

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) June 14 - 20, 2017

FREE



The **BIG**  
Gay Pride issue

Cover art: "Unite" by Alexander Watts. See story on page 12.

**ABOOD**  
LAW FIRM 1956  
IF WE ARE SMILING YOU KNOW WE ARE WINNING.

A black and white photograph of five people (three women and two men) in business attire, smiling. They are arranged in a row, with the two men in the center.

# SUMMER SOLSTICE JAZZ FESTIVAL



## June 23-24, 2017

THE SOUL OF JAZZ  
IN THE HEART  
OF EAST LANSING

DOWNTOWN  
EAST LANSING

PERFORMANCES BY:

PRESENTED BY THE  
CITY OF EAST LANSING  
& MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC



June 23

Rodney Whitaker Quintet



June 23

Phil Denny



June 24

Orquesta Ritmo

# FREE

WWW.ELJAZZFEST.COM

# City of Lansing MAYORAL DEBATE

## What:

Candidates for Mayor of Lansing face-off

## When:

Wednesday, June 21 @ 7pm  
Doors open @ 5pm

## Where:

Lansing Brewing Co.  
518 E. Shiawassee St.  
North of Lugnut Stadium

## Watch:

Live on ACD's Facebook page  
streaming through ACD's Fiber  
Optic Network.



Judi Brown Clarke



Andy Schor

other candidates  
to be announced



**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

On June 8, 2017, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road  
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court  
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road  
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street  
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road  
and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

**May 16, 2017 Regular Meeting**

**BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**CP#17-173**

**Public Notice**

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Qualifications for **Real Estate Professional Services** to list and sell residential properties. The Request for Qualification Packet is available after June 14, 2017 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 2 pm on June 28, 2017 and will be opened at 2 pm June 28, 2017. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: ICLB 06-2017-REAL ESTATE

**CP#17-171**

**Public Notice**

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Proposals for **Appraisal Services for Residential Properties and/or Vacant Residential Properties**. The Request for Proposal Packet is available after June 14, 2017 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 1:30 pm on June 28, 2017 and will be opened at 1:30 pm June 28, 2017. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: ICLB 06-2017-APPRAISE

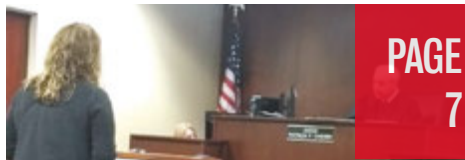
**CP#17-170**

# CityPULSE

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**City Pulse's 2017 Summer Concert Guide**



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**Dennis Preston exhibits psychedelic rock posters**



**COVER  
ART**

**"Unite," by Alexander Watts**

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**THIS MODERN WORLD** by TOM TOMORROW

ONE DAY IN THE NOT-DISTANT FUTURE, INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF TRUMP'S MALFEASANCE LEAKS OUT. WOW! THERE ARE TAX RETURNS, SWORN DEPOSITIONS, A 360-DEGREE IMMERSIVE VIDEO OF THE MOSCOW PEE PARTY, AND A LITERAL SMOKING GUN!

BUT HIS BASE SHRUGS IT ALL OFF. I READ ON BREITBART THAT THE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE ACTUALLY VINDICATES THE PRESIDENT!

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ISSUE ANONYMOUS DENIALS. LOOK, OFF THE RECORD? HE'S TOO DUMB TO HAVE DONE ANY OF THAT STUFF! THE MAN CAN BARELY TIE HIS OWN SHOES!

MAKES SENSE TO ME! ANYWAY, NOBODY'S PERFECT! THE REAL CRIME IS THE LEAKING! OF THE INFORMATION, I MEAN.

BUT HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO BE PRESIDENT? ER--ABSOLUTELY! HE HITS THE PERFECT SWEET SPOT BETWEEN IGNORANCE AND--UM--SLIGHTLY LESS IGNORANCE!

PAUL RYAN SCRAMBLES FOR A PLAUSIBLE NARRATIVE. THE ONLY THING THE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE PROVES...IS THAT HE IS NEW AT BEING PRESIDENT! HE IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE ARCANE CUSTOMS OF WASHINGTON!

AT SOME POINT, THE PRESIDENT IMPULSIVELY BLURTS OUT THE TRUTH. I did EVERYTHING they said--and WORSE! I'm guilty as Sin and NO ONE can stop me! Too bad losers-- I am Trump the INVINCIBLE!!!

IT'S JUST ANOTHER TYPICAL DAY IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION. KELLYANNE, THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST TWEET SEEMS TO ACKNOWLEDGE--

AS WELL AS THE MOST BASIC LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO GUT OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

SIR, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T-- OW, SCREW IT.

WHY ARE YOU SO FIXATED ON TWITTER? IT'S ONLY A WEBSITE, WHERE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD WRESTLES CONSTANTLY WITH HIS INNER-MOST DEMONS!

I MEAN, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REAL NEWS TO REPORT?

