?" in Act II.

The show's strongest elements are in the background from the tight — and shirtless — orchestra directed by Robert Cookman, the piercing and elemental lighting designed by Peggy Eisenhauer and Mike Baldassari, and the minimalist metallic set designed by Robert Brill, which allows the orchestra and master of ceremonies to gaze upon the action below.

Most surprising is that the tamest element of the show is the choreography. Sharp and clean as it is, its bawdy gender fluidity feels common in 2017. Sadly, the part of the show that feels least dated is the rise of racist nationalism.

Cool customer

Lansing native dives into detective drama in debut novel

By BILL CASTANIER

August Snow arrives at his Mexican-town home to find a shoebox-size package on his front stoop. As an ex-Detroit cop, he's suspicious — and he should be. Snow went "Serpico" on his fellow cops and was drummed out. He lost his badge but won a bundle of money in a wrongful dismissal case. He's been awaiting the retribution that was sure to come.

After verifying that the box doesn't contain a bomb, Snow opens it and finds an empty Skittles wrapper. It's a welcome home "gift" from one of his many shadowy friends, and one of many entertaining red herrings in Stephen Mack Jones' new book,

Get a Clue presents Detroit author duo Stephen Mack Jones and Aaron Foley

7 p.m. Thursday, March 2
FREE
Schuler Books & Music
(Meridian Mall location)
1982 W. Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
(517) 349-8840,
schulertools.com

"August Snow."

Jones begins his debut mystery thriller with this humorous episode. It isn't the last, but in between there's enough over-the-top violence, crazy sieges and military weaponry from some of the ugliest bad guys

around to keep you reading long into the night.

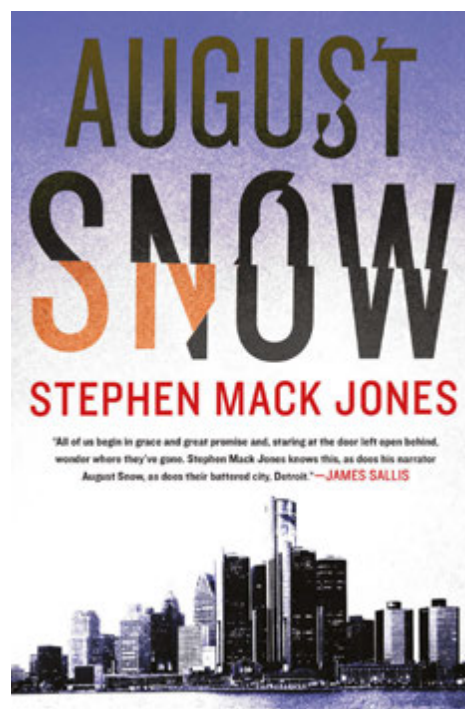
"I was mowing the lawn a couple years back, and the name August Snow popped into my mind," Jones said. "I thought, 'What a juxtaposition.' It wouldn't leave me alone, and I began exploring who this person is. I'd always been a mystery fan, from Dashiell Hammett to Robert B. Parker."

Jones said he admires characters like Hawk, the sidekick to Spenser in Parker's popular detective novels. Hawk, he explained, is a tough black man who works a little outside the law.

"There are great minority characters in crime fiction, but they were always in the background, never in the foreground," Jones said. "I wanted to explore that."

Snow, for example, is "blaxican" born of a Mexican mother and a black father.

"I wanted my character to represent the major minorities in Metro Detroit, and the blacks and Mexicans in Detroit rarely joined hands," he said. "I needed to reflect the new Detroit. Snow enjoys being from both cultures."



Courtesy Photo

"August Snow," the debut novel from Stephen Mack Jones, is a gritty detective drama set in Detroit.

Although Jones writes about Detroit like a native, he grew up about 80 miles northwest in Lansing. He graduated from J.W. Sexton High School in 1972 before going to Michigan State University to earn a degree in advertising.

He fondly recalls Knapp's department store at Christmas time and shopping at J.C. Penney with his mom, who now lives in Okemos. As an MSU student, he remembers selling some Scrooge McDuck comics to Ray Walsh at an early iteration of Curious Books.

"My dad lived a hard-scrabble life, but all in all it was good," Jones said of his time in Lansing.

Growing up, he lived on Hammond Street just off of South Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) where he frequented a nearby Polish grocery store.

"For the longest time, I thought golumpki, pierogis and kielbasa was soul food," Jones said.

Jones, 62, is following in the footsteps

of other ad men-turned-authors like James Patterson and Detroit mystery writer Elmore Leonard. After retiring from a career in writing advertising copy and managing creative services for clients at agencies like McCann Erickson and Young & Rubicam, Jones is blazing new ground as a crime writer.

But it's not the first time blazing new ground for Jones. As an African-American in the advertising business, Jones said, "I was often the only one."

While moving up in the advertising business, Jones wrote two well-received plays, "Back in the World" and "The American Boys," about African-American Vietnam veterans returning home to an uncertain world. "Back in the World" opened at Detroit's Attic Theatre before going to Boston and off-Broadway — so far off-Broadway, Jones joked, that it was "one inch from the border of Jersey."

"August Snow" is reminiscent of George Pelecanos' Washington D.C. novels, but Jones introduces enough twists and turns in "August Snow" to be his own creature. His protagonist is a well-read ex-military sniper and a hardcore Detroiter who likes the city's varied food offerings.

As an ex-cop, he knows the streets are mean, but after his multi-million dollar settlement, he decides to continue restoring his childhood home and buying up the rest of the trashed block for later restoration. While he works in these humble digs, it's not long before he's pulled into an upper-crust plot of murder and financial corruption of international proportions. Along the way, he'll take down devious bankers and tough soldiers of fortune.

"I can't really tell you where the idea came from," he said, referring to the corrupt financial industry Snow finds himself fighting. "I think it was what all of us went through in 2008 and what was happening to the banking industry."

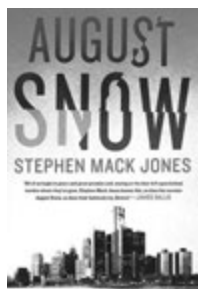
Jones said he was careful not to make his bad guys cartoonish.

"There's nothing quite so good as a really bad person in literature," Jones said. "I want to know how they became that person — human beings with good intentions, but somehow they go terribly wrong."

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Get a Clue, the Schuler Mystery Author Series, is pleased to welcome poet and playwright (and Lansing native) Stephen Mack Jones, author of the highly anticipated Detroit-set thriller *August*

Snow! *August Snow* has earned Stephen comparison to Raymond Chandler, Robert B. Parker and George Pelecanos, and Kirkus Reviews declared we are at the "beginning of an excellent new series."



Stephen will be joined by Aaron Foley, author of the popular, tongue-in-cheek guidebook, *How To Live In Detroit Without Being A Jackass*. Vanity Fair wrote a glowing review,

saying that "Aaron Foley possesses a preternatural ability to parse issues of race, class, urbanism, and pop culture in a complex and generous way that avoids tired orthodoxies and knee-jerk justifications but is always on the proper side of social justice."