TAP TAP TAP

**CNN**

TAM TOMORROW ©2017

# Berneroway

## Mayor distorts history in defending his road thru Ormond Park

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero insisted on Tuesday that back in 1989 the Lansing City Council purchased parcels of land for Ormond Park for one purpose and one purpose only: a new entryway to Groesbeck Golf Course.

“It was purchased by a previous city council that included the likes of Lucille Belen and Alfreda Schmidt,” he declared in an interview on WKAR. “It was adopted unanimously for the express purpose of creating a driveway into Groesbeck Golf Course.”

Trouble is: The City Council resolution says specifically not that the parcels must be used for that purpose but that they “could” be.

The language is clear: “A new drive could be constructed through Ormond Park if the City acquired access to E. Grand River” Avenue.

The 1989 resolution cited improvements that would increase traffic to the course and that the only access to it was through residential streets.

Over the years, neighbors have successfully fought the entryway through the park despite traffic through their streets.

But this year, Bernero succeeded where other administrations have failed. His plan to spend \$358,000 in parks millage money for the new road survived neighborhood opposition. Bids are being sought to build the road by fall.

The 1989 resolution reflects that all eight members, including Belen and Schmidt, voted for it. But if the intent was that the land must be used for a road, the resolution does not say so.

The current Council is already looking into how the road proposal ever got inserted into the city’s master plan for parks. The Council voted 8-0 on Monday to investigate that, just hours after the state Department of Natural Resources said it too was looking into it.

In his WKAR appearance, Bernero accused Council members of “giving us histrionics” rather than “read the history.”

But Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann — who served on the Council in 1989 — suggested it was the other way around. He said it’s Bernero who is “misreading” history.

“It says it could be used for that,” said Lindemann. “It was our intent when I was on the City Council to look at a variety of

different options. And we didn’t know back then what some of the options would have been.”

However, Sid Worthington, another Councilman from then, recalled the exact opposite.

“Yes, yes,” he said by phone Tuesday. “That’s what it was for.”

He recalled the purchase was part of a larger plan to revitalize the languishing course. Those plans, he said, including sprucing up the clubhouse to include a restaurant. The city, he recalled, had just obtained the course from the State of Michigan.

Lindemann said at the time there was discussion about creating an entrance off of Wood Street, which he said “would be ideal” because it would remove the traffic concerns from the neighborhood. But Worthington said he didn’t think that idea had come up in ‘88 or ‘89.”

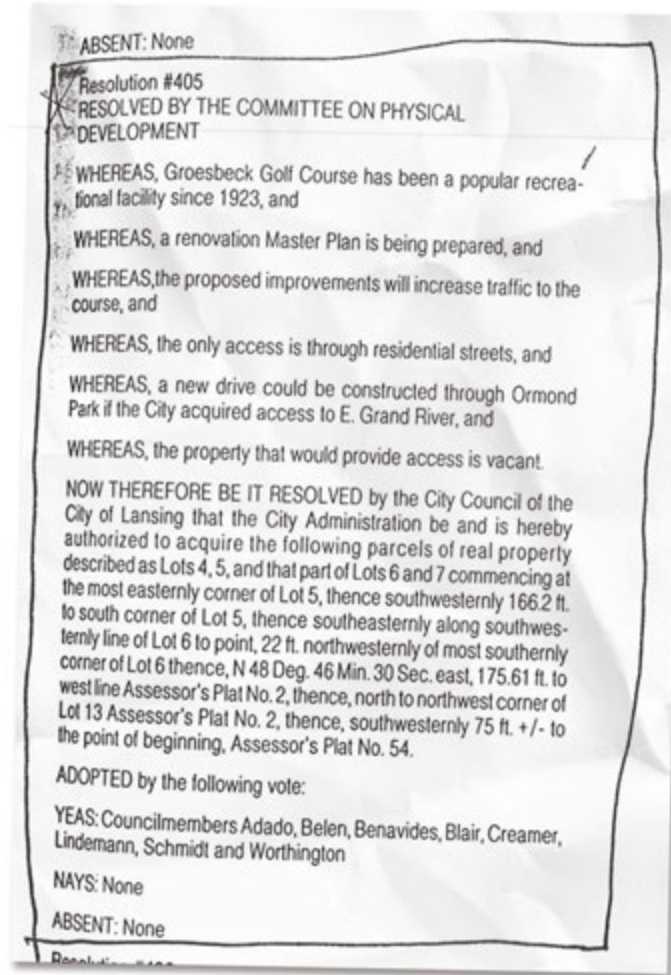
At the end of the day, Lindemann argued, the city hasn’t “really looked at all the alternatives.”

He noted he recently completed a drain-related redesign of property owned by the Lansing Board of Water & Light which abuts both Bancroft Park and the golf course. That area would be right for putting in a driving range, a new entrance and parking — and has the bonus of moving the golf traffic from the neighborhood and protecting Ormond Park.

“So there’s an opportunity for looking at some alternatives here,” he said. “I think that’s what they should do.”

He doesn’t dismiss the Ormond plan out of hand, but he said no one knows if that is the “best way.”

“If that was me out there, I’d take a hard look at all the options and think outside the box,” he said. That thinking, he said, should look at the golf course as a whole — the greens to the clubhouse, to entrances to func-



tionality and accessibility.

That process, he said, has to be done in public and with a public hearing — something the Bernero administration has rejected out of hand.

Asked if he thought the city should hold a public process to develop an outside-the-box plan, as Lindemann called for, Worthington said he did — with a caveat that it not delay transfer of management of the course to the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facility Authority. That move, he said, was something he’d supported for years.

Bernerero has done exactly that in the new budget, which takes effect in July, despite the Council’s opposition. Bernero vetoed the Council measure, but opponents to the transfer to LEPPFA were unable to overcome it.

But as for a public process and that out-of-the-box plan?

“I don’t want to be a buttinski into what the city is doing,” Worthington said, “But it’s never a bad idea to look at that.”

— TODD HEYWOOD



**Property:** 401 South Capitol Ave. — Lansing Public Library, Lansing

The patterned cladding on this building, which serves as the downtown branch of the Capital Area District Libraries, brightens the streetscape a few blocks south of the Capital Building. The rounded entrance lobby, located at the north end of the ground level, sits shadowed beneath a deep cantilevered canopy. Rising two additional floors above the ground floor, the upper levels are clad in precast white concrete panels with exposed quartz aggregate. The panels are imprinted with the trademark emblems — called ‘colophons’ — of several well-known book publishers.

Designed by Lansing-based architect Kenneth C. Black, construction of the building was completed in 1964. In all, the building’s Mid-century details offer a softer version of the International Modernism popular earlier in the century. This seems altogether fitting, given Black’s apparently dim view of modern development patterns. He was an early skeptic of the artificiality of post-war suburban development and he encouraged his colleagues to renew their focus on urban centers.

Black graduated from the University of Michigan, where he had studied under the guidance of Finnish architect Eiel Saarinen. In 1930, he joined the Lansing firm founded by his father and he was elevated to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in 1952.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

“Eye candy of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 26, 2017**, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend chapter 830, section 830.06 of the Lansing codified ordinances providing criteria for revocation or objection to transfer, issuance or renewal of licenses to permit the sale of beer and wine and/or spirits on premises.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)

[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#17-174

### NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick E. Lindemann

**Notice is Hereby Given** that a Public Hearing of Apportionment for special assessment of costs incurred by the drainage districts listed below will be held at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, in the City of Mason, Michigan, 48854, on **Tuesday, June 20, 2017**, from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

At the meeting to review the apportionment of benefits, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review. Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. For assessments to be collected in installments, the Drain Code (Act 40 of 1956, Sec. 154 [e]) provides that the assessment may be paid in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

DRAIN NAME	MUNICIPALITY	SECTION NUMBERS
A05-00 ALLCHIN DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	10, 15, 16
B12-00 BIRD DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16
B20-00 BROWNELL DRAIN	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	27, 28, 33-35
	VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	26, 27, 35
B22-00 BULLETT LAKE DRAIN	WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	13, 24, 25
	LOCKE TOWNSHIP	17-20, 29, 30
C20-00 COLLAR DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	1, 12
	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	7, 8
C23-00 COLUMBIA STREET DRAIN	VEVAY TOWNSHIP	6, 7
	CITY OF MASON	5-8
C46-00 CHERRY RIDGE NO. 2 DRAIN	WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	22, 27
D01-00 DANA AND STARKS DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	4, 5, 8, 9
L16-00 LOWE LAKE DRAIN	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	34, 35, 36
	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	1-3, 10-15, 22-28, 33-36
	VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35
L29-00 LINDSAY DRAIN	VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	23, 26
L40-01 LOCKE/WILLIAMSTOWN, WOODVIEW DRAIN	WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	25, 36
L43-00 LOCKE DRAIN NUMBER 3	LOCKE TOWNSHIP	11, 14
M05-00 MARSHALL AND WILCOX DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	32
	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	1, 12
	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	5-8
	CITY OF WILLIAMSTON	12
N05-00 NOTTINGHAM CONDOMINIUMS DRAIN		
P02-00 PATRICK DRAIN	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	25, 26, 36
	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	19, 29, 30, 31
	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	1
	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	6
P06-00 PHEENY DRAIN	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	4, 9
P10-00 POLLIWOG MARSH DRAIN	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28
	VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	22, 27
P13-00 POWELL DRAIN	WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	15, 16, 21, 22
S18-00 SMITH AND CONKLIN DRAIN	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	23, 24, 25, 26
S31-00 SULLIVAN CREEK DRAIN	LOCKE TOWNSHIP	21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34
	LEROY TOWNSHIP	3, 4
S42-00 SWAN AND BEATTY DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	13, 24
	LEROY TOWNSHIP	19
S44-00 SQUAW CREEK DRAIN	WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	13, 24, 25
	LOCKE TOWNSHIP	16-21, 28-33
V01-00 VANDERHOOF AND ROBINSON DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	36
	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	31, 32
	VEVAY TOWNSHIP	1, 12, 13, 24
	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	4-8, 17-20
W01-00 WAUBANAKIN DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	24, 25, 36
	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	19, 29-32
W11-00 WHEATFIELD NO. 1 DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	17-20
W12-00 WHEATFIELD NUMBER TWO DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	10, 11, 15