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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 Allison at (517) 999-5066.

'Attempting hope'



Photo by Tara Arseven

Self-described "comedian and social vigilante" Krish Mohan brings his latest tour, "Approaching Happiness," to the Robin Theatre Monday.

Monday, Feb. 27

Wednesday, February 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Open Ballroom Dance Practice. For ages 17 and up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. \$7.50. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

Beyond Stretching Class. Movements to reduce tension. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. beyondstretching.weebly.com.

EVENTS

National Walking The Dog Day. Dog treats and Soldan's coupons. 8:41 a.m.-8 p.m. All Soldan's locations. soldanspet.com/events.

Teen Advisory Board. Teens share input on books and events. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason.

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

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 7:30 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

On Facebook, Krish Mohan describes himself as a "comedian and social vigilante." That title, he explained, was given to him by a fan who stuck around to talk to him after a show.

"I talk a lot about social issues and politics and philosophy," Mohan said. "She dubbed me a social vigilante, and I liked the term."

Mohan brings his potent mix of humor and politics to the Robin Theatre Monday for a show hosted by Comedy Coven, Lansing's all-female comedy trio. While Mohan's act covers a variety of heavy topics like mental health, immigration and gun reform, his first priority is making people laugh.

"Comedy comes first. Social issues and bigger topics are what I like to talk about, but it's always in the framework of comedy," he said. "If you can laugh about it and realize that some of the stuff we do is absurd and kind of ridiculous, then we can start a conversation and try to figure out a better solution."

Monday's performance will be Mohan's second appearance in Lansing. In August, he was a guest performer on Comedy Coven's monthly show, which mixes sketches, music and standup comedy.

"It was a super fun show," he said. "The crowd they bring in, they're ready for comedy and very open-minded."

Mohan describes his show as "a call for optimism" at a time when it's very easy to become cynical about politics.

"It's a lot harder to make something that's funny and optimistic, rather than just trashing something," he said. "It's always easier to just make fun of Trump and Steve Bannon and Sean Spicer, rather than to look on the other side and say, 'What if we look at it his way? Maybe this solution is a good idea.' Trying to make that funny is challenging and exciting, and I think the end result is worth it. Looking at it in an optimistic way, attempting hope, is a better result."

The son of Indian immigrants, Mohan is glad that activists are now paying attention to immigrant and refugee issues. But he's quick to point out that anxiety among immigrant populations is nothing new.

"Having that background of being an outsider and never really knowing when things could get worse, I've never been complacent," he said. "I've had a level of discomfort that I've lived in. I'm not in a place of anger. I'm in a place of 'What do we do about it?' There are enough people that care about it now. Let's speak out against it."

A resident of Washington, Mohan was excited to see the massive

women's marches and travel ban protests, but he is also concerned about where the movement goes from there.

"I think it's wonderful, and we need to keep doing it to show solidarity, but my particular focus is small community action," he said. "In a city like Lansing, which has a college nearby and is in sort of

a blue-collar area in the Midwest, that's where we need to come together and open up dialogue."

While Mohan describes himself as a "bleeding heart liberal," he hopes his show can reach across the aisle and start conversations.

"I've had a lot of conservatives come to this show and tell me that they've enjoyed it, which is always a surprise, and some of them even say 'I never saw it that way.' If you come into this show with an open mind and listen to a new idea, you can start a dialogue and be a little more understanding."

— TY FORQUER

Krish Mohan: "Approaching Happiness"

8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27

\$10

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington
Ave., Lansing

therobintheatre.com

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

GEORGE HARRISON TRIBUTE NIGHT AT THE AVENUE CAFE

Saturday, Feb. 25 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10, 8 p.m.



GTG Records and the Fledge Music Group celebrates the release of a new compilation of local artists, "He Just Wrote Them Like That: A Tribute to George Harrison," Saturday at the Avenue Café. All proceeds from the evening benefit Planned Parenthood of Mid-Michigan. The evening, which coincides with the birthday of the late Beatle, features performances from George's Band (a local Harrison tribute band), the Plurals, Anythings, Carm, Isaac Richmond VanderSchuur, Mad Moon, the Hunky Newcomers, Middleman and Punch Drunk. As for the production of the new disc, GTG's Timmy Rodriguez and Tommy McCord masterminded the idea. "I realized last November would have been 15 years since his death, and I felt compelled to pay tribute to him," said Rodriguez, a long-time Beatles fanatic. The evening's \$10 admission includes a copy of the new album. "The covers sound amazing — absolutely blew me away," Rodriguez said. "The range of songs is excellent and represents a good range of George's entire career."

SAT. FEB. 25TH

RUN BOY RUN AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Friday, Feb. 24 @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. \$18/\$15 members/\$5 students. 7:30 p.m.



FRI. FEB. 24TH

Run Boy Run

Run Boy Run, known for acoustic Americana arrangements paired with soaring vocal harmonies, headlines Friday at the Ten Pound Fiddle. The Tucson-based five-piece has an old-timey bluegrass sound that echoes the rustic songs of the Appalachian South. The group's new album, "Something to Someone," was released in October on Sky Island Records and has earned praise from the likes of All Music Guide, PopMatters and the Guardian. Run Boy Run, which features three powerful female voices, comprises brother-and-sister Matt Rolland (fiddle, guitar) and Grace Rolland (cello, vocals), sisters Bekah Sandoval Rolland (fiddle, vocals) and Jen Sandoval (mandolin, vocals) and bassist Jesse Allen. Fans of Nickel Creek or the Wailin' Jennys might want to check them out.

TWIZTID AT THE LOFT

Friday, Feb. 24 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$30/\$25 adv., 6 p.m.



FRI. FEB. 24TH

Twiztid

Since the mid-'90s, Twiztid has been a fixture in Detroit's notorious horrorcore-rap scene. The duo has released 11 full-length albums and 10 EPs — many released via the Insane Clown Posse's Psychopathic Records imprint and their own label, Majik Ninja Entertainment. Twiztid, which comprises Jamie Madrox and Monoxide, debuted in 1997 with its "Mostasteless" LP on Psychopathic. Two years later, when ICP signed to Island Records, Twiztid was also roped into the major-label deal, and the record was re-issued on Island and hit the Billboard charts. Since then, Twiztid has amassed a cult following and continues to tour. The pair's latest LP, "The Continuous Evulution of Life's ?s," hit stores last month. Twiztid headlines Friday at the Loft; openers are Blaze, BoonDox, Lex the Hex Master, G-Mo Skee, the R.O.C. and Knowledge Da MC.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Y2K Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Free GTG Show, 8 p.m.	George Harrison Tribute, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Steve Cowles, 9 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Alistair, 9 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dylan Brown, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd			Good Question, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Chris Laskos, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	The Rotations, 9:30 p.m.	The Knock Offs, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.		
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Global Village, 9 p.m.	Tell Yo Mama, 9 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			The Tenants, 5:30 p.m.	
La Senorita, 2706 Lake Lansing Road			Rob K., 5 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,		The Jauntee, 8 p.m.	Twiztid, 6 p.m.	Sammy Adams, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Planned Parenthood Fundraiser, 7 p.m.	Call Me Karizma, 6 p.m.	LVL UP, 7 p.m.	You Blew It!, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Stella, 9 p.m.	Martila Sanders & Gee Q, 9 p.m.	Big Willy, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road		Gig Factory Showcase, 7:30 p.m.	The New Rule, 7 p.m.	The New Rule, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.		Hidden Agenda, 8 p.m.	Last One Out, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Life Support, 7 p.m.	Life Support, 7 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St		Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.		
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 4 p.m.	Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 4 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLachlan, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Alex Mendenall, 8 p.m.		