Proceedings conducted at the day of review are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395 or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. **You are Further Notified** that persons aggrieved by the apportionment may appeal to the Ingham County Probate Court within ten (10) days of the Day of Review.

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

CP#17-164

# Fight begins Brown Clarke counters stringent pot ordinance with a more moderate plan for dispensaries

The future of Lansing's flourishing medical marijuana industry is resting on a razor's edge, caught in the middle of a staring contest between differing factions of the City Council.

The entire Council took its first look at two approaches Monday night. One, proposed by the Public Safety Committee, would use zoning to sharply reduce the number of dispensaries. The other, proposed by mayoral candidate Judi Brown Clarke, takes a more moderate approach.

But it's not a fight over just medical marijuana. Council members acknowledged that it would also create a framework for how the city would regulate recreational marijuana should it be legalized.

"Yes, I think this does lay the groundwork" for how recreational marijuana would be regulated, said Councilwoman Jody Washington, 1st Ward, who supports the more cautious road. Council President Patricia Spitzley, who indicated interest in a more moderate approach, agreed.

At stake at a minimum is the fate of an estimated 60 dispensaries, some believed to have multi-million-dollar revenues. And if

recreational marijuana is legalized next year, as advocates hope, the city could reap millions in annual tax revenues from those sales.

Containing and controlling the industry as it finds its own balance is a delicate ballet among competing interests: neighbors who say the businesses are eyesores and draw too much traffic; business owners who say they just want to provide quality "medication" for their patients in a convenient location and build their businesses, and the patients themselves, who want the plethora of dispensary choices currently available to them.

And from that conflict arises two draft ordinances competing for the attention, and ultimately the blessing, of the Council.

On one side is a draft ordinance, referred to as 6D, produced by the Public Safety Committee after nearly 18 months of public meetings. On the other, a new draft called D&P 1, brought to the table Monday night by Brown Clarke, an at-large Councilwoman who is giving up her seat to pursue the Mayor's Office. "D&P" stands for the Development and Planning Committee, which she chairs.

Draft 6D appears to have the staunch backing of the committee chairman, Adam Hussain, 3rd Ward; At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood, who chaired the committee last year; and Washington. That draft imposes strict zoning restrictions on where medical marijuana establishments can be located in the city, and how far they can be from one and other as well as from schools, playgrounds and other locations.

Browne Clarke's version, D&P 1, loosens the zoning restrictions. For examples, it would eliminate a distance requirement between businesses and change the distance a dispensary could be from a park by measuring it from playground equipment, not boundaries.

Brown Clarke declined an invitation to discuss her proposal with City Pulse.

A City Pulse analysis of zoning restrictions contained in 6D found that five of every six dispensaries would have to shut down. The analysis identified 62 dispensaries in operation at the time. All but eight of them would be forced to close if 6D's restrictions were adopted. It also found the zoning restrictions would cluster the industry in areas to the northwest part of the city and along the southern tier.

Neither Spitzley nor Washington said they were in favor of clustering the businesses.

In D&P 1, while some of the restrictions, like the 500-foot distance from another dispensary, are gone, it contains another obstacle: a 25-dispensary cap. That's fewer than half of the current facilities in operation, and about half of a 48-business cap adopted by



**Capital** DISCOVER the difference

## Celebrating Dads

**Date: Friday • June 16**  
**Time: 2:00 – 3:00pm**

All Dads are Special and we want to celebrate all of them in our lives that have made us feel special every day! Come enjoy an afternoon of food and fun, and celebrate! Every dad that attends receives a free box of chocolates! To RSVP to this event, please call Maggie Quinn at 517-337-0066.

**Call or Visit us online for more information.**

---

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# Special treatment?

Councilwoman facing arrest over ticket gets relief from city attorney

When Lansing City Councilwoman Tina Houghton opened the screenshot from her nephew last month, the last thing she expected to see was her name on a list of people with warrants for their arrest.

But there it was.

The warrant was issued May 2 after she failed to appear for a hearing before Judge Patrick Cherry of 54-A District Court. That hearing was for her to explain why she had not paid the fine for an expired parking meter ticket she received on Nov. 10.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. She called the city attorney, James Smiertka, "and asked him what it was all about."

Smiertka said he ordered the warrant quashed and set up a new hearing. He said it was one of three responses any citizen in the same boat may receive who contacts his office.. Another is to escort the person to court for immediate arraignment and to pay the ticket off. The third is do nothing.