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Feb. 22-28

ARIES (March 21-April 19): My astrological radar suggests there's a space-time anomaly looming just ahead of you. Is it a fun and exotic limbo where the rules are flexible and everything's an experiment? That might be cool. Or is it more like an alien labyrinth where nothing is as it seems, you can hear howling in the distance, and you barely recognize yourself? That might be weird. What do you think? Is it worth the gamble? If so, full speed ahead. If not, I suggest a course correction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone on Reddit.com asked readers to respond to the question, "What is the most liberating thought you've ever had?" Among the replies were the following six: 1. "If new evidence presents itself, it's okay to change my beliefs." 2. "I get to choose who's in my life and who isn't." 3. "I am not my history." 4. "You can't change something that has already happened, so stop worrying about it." 5. "I am not, nor will I ever be, conventionally beautiful." 6. "I don't have to respond to people when they say stupid s--- to me." I hope these testimonies inspire you to come up with several of your own, Taurus. It's a perfect time to formulate liberating intentions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It has been a while since I told you that I love you. So I'm doing it now. I LOVE YOU. More than you could ever imagine. And that's why I continue to offer these horoscopes to you free of charge, with no strings attached. That's why I work so hard to be a playful therapist and an edgy mentor for you. That's why I am so tenacious in my efforts to serve you as a feminist father figure and a kindly devil's advocate and a sacred cheerleader. Again, I don't expect anything in return from you. But if you would like to express your appreciation, you could do so by offering a similar type of well-crafted care to people in your own sphere. Now would be an excellent time to give such gifts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "I like the word 'bewilderment' because it has both 'be' and 'wild' in it," says poet Peter Gizzi. I propose that you go even further, Cancerian: Express a fondness for the actual experience of bewilderment as well as the word. In fact, be willing to not just tolerate, but actually embrace the fuzzy blessings of bewilderment. In the coming weeks, that's your ticket to being wild in the healthiest (and wealthiest) ways. As you wander innocently through the perplexing mysteries that make themselves available, you'll be inspired to escape formalities and needless rules that have kept you overly tame.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Are you familiar with psychologist Carl Jung's concept of the shadow? It's the unflattering or uncomfortable part of you that you would prefer to ignore or suppress. It's the source of behavior about which you later say, "I wasn't acting like myself." Jungians say that the shadow hounds you and wounds you to the degree that you refuse to deal with it. But if you negotiate with it, it leads you to beautiful surprises. It prods you to uncover riches you've hidden from yourself. I mention this, Leo, because any shadow work you do in the coming weeks could generate rather spectacular breakthroughs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You could make a vow like this: "Between now and April 15, I will be relentless in getting my needs met. I will harbor a steely resolve to call on every ploy necessary to ensure that my deepest requirements are not just gratified, but satiated to the max. I will be a dogged and ferocious seeker of absolute fulfillment." If you want to swear an oath like that, Virgo, I understand. But I hope you will try a softer approach — more like the following: "Between now and April 15, I will be imaginative and ingenious in getting my needs met. I will have fun calling on every trick necessary to ensure that my deepest requirements are playfully addressed. I will be a sweet seeker of unpredictable fulfillment."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): How would Buddha ask for a raise or promotion? How would Jesus tinker with his career plans as he took into consideration large-

scale shifts in the economy? How would Confucius try to infuse new approaches and ideas into the status quo of his work environment? Ruminant deeply on these matters, dear Libra. Your yearning to be more satisfyingly employed may soon be rewarded — especially if you infuse your ambitions with holy insight. How would Joan of Arc break through the glass ceiling? How would Harriet Tubman deal with the inefficiencies caused by excess testosterone? How would Hildegard of Bingen seek more emotional richness on the job?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I suspect you would benefit from acquiring a new bedroom name, my dear. But should I be the one to give it to you? I'm not sure. Maybe you could invite a practical dreamer you adore to provide you with this crazy sweet new moniker. If there is no such person to do the job (although given the current astrological omens, I bet there is), I'll offer the following array of amorous aliases for you to choose from: Wild Face . . . Kiss Genius . . . Thrill Witch . . . Freaky Nectar . . . Boink Master . . . Lust Moxie . . . Pearly Thunder . . . Peach Licker . . . Painkiller . . . Silky Bliss . . . Slippery Diver . . . Swoon Craver.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Soon I'll be off on my first vacation in 18 months. At first glance it might seem odd for an astrologer like myself to have selected two Sagittarians to be my housesitters. Members of your sign are reputed to be among the least home-nurturing people in the zodiac. But I'm confident that by the time I return, raccoons won't be living in my kitchen, nor will my plants be dead or my snailmail stolen or my TV broken. The current astrological omens suggest that most of you Centaurs, at least for the foreseeable future, will display an uncommon aptitude for the domestic arts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The near future will be mutable, whimsical, and fluky. It'll be serendipitous, mercurial, and extemporaneous. You should expect happy accidents and lucky breaks. Your ability to improvise will be quite valuable. Do you believe in lucky numbers? Even if you don't, yours will be 333. Your sacred password will be "quirky plucky." The cartoon characters with whom you will have most in common are Bugs Bunny and Roadrunner. The place where you're most likely to encounter a crucial teaching is a threshold or thrift shop. Your colors of destiny will be flecked and dappled. (P.S.: I suspect that an as-yet-undiscovered talisman of power is crammed in a drawer full of junk.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Treat your body like a sublime temple, please. And regard your imagination as a treasured sanctuary. Be very choosy about what you allow to enter in to both of those holy places. This strategy is always a wise idea, of course, but it's especially so now, when you are extra sensitive to the influences you absorb. It's crucial that you express maximum discernment as you determine which foods, drinks, drugs, images, sounds, and ideas are likely to foster your maximum well-being — and which aren't. Be a masterful caretaker of your health and sanity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What would your best mother do in a situation like this? Please note that I'm not asking, "What would your mother do?" I'm not suggesting you call on the counsel of your actual mother. When I use the term "your best mother," I'm referring to the archetype of your perfect mother. Imagine a wise older woman who understands you telepathically, loves you unconditionally, and wants you to live your life according to your own inner necessity, not hers or anyone else's. Visualize her. Call on her. Seek her blessings.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 >> KATE TERRY AT THE BROAD ART MUSEUM

Artist Kate Terry stops by the Broad Art Museum Thursday to talk about her latest work, "Suspended Space," which is on display until April 2. The installation employs hundreds of tightly suspended threads that form elaborate geometric patterns that intersect and create new designs within the unconventional angles of the Broad's gallery space. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Out on the town

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ARTS

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for all ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Wednesday Night Live: Photographer Joshua Kristal. Lecture with Michigan-born photographer. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Snyder-Phillips Hall, C20, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. ow.ly/JB1w309790Y.