He said his office was asked only "the procedure to respond," and after reviewing Houghton's file determined the quash and hearing were appropriate.

But one of Houghton's colleagues on the Council is calling foul.

"Our relationship with the city attorney is on a professional basis with what we do with Council," said Carol Wood. She said the Council needs to discuss whether there was an ethical violation.

Council President Patricia Spitzley nixed that in an interview Tuesday morning.

"I don't know that there is a role for Council," she said. "I think Tina wishes she had paid her parking ticket. I know I wish she had paid her parking ticket. And that's all I am going to say about that."



Todd Heywood/Citypulse

Councilwoman Tina Houghton awaits a District Court hearing.

Houghton said she doesn't understand how it was an issue. She noted Smiertka was the first person she thought to call.

As for Smiertka, he said his office handles about 2,100 criminal and civil warrants a year.

"This was handled in the same manner as if any other person had contacted our office with the same query," Smiertka wrote in an email Monday.

But he was unable to furnish any data to show the office had done so for other citizens.

"Our office does not maintain records specifically on motions to quash civil arrest warrants because no records exist of which method is utilized," he wrote. "Each case is different based upon the circumstances."

He acknowledged that an "oral survey" of staff in the office revealed no other Council members had sought action in relation to a parking ticket since he was appointed city attorney last year.

Houghton was in court Monday, where she "claimed full responsibility," and paid her \$90 fine and fees.

— TODD HEYWOOD

# Pot

from page 6

Council in 2010 in an ordinance that hasn't been enforced since the state courts ruled that dispensaries are illegal. A new state law taking effect this year legalizes them but leaves it to local jurisdictions whether to allow them.

Brown Clarke's proposal would save more dispensaries, but far from all. It would allow for 15 licenses in the first year and up to 10 more the next year. If more businesses met all the licensing requirements than there are licenses available, the licenses will be awarded by a random draw of names.

While Monday's Committee of the Whole meeting was supposed to be the first time for all eight Council members to begin the process of vetting 6D, with the D&P 1 on the table, the process of reviewing 6D agreed upon by the Council two weeks ago was shelved.

Instead, the opening salvo in what is likely to become a weeks-long if not months-long battle focused on whether to have a locally appointed commission to review and approve licenses.

Licenses would be approved by the city clerk under 6D. Denials of licenses would also have to be reviewed by the clerk, raising concerns about possible due process complaints.

In a memo to the Council, City Clerk Chris Swope said he supported the move to a commission.

"I believe the approval process would less likely be subjected to a lawsuit with a diverse commission to further document the due process," he wrote.

Brown Clarke, whose version calls for a commission, said the committee proposal creates "an undue burden" on the City Clerk's Office. She said a commission represents the best practices in a number of other states.

Hussain pointed out that previous drafts of 6D had included a commission, but that it had been removed out of concerns related to finding people to serve the body.

City Attorney James Smiertka informed the Council that the question of having a commission was "a political decision."

The consensus of the Council Monday night was that if there is to be a commission, it should have seven members in order to avoid tie votes, including one from each of the city's four wards. Each Council member would forward a name for appointment to the commission to the mayor.

The full Council will meet again as the Committee of the Whole at 4 pm. June 26 to continue its discussions.

— TODD HEYWOOD





## 2017 LANSING JUNETEENTH Celebration

### Capitol City Kick-Off Juneteenth Opening Program

Celebrating Lansing's 24th annual celebration and the 13th State of Michigan Holiday.

**Thursday, June 15**  
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Lansing City Hall Lobby, 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI

Join us for the official start of the Lansing Juneteenth Celebration Weekend. Our keynote speaker is the inspiring Ms. Indira K. Glass, Secretary of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP. Additionally, the ceremony will include talented community performers and presenters.

### FEATURED ENTERTAINERS



ROBERT "LEADBELLY" JONES



ORCHESTRA RITMO



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313 LIVE EXPERIENCE

### JUNETEENTH FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Fri. & Sat., June 16-17

St. Joseph Park, Lansing, MI

Bring lawn chairs, water bottles and blankets to the park! The Park opens Friday at 3 p.m. Events include vendors, family activities, a ballgame commemorating the NEgro League, community recognitions and stage performances.

On Saturday, we open with the African-American Parade at 10 a.m. Staging begins at the Letts Community Center and ends at St. Joseph Park. At noon, the Festival opens with the Peace Walk and Main Stage Performances. Activities include food and merchandise vendors, children's activities, a health fair, educational exhibits and more.

Visit [LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](http://LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org) for more details!

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

#### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDED FY2018 BUDGET AND TAX RATE

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of East Lansing is required by City Charter and the State Budget Law; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required under the provisions of the Truth in Taxation Law; and,

WHEREAS, after the budget was adopted the City received rollback calculations from Ingham County; and,

WHEREAS, the general appropriations act must set forth the total number of mills to be levied and the purposes for the millage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of East Lansing does hereby establish the date of Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in 54-B-Court Room 2, City Hall, 410 Abbot in East Lansing, Michigan, as the date, time, and place for the required public hearing; and be it further resolved that for the purposes of the hearing it shall be assumed that the total tax rate will be 22.1851 mills consisting of 17.5679mills for operating purposes, 1.8250 mills for solid waste, 0.7946 mills for debt service, and 1.9976 mills for the Library pursuant to section 1 of 1887 PA164.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

The budget is available for public inspection at the East Lansing Library and City Clerk and Finance Office at City Hall; along with the City's website: cityofeastlansing.com under Finance.

Public comments, either oral or written, are welcome at the Public Hearing. The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting upon seven (7) calendar days' notice to the City of East Lansing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should write or call: Shelli Neumann, Human Resources Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 319-6893, TDD (517) 337-0767.

This notice is published by: Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk, City of East Lansing, Michigan, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6881.

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#17-168

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, June 20, 2017** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

Ordinance No. 1413; an ordinance adopting the Michigan Uniform City Income Tax Ordinance by reference by adding Chapter 41: Taxation - City Income Tax -to the City Code of the City of East Lansing

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Chapter 41 - Taxation - City Income Tax - is added to read as follows:

Sec. 41-1. That the uniform city income tax ordinance, being Chapter 2 of Act 284 of the Public Acts of 1964, as amended (MCL 141.601, et seq), a true copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, be and the same is hereby enacted by reference as if set out herein in its entirety.

Sec. 41-2. That as provided at Section 3 of Act 264 of the Public Acts of 1964 [MCL 141.503(1)], the rate of tax shall be as follows:

Subject to the exclusions, adjustments, exemptions and deductions herein provided, an annual tax of one percent on corporations and resident individuals and one-half percent on non-resident individuals for general revenue purposes is hereby imposed as an excise on income earned and received on and after the effective date of this ordinance.

Sec. 41-3. That as provided at Section 31 of Act 24 of the Public Acts of 1964, as amended (MCL 141.631), the exemptions shall be as provided therein.

Sec. 41-4. That printed copies of said uniform city income tax ordinance shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk, available for inspection by the public at all times.

Sec. 41-5. That pursuant to Section 2a of Act 284 of the Public Acts of 1964 (MCL 141.502a), the imposition of an excise tax on income under this ordinance shall not take effect until this ordinance is approved by the qualified and registered electors of the City of East Lansing.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-172

## Flunked out

### Lansing Everett math teacher dismissed For viewing 'inappropriate' online images

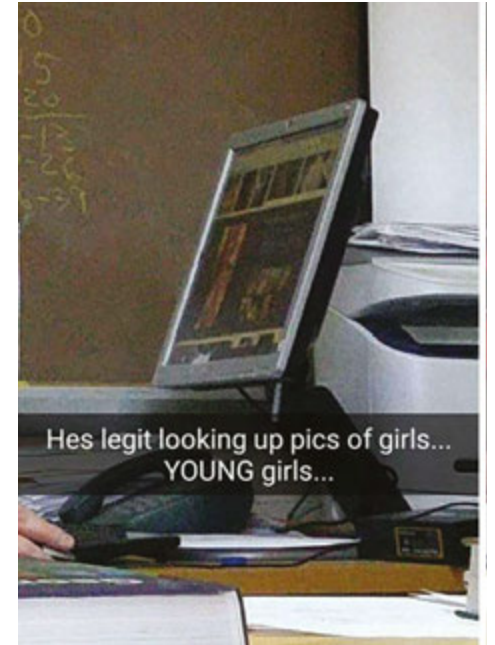
A Lansing Everett High School math instructor is out of a job after students photographed him viewing "inappropriate" Internet images while pupils took an exam, Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul and School Board President Rachel Lewis have confirmed.

Students caught the teacher, whom neither school official would identify, looking at pictures of "girls in bras." They posted photos to Facebook.

"As is shown in the Facebook post, he taught mathematics and was a tenured teacher," Caamal Canul wrote in an email Monday night. "As soon as we were made aware of the posting and the incident, we started an immediate investigation which also included revision of historical access to websites using district equipment and on district time. We were made aware of the student's posting on June 7 and by the end of the week, the teacher was no longer an employee of the district."

Citing privacy concerns, neither official would comment on how long the teacher had been with the district or exactly what "inappropriate content" he had accessed.

"The district has strict policies regarding professional behavior, including appropriate use of the internet," Caamal Canul wrote, "all of which were violated in by this incident."



Courtesy Photo

Snapchat by an Everett High School student

Lewis said the district's policy specifically prohibits employees from using personal email and social media as well as looking at inappropriate images. She was unaware the staff computers had software designed to filter out content.

"I know there was an immediate action taken by the principal and the central office," Lewis said. "I do believe that our administration handled things appropriately and they did it pretty quickly."