Thursday, February 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 5:15 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

A Course in Miracles. Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

Celebrate Recovery. For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing, (517) 492-1866.

Mason Codedents Anonymous. Support group. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

Spanish Conversation Group. Practice speaking and listening. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

NAMI Class for Caregivers. Class to help caregivers support individuals with mental illness. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3404, namilansing.org.

Lean In Lead Up. Professional development group for women. 6-8 p.m. See web for location. bit.ly/leaninleadup.

Jewelry Basics: Earrings. Make earrings and

learn to use jewelry-making equipment. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$80. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. lansingmakersnetwork.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Family Storytime. Stories, songs and activities to build early literacy skills. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

MUSIC

Joshua and Jeremy Sprague at Tavern & Tap. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 712-3014, joshuaandjeremysprague.com.

The Jauntie & Cycles with Dead Hit & Turn Up The Bricks. 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$12/\$10 adv. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (713) 562-6800, ow.ly/J5FC308okOE.

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$25/\$23 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 7-9 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 7:30 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

See Out on the Town, Page 18




MARCH MIXER

Wednesday, March 1
5:30-8 p.m.

Claddagh Irish Pub,
Eastwood Towne Center,
2900 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing

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Out on the town

from page 17

EVENTS

Pop-Up Stories: It's in the Stars. Stories about fate and fortune. 6:30-8 p.m. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, ow.ly/yUIT309bjA5.

Book Dominoes. Ages 6-18 enjoy engineering experiment. Call to register. 7-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

Drop-in Coloring. Stop by and use our coloring

sheets and other supplies. 2-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville.

International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day. Dog treat samples and discounts. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. All Soldan's locations. soldanspet.com/events.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiesilverblades.com.

Looking for Love? Play it Safe. Learn the ins and outs of staying safe when using online dating. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Mardi Gras Masks. Mardi Gras mask crafting plus refreshments. Call to register. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"When Words Collide" — you can do it.
Matt Jones

Across

1 Fast food sandwich option

14 Kids' game played on a higher level?

15 They're called for in extreme cases

16 Mention

17 Bankable vacation hrs., in some workplaces

18 Black or red insect

19 It's slightly higher than B

20 Hairy cousin of Morticia

21 Like muffled sound recordings, slangily

22 Bridge, in Brindisi

23 Labor Day Telethon org.

24 Orange tea that's really black

25 Parts of joules

26 They get their picks in dark matter

28 Seattle-based craft beer brand

29 Bite matchups, in dental X-rays

33 Mardi ____

37 Battery count

38 React with disgust

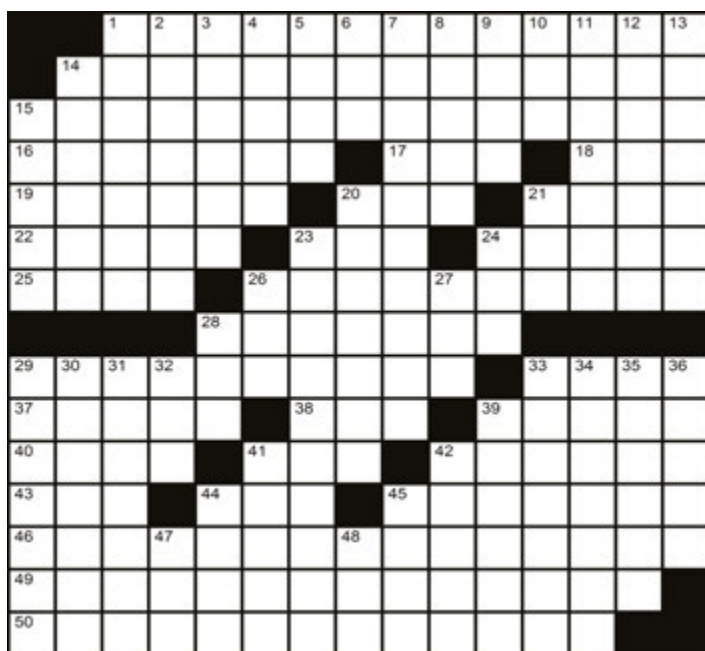
39 "Pride ____ before destruction"

40 Cabinet dept. since 1977

41 "Primetime Justice with Ashleigh Banfield" network

42 Definitely gonna

43 Elvis Presley's record label



44 Mock-stunned "Me?"

45 Coca-Cola Company founder Asa

46 You'll want to keep it clean

49 "Ugh, so many responsibilities!"

50 Transfers of people (or profits) to their home countries

Down

1 Type of dish at brunch

2 Feels hurt by

3 "In the event it's for real ..."

4 Buttonholes, really

5 A little, to Verdi

6 ____ Kippur

7 Moved way too slowly

8 "Perfectly Good Guitar" singer John

9 "This ____ unfair!"

10 Actor Gulager of

"The Virginian"

11 Amateur night activity, maybe

12 "Not ____ a minute ..."

13 Cartoonish villains

14 Quake

15 Heavy curtain

20 Gem State resident

21 "Billion Dollar Brain" novelist

22 Deighton

23 "Reclining Nude" painter

24 Water ____ (dental brand)

26 Annual Vegas trade show full of tech debuts

27 "The Italian Job" actor ____ Def

28 Country with a red, white, and blue flag: abbr.

29 Unlikely to win

most golf tournaments

30 Admit defeat

31 Explain

32 8 1/2" x 11" size, briefly

33 ____ knot (difficult problem)

34 Two-____ (movie shorts)

35 Be present

36 Sandcastle spot

39 Avid

41 Norse god of indecision that helped create humans (RHINO anag.)

42 Quaint version of "according to me"

44 Abolitionist

45 Debt memo

47 1974 Hearst abductors

48 Airport near Forest Hills, N.Y.

FEB. 24-26 >> NORDIC FIRE FESTIVAL

Temperatures are expected to dip this weekend, but the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival is hoping to warm up attendees with fire dancing, mead, live music and more. "It's going to be really, really fun," said Bryan Myrkle, chairman of the festival planning committee. "With warm clothes and plenty to do, people will be happy they put it on their calendars and came out." The weekend features a variety of family-friendly, Viking-inspired activities like hammer throwing, horn blowing, traditional archery and a cardboard long ship sled race/design contest. Some events require an additional fee, see the website for details. 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Friday events FREE; Saturday and Sunday events \$2/\$5 family. Lincoln Park, 620 W. Shepherd St., Charlotte. michigannordicfirefestival.com.

FEB. 24-26 >> 'JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT' AT OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Owosso Community Players tackles a Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber classic with its latest production. Loosely based on biblical accounts, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" retells the story of Joseph and the coat of many colors that changed the course of his life. 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$21.50/\$19.50 students and seniors/\$11.50 children. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

Science Thursday. Ages 6-14 drop in for science experiments. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

Senior Reminiscing Series. Fun and nostalgia recalling times gone by. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

ARTS

Artist Talk: Kate Terry. Artist discusses geometric installation "Suspended Space." 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, February 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Festival of Listening. Perform or listen to poetry in non-English languages. 7 p.m. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

StoryTime. Ages 2-5 enjoy songs, stories and activities. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

MUSIC

MSU Professors of Jazz. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students and children FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

Run Boy Run. Americana quintet at Ten Pound Fiddle. 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$15 members/\$5 students. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

THEATER

Hate Mail. Romantic comedy set in the early '80s from Generations Community Theater. 7-10 p.m. \$8. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com/events.

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw

Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$30/\$28 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

The Snow Queen. Based on classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. 7 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 8 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Rock musical about Biblical story. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 children. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

EVENTS

The W. Kamau Bell Curve. Talk from sociopolitical comedian. 7:30 p.m. \$23/FREE for MSU students and faculty. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

MSU Comics Forum. James Sturm, founder of Center for Cartoon Studies. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. RCAH Theater, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. comicsforum.msu.edu.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival. Viking-themed activities, music, food and more. 5:30-11 p.m.

\$2/\$5 families. Lincoln Park, 620 W. Shepherd St., Charlotte. michigannordicfirefestival.com.

Beaded Bracelets 101. Wire, beads, elastics and snacks provided for ages 10 and up. Call to register.

1-2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Dueling Pianos. Music, games and entertainment. 7-11 p.m. \$25. Royal Scot South Banquet Hall, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-5869, ow.ly/Pow5309aZ21.

Ice Worlds. Examination of icy ecosystems and

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Out on the town

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ice on other planets. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. ow.ly/S30L307wkTS.

Michigan Chillers Book Party. Ages 7-12 enjoy activities. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

Winter Snowshoe Hike. Join naturalist for a lantern-guided walk through the snow. Rentals included. 6-8 p.m. \$8/\$3 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org/programs.

Saturday, February 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Building a Better You. Improve people skills and learn the power of choice. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. St. Stephens Church, 1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing. (517) 484-2180, ststephenscc.org.

Lean In Lansing. Professional development group for women. Check web for location. 9-11 a.m. leaninlansing.com.

Long-grain Cutting Board Workshop. Learn basics of woodworking equipment. 3-6 p.m. \$100. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. lansingmakersnetwork.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Children's Social Justice Reading Group.

February's books, discussion and craft will focus on race. Register online. 10:30 a.m.-noon. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org/register.

MUSIC

Justin Herrera. Intimate show with rising Mid-Michigan artist. 6 p.m. \$8/\$5 adv. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte. (517) 652-3228, ow.ly/kmOP308CcTx.

Rachael Kilgour at Pump House Concerts. 7 p.m. \$15 suggested donation/children FREE. Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St East Lansing. (517) 927-2100, ow.ly/C8ay309b1en.

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 2 and 8 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Hate Mail. Romantic comedy set in the early '80s from Generations Community Theater. 7-10 p.m. \$8. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 >> RACHAEL KILGOUR AT PUMP HOUSE CONCERTS

Midwest singer/songwriter Rachael Kilgour stops at East Lansing's Pump House Concerts Saturday for an intimate night of music. The Minnesota-based artist has been described by ASCAP's Playback Magazine as "a modern troubadour confronting raw truths with a powerful voice and passionate, socially conscious songs that will move anyone who still believes that music can — and should — change the world." Earlier on Saturday, Kilgour will also present a free 12:30 p.m. performance for the Broad Art Museum's Acoustic Lunch series in the museum's Educational Wing. 7 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 927-2100, facebook.com/pumphouseconcerts.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26 >> CHANDELEUR PARTY

Aux Petit Soin and For Crêpe Sake team up to bring a French tradition to downtown Lansing. Chandeleur is based on Candlemas, the European holiday that also inspired Groundhog Day. Adults can try their hand at flipping crêpes — a successful flip on Chandeleur is believed to be a sign of good luck. For kids, a craft table, songs and story time will be available. "Back in France, we celebrate Chandeleur by getting together, singing songs, eating crêpes and drinking hard cider," said Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, founder of Aux Petits Soins, a Lansing-area cultural center and language immersion program. "I miss doing that, and I really wanted to share that with people in the Lansing area." 3-5 p.m. \$15/\$12 adv. For Crêpe Sake, 221 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apschandeleurparty.bpt.me.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26 >> MSU MUSEUM CHOCOLATE PARTY BENEFIT

If you didn't get your fill of chocolate on Valentine's Day, you can satisfy your sweet tooth and support the MSU Museum at Saturday's Chocolate Party Benefit. This year, culinary competitors will showcase interesting and edible chocolate masterpieces inspired by the film "The Secret Life of Pets." A special \$75 "Premium Chocolatier" ticket includes a preview of the artistic confections, as well as a one-year museum membership. All proceeds benefit the MSU Museum. 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$35/\$30 adv./\$25 museum members/\$75 Premier Chocolatier. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. (517) 432-4655, museum.msu.edu.

urbanbeatevents.com/events.

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$30/\$28 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

The Snow Queen. Based on classic fairy tale. 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Rock musical about Biblical story. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 children. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

EVENTS

MSU Comics Forum. Panels, artist alley and more. FREE. See web for times. RCAF Theater, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. comicsforum.msu.edu.

Equipment Sale. Grocery and office equipment for sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. East Lansing Food Co-op, 4960 Northwood Drive, East Lansing. elfco.coop.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival. Viking-themed activities, music, food and more. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. \$2/\$5 families. Lincoln Park, 620 W. Shepherd St., Charlotte. michiganordicfirefestival.com.

Coloring for Adults. Coloring books, colored pencils and markers provided. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt.

Dinner Dance. Pork roast dinner, dancing and Mardi Gras costume competition. 5:30-11:30 p.m. \$10/\$4 children for dinner; \$6/children FREE for dance. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330.

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale. Two days of talks, workshops, demos and sales. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Plant and Soil Science Building, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. ow.ly/1BKj3094FyV.

Movie Night at the Market. Screening of "Zootopia." 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460, ow.ly/50P03094B2V.

Musician & Storyteller Rev. Robert B. Jones. Jones presents the story of songwriter and activist Lead Belly. Call to register. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Sparrow Gala. Food, fun, dancing and casino-style gaming. 6-11 p.m. \$150. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 364-3632, SparrowFoundation.org/Gala.

Sunday, February 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlottetyoga.net.

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

Kendo Martial Art Class. Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

Gin Class. Learn about and make your own gin. 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$95. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, americanfifthspirits.com.

MUSIC

Concert in the Cafe. Songs of peace, hope and freedom with Josh White Jr. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

LSO Chamber Concert: Piano Quartet. Talented artists and innovative programs. 3-4:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 students. First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 487-5001, ow.ly/CJkm308T2Nn.