— TODD HEYWOOD



City Council  
4th Ward

# NO BALONEY VOTE RAFFONE

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Kathi Ann Raffone, 1221 Muskegon Ave., Lansing, MI 48915

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Bids for **Tree and Brush Removal and Trimming Services**. The Request for Proposal Packet is available June 14, 2017 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 1 pm on June 28, 2017 and will be opened at 1 pm June 28, 2017. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: ICLB 06-2017-TREES

CP#17-169



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## 2017 Summer Concert Guide

Summer has arrived, which means it's time to dig the lawn chairs out from the depths of the garage, shake out the picnic blankets and mark your calendar for a packed season of outdoor live music. From St. Johns to Mason and Grand Ledge to Haslett, a multitude of free outdoor concerts are ready to provide the soundtrack to your summer.

Performers range from summertime regulars like the Sea Cruisers and Root Doctor to throwback groups like '80s cover band Starfarm and Beatles tribute band Toppermost. Even classical musicians get in on the act, with appearances by the Lansing Concert Band, the Meridian Community Band and a variety of MSU student ensembles.

So cut out this list, pin it to your family bulletin board and get ready to enjoy a summer of free concerts in the sun.

COMPILED BY DANIELLE CHESNEY AND THE CITY PULSE STAFF

### LANSING CONCERTS IN THE PARK

All concerts at 7-9 p.m. except where noted. FREE. Each concert is in a different city park. (517) 483-6019.

**June 21:** Kari Lynch at Sycamore Park, 1415 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

**June 28:** Jill Jack at Cherry Hill Park, 515 River St., Lansing

**July 4:** Lansing Concert Band (8-9 p.m.) at Adado Riverfront Park, 201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

**July 12:** Jump Street Swing at Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing

**July 19:** Tejano Sound at Frances Park, 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing

**July 26:** Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle at Moores Park, 400 Moores River Drive, Lansing

**Aug. 2:** 496 West at Fulton Park, 4300 Sheffield Blvd., Lansing

**Aug. 9:** Sea Cruisers at Grand River Park, 3205 Old Lansing Road, Lansing

### GRAND CONCERT SERIES AT LANSING CITY MARKET

Food and drinks available at Lansing City Market. All concerts start at 6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460 ext. 234. lansingcitymarket.com.

### Jazz on the Grand

**June 22:** MSU Professors of Jazz

**July 20:** Horn and Holland

**Sept. 14:** Brandon Marceal

### Blues on the Grand

**June 14:** Thornetta Davis

**Aug. 9:** Root Doctor

**Aug. 16:** Pat Zelenka

**Sept. 6:** Frog and the Beeftones

### EAST LANSING SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

All concerts start at 7 p.m. Concerts will be cancelled if it rains. FREE. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. (517) 319-6888, cityofeastlansing.com/summerconcertseries.

**July 7:** Root Doctor

**July 14:** Paddlebots

**July 21:** Earthwork Music Showcase featuring the Springtails, Jen Sygit and Sam Corbin, Gifts or Creatures and Red Tail Ring

**July 28:** Taylor Taylor

**Aug. 4:** Starfarm

**Aug. 18:** Kathleen and the Bridge Street

### MSU'S COLLEGE OF MUSIC'S MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

The MSU Food Truck and Dairy Story ice cream will be available during the performances. The rain location for all four



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Professors of Jazz, MSU's jazz faculty super-group, performs at the Lansing City Market's Music on the Grand concert series. This year's series adds R&B to its popular jazz and blues offerings.

concerts is the Music Building across the street. All concerts at noon except where noted. FREE. W.J. Beal Botanical Gardens, 408 W. Circle Drive, Okemos. (517) 353-9958, music.msu.edu/event-listing/music-in-the-garden-class-jazz.

**June 28:** Spartan Student Jazz Combo (7 p.m.)

**July 20:** M.I. Concerts Percussion and Flute Duo

**Aug. 25:** Brass Tacks Quartet

**Sept. 7:** Spectra Saxophone Quartet (6 p.m.)

### ST. JOHNS CONCERTS IN THE PARK

All concerts start at 7 p.m., rain or shine. FREE. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, St. Johns City Park, 805 W. Park St., St. Johns.

**June 14:** Sea Cruisers

**June 21:** Lansing Concert Jazz Band

**June 28:** Lansing Concert Band

**July 5:** The Flying Latini Brothers

**July 12:** Homegrown Productions

**July 26:** Root Doctor

**Aug. 2:** Miranda and the M80s

**Aug. 9:** Toppermost

**Aug. 16:** Mountain Town Singers

### GRAND LEDGE MUSIC IN THE PARK

Food concessions available. All concerts 7-9 p.m. FREE. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St.,

Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2383, grandledgechamber.com.