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$30/\$28 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 2 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

The Snow Queen. Based on classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 2 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Chandeleur Party. Family celebration of French holiday with food, lessons and activities. Register

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INTERMEDIATE

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 20

Out on the town

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online. 3-5 p.m. \$15/babies FREE. For Crepe's Sake, 221 S. Washington Square, Lansing. apsfrenchclass.com.

MSU Museum Chocolate Benefit. Culinary competitors create elaborate edible masterpieces. 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$30-\$75. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival. Viking-themed activities, music, food and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2/\$5 families. Lincoln Park, 620 W. Shepherd St., Charlotte. michigannordicfirefestival.com.

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale. Two days of talks, workshops, demos and sales. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Plant and Soil Science Building, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. ow.ly/1BKj3094FyV.

Community Supported Agriculture Fair. Meet farmers and sign up for fresh produce. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910, allenmarketplace.org.

Family Activity Day. Fun crafts and activities with the MSU Friendship. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Family Special: Turtle Time. Meet turtles and participate in nature activities. 2-3 p.m. \$3/\$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

Film Screening and Discussion: Things to Come. Screening of PG-13 French film. 3:30 p.m. Studio C! 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. aflansing.org.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. 6 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

One World One Sky. Big Bird and Elmo take imaginary trip to the moon. 2-3:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

Monday, February 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

A Course in Love. Weekly group dedicated to the study of the spiritual psychology. 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

French Club. Practice speaking and listening at all levels. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

Painting Basics, Session 2: Acrylic II. For ages 14 and up. 6:45 p.m. \$40. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

BabyTime. Rhymes and finger plays for babies and their caregivers. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Online GoodReads YA Book Group. "Everybody Sees the Ants" by A.S. King. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517)

MONDAY, FEB. 27 >> 'THE W. KAMAU BELL CURVE' AT THE WHARTON CENTER

Sociopolitical comedian W. Kamau Bell brings his ambitiously titled show, "The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism In About An Hour," to the Wharton Center Monday. Host of the Emmy Award nominated CNN docu-series "United Shades of America," Bell has been hailed by The New York Times as "the most promising new talent in political comedy in many years." Bell's live show Bell touches on issues of race, politics and popular culture. 7:30 p.m. \$23/FREE for MSU students, faculty and staff. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28 >> JESSICA LANG DANCE AT THE WHARTON CENTER

New York-based company Jessica Lang Dance brings and evening of contemporary dance to the Wharton Center Tuesday. The group has been praised by publications like Dance Europe Magazine, which said, "What makes Lang's work groundbreaking is that she hasn't just discovered some clever effects — she meticulously choreographs these on-screen interactions so expertly that we feel we are no longer watching film, or dance or dance on film: It's like a completely new medium." 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$20.50/\$18 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

351-2420, elpl.org.

Out of This World Book Club. "The Windup Girl" by Paolo Bacigalupi. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital: Gwen Dease, Jon Weber and ARX duo, percussion. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

New Horizons Community Band. Learn to play an instrument or dust off an old one. 9-11 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Approaching Happiness with Krish Mohan. Socially conscious comedy. 8-9 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/CUq3309beJO.

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Celebrate 20 Years of Harry Potter. Make felt Harry Potter characters. Register online. 6-7 p.m.

FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org/register.

Graphic Novel Writing Club. Ages 12 and up learn to make graphic novels. 4-6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Homework Help. Drop-in personal tutoring. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Monday Movie Matinee. The Magnificent Seven (2016) Rated PG-13. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Game Night. Board games and happy hour. 4-10 p.m. FREE. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, ow.ly/O2Dg308TdT.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

Tuesday, February 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. See web for location and schedule. (517) 775-2697, 639.toastmastersclubs.org.

Starting a Business. Workshop for aspiring entrepreneurs. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/KFg03088qOq.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

CADL Speculative Book Discussion Group. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495, cadl.org.

ToddlerTime. Storytime to build prereading skills. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

MSU: Capella Pratensis. Belgian choral ensemble performs Gregorian chant and music of Pierre de la Rue. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students and kids FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

EVENTS

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

International Spay & Neuter Day. Fundraiser to prevent animal overpopulation. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. All Soldan's locations. soldanspet.com/events.

LCC West Toastmasters. Public speaking group. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314, lccwest.toastmastersclubs.org.

Make a Tooth Fairy Pocket. Ages 5-8 make a pocket to hold teeth under their pillows. 4-6 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. For those struggling with food. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068, oa.org.

ARTS

50 Years On: Conversations Around the Collection. Presentation on Detroit riots and the work of Tyree Guyton. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Wednesday, March 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Ballroom Dance: Pasodoble. For ages 17 and up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. \$21/\$42 couples. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

Homework Help. Drop-in personal tutoring. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

Beyond Stretching Class. Learn slow movements

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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8	3	6	7	5	9	2	4	1
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THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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DRAGONFLY BOUTIQUE & SALON / STRANGE MATTER COFFEE CO.

Courtesy Photo

Next week, Shelly O'Connor will open Dragonfly Boutique & Salon in downtown Charlotte. The store will feature upcycled home décor items, a one-chair salon, and a children's play area.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

About 20 miles southwest of Lansing, the rural community of Charlotte is undergoing a significant cultural and retail revitalization. Focused primarily along Cochran Avenue, the main drag running through the city's downtown, this growth has been spurred by #CharlotteRising, a grassroots association interested in generating economic momentum in the city. This energy, fueled in part by recently announced historic renovation and multimillion-dollar new construction projects, has also inspired a flurry of new small businesses to set up shop in long-vacant downtown storefronts.

One of these new stores is **Dragonfly Boutique & Salon**, which is set to open next Friday, March 3. Owner Shelly O'Connor said the store, which deals primarily in upcycled home décor, was designed to offer the kind of experience that could potentially anchor the fledgling shopping district. And she's excited to be there.

"It's amazing to be part of this," O'Connor said. "It's one of the reasons we zoomed in on Charlotte in the first place. (Dragonfly Boutique) is just what this area needs, and it will hopefully bring a lot of new folks to the area who might not normally come here. We want to help make Charlotte rise again."

That idea of rebirth is the central tenet of upcycling, a craft that involves repurposing discarded furniture, homeware and other found objects into objets d'art via paint and creative reuse. An old teacup and saucers can become a birdfeeder; the blades of an old ceiling fan can be trans-

formed into the wings of a dragonfly wall hanging; and a candlestick can be glued to a charger table setting to become an upright toilet paper dispenser.

"My favorite thing about upcycling is that some old thing can be transformed into the coolest part of a room," O'Connor said. "It's about taking something old and giving it a life that someone else couldn't see. I've always enjoyed bringing life to old things. I think that everything is beautiful and has a purpose."

O'Connor, 45, says she's a self-taught upcycler ("I was doing it before there was a word for it") but never considered making it into a career until three years ago. In June 2014, the Eaton County native and her husband sold all their belongings, including their home, and moved to Arizona to be closer to her mother following her father's death. Before the move, she spent 24 years building up a home cleaning business and working for more than a decade as a dental assistant. In Arizona, she finally found the time and space to turn her hobby of home decorating into a full-time gig.

"This had always been my dream," O'Connor said. "But it was never about making money. It was about doing what I want to do, and helping people make their homes a true reflection of their personalities. I really think that's the heart of what (upcycling) is all about."

She took the store's name from a premonition she had after touring a property she considered turning into her first boutique.

"After my father passed, I was always looking for signs from him," O'Connor said.

"I had just looked at this store and I knew I could do something with it, but I wasn't sure. I said, 'OK Dad, if this is what I should do, I need a sign.' And then I saw two dragonflies on my car, and I knew."

The store was a success, but a family emergency in mid-Michigan brought her home again last year. It didn't take long before the entrepreneurial bug bit again. Now that she had a knack for running shop, she was looking to revive Dragonfly. She said she'd often visited Charlotte while growing up, but hadn't been there in years and was surprised by the amount of activity downtown. That's why she chose her new storefront along Cochran Avenue.

O'Connor is working with two other upcycling designers, Michelle Tellier and Cindy Zenker, to stock her showroom floor. Another corner of the space has been transformed into a one-chair hair salon, which will be operated by her best friend, Jeanette Miller-Halmich. Next to the salon station, O'Connor created a children's play space that's dedicated to Miller-Halmich's granddaughter, Luna Younger, a Holt girl who died last fall; her stepfather is accused of killing her.

"It's called Luna Land, and it's a way to keep her memory alive," O'Connor said. "There will be books to read and fairy wands and bubbles — all the things that Luna loved."

In addition to upcycled goods, Dragonfly Boutique will also sell vintage and new items, including boots, clothing, handbags, jewelry, paper goods and handmade knickknacks. O'Connor will also allow small groups to rent out the space for private parties. The coming week, however, will be all about loading in the merchandise and staging it.

"It looks amazing in here — it really is a dream come true for me," O'Connor said. "And I know that I'm in the right place, because I recently found out that Charlotte was incorporated into a city in 1871. I was born in 1971. With me, it's all about history."

Downtown Matters

Last week, Cara Nader announced that she will open a second location for her thriving 3-year-old café, **Strange Matter Coffee Co.**, in downtown Lansing this spring. The new shop will set up in a 500-square-foot space at 337 S. Washington Square, on the corner of Washington and Kalamazoo Street.

"I always envisioned a place downtown," Nader said. "I wanted to be more walkable and more community-oriented. I was just waiting for the right space to open up."

That space is one-half of the former loca-

tion for **Crafty Palate**, which closed last year after 20 months of business. Before that, it was home to **Restaurant Mediteran**, which held down the corner down for 10 years. The opening of the new Strange Matter is the lone bit of good news for downtown recently. **Henry's on the Square** and **Crafty Palate** closed last year. **Sarnie Shoppe** and **Hot Chicken Kitchen** closed recently after five months. A deal to build the proposed two-story restaurant/bar, Lansing Beer Exchange, fell through earlier this month.

"That was a huge disappointment, hearing that wouldn't be happening," Nader said. "I'm super bummed that the rotation of downtown businesses keeps happening, but I think we can fix that."

Nader opened the original version of Strange Matter in 2014 at 2001 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing's Eastside Neighborhood. This fall she will move that business across the street into the new **Venue at East Town** mixed-use development, which is currently under construction. The new location will have a kitchen that will produce scratch doughnuts, which she also plans to sell at her downtown café. She said when the big move occurs, there will temporarily be no east side Strange Matter because of health inspections.

"I need to rotate equipment in, so there will be a short window where both [the old and new east side locations] will be closed," Nader said. "But thanks to the downtown location, there will always be a Strange Matter."

The new Strange Matter will feature batched coffee in addition to Strange Matter's signature pour-over selections, as well as pastries from **Zingerman's Bakehouse** in Ann Arbor. But even if it is a success, Nader said she's pretty sure this will be the only other Strange Matter location.

"My mission has always been to get people to connect with coffee in a way that they had never experienced before," Nader said. "And to that, you really have to focus on quality. The idea of opening a Strange Matter in another city stresses me out. I wouldn't be able to be there to ensure quality."

Dragonfly Boutique & Salon (opens Wednesday, March 1)
119 S. Cochran Street, Charlotte
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday
(517) 997-6057, facebook.com/dragonflyboutiqueandsalon

Do you know of a new Greater Lansing business that should be featured in New in Town? Send an email to allan@lansingcitypulse.com.

Out on the town

from page 20

to reduce muscle tension. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. beyondstretching.weebly.com.

EVENTS

Family Storytime. Engaging stories, songs and activities to help build early literacy skills. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

March Madness Sale. New and used home goods, appliances, tools and building supplies. Habitat for Humanity Capital Region, 1941 Benjamin Drive, Lansing. (517) 374-6235.

Toastmasters Club. Club to develop communication and leadership skills. 6 p.m. AgroLiquid, 3055 West M-21, Saint Johns. (517) 719-2797.

Wine Night. Wine tasting with licensed sommelier. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 482-7910, urbanbeatevents.com/events.

Women's History Month Display. Come in to add the name of the woman you most admire. 1-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave.,

Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol130304VE.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

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

ARTS

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for all ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Somm kind of fame

Local wine expert brings spotlight on Metro Lansing

By ALLAN I. ROSS

If you live somewhere in southeast Michigan, there's a good chance you say you're "from Detroit" when talking to someone from outside the area. For some, it's a point of pride; for others, it's simply a way to save the conversational step of having to detail precisely how many miles from the city you actually live or point to your palm as you explain Michigan's anthropomorphic topography.

It's quite a stretch, both geographically and culturally, to consider Lansing's northern neighbor DeWitt as part of the Motor City. But last month, GuildSomm, the publication for international wine organization Guild of Sommeliers, did just that when it featured certified sommelier Justin King — co-owner/operator of Bridge Street Social in DeWitt, as well as a City Pulse contributor — in a spotlight feature talking about Detroit's wine scene.

"I was floored to be included with the other people they talked to for that story," King said. "Top level wine professionals from around the world read this. To be noticed was such an honor. It puts us on the map."

Guild of Sommeliers is a nonprofit that promotes wine education in the service industry while "maintaining the chief values of the sommelier profession: integrity, humility and hospitality." It also serves as a networking tool, helping industry professionals increase



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Justin King, a certified sommelier and owner/operator of Bridge Street Social in DeWitt, was recently featured in an international publication for his role in the evolving Michigan wine scene.

their general beverage knowledge and learn about the latest business trends. The other subjects interviewed for the piece were Gerry Baker, beverage director at the Mulefoot Gastropub in Imlay City; Kathleen Hawkins, general manager at Wright & Company in Detroit; Joseph Allerton, wine director and general manager at Roast in Detroit; Rachel Van Til, wine director and manager at Mabel Gray in Hazel Park; and Michael Descamps, wine director at Red Wagon Shoppe in Rochester Hills.

"These people have been working hard to develop a local reputation for quality in the industry," King said. "We

all know each other — they're some of my best friends, and I had been recommended by one of them for the story. This is a tight network of colleagues I study with for the exams, often on Google Hangouts until 2 or 3 a.m."

There are four levels to the sommelier hierarchy: introductory, certified, advanced and master. This fall, King will take the advanced exam in St. Louis; it's a test he's already attempted once.

"There's nothing special per se about being a certified sommelier, but there are only like four advanced somms in Michigan," King said. "I sat for the advanced exam last year, but I didn't pass. It's an extended service exam, with a six-wine blind tasting and an (extensive) theory exam. It's something I study for every day, and every day I'm learning to taste and analyze better. The only other thing more important to me professionally is making sure my restaurant is running at the highest possible quality."

Since it opened last spring at 107 S. Bridge St. in downtown DeWitt, Bridge Street Social has slowly accumulated a reputation for excellence. It features a diverse menu of eclectic pan-European fare, including creative upscale twists on burgers, tacos and meatloaf. King partnered with local restaurateur Michael Luther to open the bistro. Luther is in charge of the menu, while King focuses on the vino — Bridge Street Social offers 150 wines by the glass, which King said is the largest number in the state — and developing a hospitality-centric culture. King says his philosophy and inspiration

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website.
Bon appétit!

TOP 5 UPSCALE DINING

#1 CAPITAL PRIME

Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance
2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing.
(517) 377-7463
capitalprimelansing.com
4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 2-11 p.m. Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday

#2 ENGLISH INN

Fine dining restaurant known for its gorgeous location on the Grand River
677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids
(517) 663-2500
englishinn.com
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 5-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 5-10 p.m. Friday; 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday; 1-7 p.m. Sunday

#3 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 316-2377
soupspooncafe.com
7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#4 CREOLE

The Creole specializes in classic cocktails with old-school preparation styles
1218 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 371-1361
thecreolelansing.com
11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#5 DUSTY'S CELLAR

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dustyscellar.com
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PilgrimUCC.com



Local nourishment

Community supported agriculture delivers locally grown food and satisfaction

By DIAMOND HENRY

People want more local food. Farmers are eager to grow it.

The problem is how to hook them up.

Allen Market Place will help plug supply into demand at its third annual CSA Fair on February 26.

CSA Fair

Allen Market Place
Noon-4 p.m.
1629 E Kalamazoo St.,
Lansing
(517) 999-3923, exchange@
allenneighborhoodcenter.org

The fair is open to any members of the community who want to learn about community supported agriculture and local farms. People can meet the farmers and get subscrip-

tions to buy fresh produce and products for the duration of the growing season.

The growing list of participating farms include ANC Veggie Box, Capital Village Trade Cooperative, CBI's Giving Tree Farm, Hillcrest Farm, Hunter Park GardenHouse, Lansing Roots, Monroe Family Organics, MSU Student Organic Farm, Owosso Organics, Thornapple CSA, Titus Farms, Urbandale Farm, and Zumo Eco Farm. Local concession vendors will also participate.

"There's so much variation in what different CSAs offer, which is really nice because what one offers may not fit the needs of somebody else," Rita O'Brien said. O'Brien is associate director of Allen Market Place and director of Hunter Park GardenHouse.

CSA subscriptions are important to both

customers and farmers. Farming is a risky business. CSA subscriptions assure them that everything they plant will be sold. Customers, in turn, get fresh, locally grown produce and other items.

O'Brien emphasized that having a subscription to a CSA not only gives a member food from within a 50 mile radius, but also helps to sustain the local economy.

Some CSA programs accept food benefit programs such as SNAP as well.

Another benefit of CSA programs is the variation in members' basket mix as the growing season goes through its phases, from early radishes to fresh salad greens to mid-summer tomatoes to autumn squash and pumpkins.

Lesser-known but no less delicious produce items, from kale to parsnips, add the spice of variety. Maggie Harris, a Hunter Park GardenHouse subscriber, says the program has introduced her family to many new foods.

"Our baskets have really expanded our horizons," Harris said. "It has given us the opportunity to dig deeper and try different recipes and foods and also just a lot more vegetables than we would otherwise."

Harris got involved with her program when she moved to Lansing from St. Louis. She agreed that it benefits both her family and her community.

"One of the things that I really appreciate about the programs and why I want my family to continue is because it's really accessible to everyone in the community," she said.

With representatives from so many local growers gathered in one basket for people to meet, Allen Market Place's CSA Fair is all about accessibility.

Sommelier

from page 26

are equal parts New York City restaurateur Danny Meyer, serial entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk and MSU men's basketball coach Tom Izzo.

"They all have an important common thread," King said. "Tunnel vision on your dreams with the ability to listen to who is important to you."

A series of special tasting events this spring featuring historic European vine-

yards — including a 300-year-old French winery and a ninth-generation German winemaker — will help King cement DeWitt's newfound status as a fine dining and wine destination. But King doesn't let all this attention distract him from his primary goal.

"I want my guests to have the best possible experience," he said. "Everything else is for ego, and ego doesn't pay my daycare bills. But if we can make people feel special, then they keep looking to us as a special place. A restaurant where they can take a little vacation around the world on a Saturday night."

Strawberry bingsoo — Snowflake Tea & Dessert Café

Conventional wisdom says we should enjoy hot meals and beverages in the winter and eat frozen treats when the weather is hot. But I suggest not waiting until summer to visit East Lansing's Snowflake Tea & Dessert Café to taste its specialty, an icy Korean dessert called patbingsu.

Patbingsu, also known as bingsu or bingsoo, is a shaved ice treat. Softer than the crunchy snow cones you get at the ballpark but more powdery than ice cream, patbingsu has the texture of a fresh, pure snowfall. It's traditionally flavored with sweet azuki beans or condensed milk. Snowflake offers several varieties, as well as occasional specials.

The strawberry bingsoo is topped with fruit, mochi (a marshmallow-like gummy made from a rice paste), strawberry syrup and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Once you dig through the delicious toppings, the patbingsu itself light and sweet.

Halfway through the dessert, another layer of strawberry syrup awaits for you to mix up with the remaining milky ice, keeping things from getting too plain. A single



cup serving was enough for myself and a friend, but Snowflake also serves its patbingsu in large bowl servings, making it an easy dish to share with your buddies.

Snowflake also offers bubble tea and other seasonal East Asian snacks like injeolmi, a Korean rice cake. Thanks to its cozy atmosphere and tasty desserts, I'd be happy dropping by this shop in any season.

— ALLISON HAMMERLY



Snowflake Tea & Dessert Café

Noon-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Noon-9 p.m. Sunday
245 Ann St., East Lansing
(517) 220-2988, facebook.com/snowflakedessertcafe

What's your favorite dish/drink?

Do you have a go-to dish or drink at your favorite local restaurant? We want to know about it. Email your favorite dish/drink and a short explanation about why you love it to food@lansingcitypulse.com, and it may be featured in a future issue. If possible, please send a photo along with your description — a nice smartphone photo is fine. Cheers!

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