**June 15:** The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle with Abbey Hoffman and the Storytellers

**June 22:** Red Herring with Shelby and Jake

**June 29:** Tell Yo Mama with Rachel Lynn Curtis

**July 6:** Grand Ledge Burns with Exit-86

**July 13:** The Invasion with Rick Kelly

**July 20:** Showdown with Sierra Denae

**July 27:** Root Doctor with Kari Lynch

**Aug. 3:** Kari Holmes with Clique

**Aug. 10:** Taylor Taylor with Alex Mendenall

**Aug. 17:** Fabulous Oldies but Goodies Band with Darin L. Larner

**Aug. 24:** Life Support Band with Bridgette

### EASTWOOD TOWNE CENTER SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

All concerts 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center Court, Eastwood Towne Center, 3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-9209, shoepastwoodtownecenter.com/events.

**June 20:** Brenda Loomis

**June 27:** Kids' Night Out (family entertainment and games)

**July 11:** Showdown

**July 18:** Bobby Standal and Paulie O

**July 25:** Root Doctor

**Aug. 1:** Don Middlebrook & the Pearl Divers

**Aug. 8:** Smooth Daddy

See Concerts, page 11

# Ingham County Animal Shelter

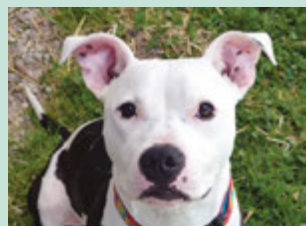
To adopt one of these pets from the ICAS call (517) 676-8370. 600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854. ac.ingham.org



## Clover

Clover needs an experienced owner who can give him the exercise, training, & guidance he needs. He would prefer to be the center of someone's world!

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## Cheese Nip

Cheese Nip is a big goofy guy who just wants to sit in your lap and snuggle. He's a love-bug who will jump up and give you kisses and he has the best ears!

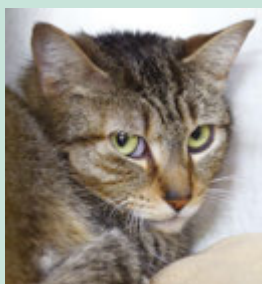
Sponsored by:  
Anne & Dale Schrader



## Digits

Digits is a talkative, spunky and sassy older gal looking for an adult only home. She is super friendly and will come running up for affection or treats. She is front declawed.

In memory of  
Rodica's cats



## Boots

Boots is a very shy gal who is looking for a calm and quiet home. She is a love bug that would make a wonderful companion if given the time and love.

Sponsored by:  
Linn & Owen Jewelers



## Bullwinkle

Bullwinkle is a bull in a china shop. He is a big goober with lots of energy and love to give. He loves his toys! He will need a home where he can let's of exercise and attention. No small kids or cats.

Sponsored by:  
Golden Harvest



## Keno

Keno is a fun loving guy looking for a laid back adult home. He hasn't had the easiest life and will need a bit of time and patience to help him adjust to being a spoiled indoor pet. He appears to have lived most of his life outside without a lot of love and attention.

**Okemos**  
1802 W. Grand River  
517.349.8435  
**Dewitt**  
12286 U.S. 127  
517.669.8824  
**Lansing**  
5200 S. MLK  
517.882.1611  
6201 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
517.323.6920  
**Charlotte**  
515 Lansing Road  
517.541.1700

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# 'Pretty weird things'

## Dennis Preston shows off classic rock 'n' roll posters

By DANIELLE CHESNEY

Dennis Preston sat in the Lansing Mall on a recent afternoon, doodling a caricature in a leather sketchbook. Just feet away, mall visitors can have a Jimi Hendrix experience or “ah” and “um” at a portrait of Charles Mingus, courtesy of Preston's pen.

The Keys to Creativity Event Gallery is hosting a collection of Preston's rock posters, which he illustrated for various regional venues in the 1960s and '70s. The exhibition is part of the Lansing Mall art gallery's series of events honoring the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love.

Preston, a musician himself, drew most of the posters for a concert promoter in the Detroit area. Preston would vary his approach to the art based on the artist and the situation.

“Sometimes I was drawing caricatures of the bands or the artists,” said Preston. “Sometimes I was just making up whatever I wanted to do to catch people's eyes.

### Dennis Preston Concert Poster Exhibition

Through June 30  
10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Wednesday; noon-9 p.m.  
Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday;  
noon-6 p.m. Sunday  
FREE  
Keys to Creativity Event Gallery  
(In the Lansing Mall)  
5746 W. Saginaw Highway,  
Lansing  
(517) 657-2770,  
keystocreativity.net

Preston thinks he could remake many of the posters today with better results.

“I think the main thing I would do is redraw the people,” Preston said. “I can get better references photos now with the Internet. Back then I could only work with what they gave me or whatever I could find



Courtesy Photo

Dennis Preston's concert posters, like this one for Leon Russell and Edgar Winter, are on display this month at Keys to Creativity in the Lansing Mall.

in a magazine or an album cover. There are some pictures I wish I would have had better photos to draw from.”

Preston said his posters hold stories, such as the time he drew a birthday card for Dewey Bunnell of America and was invited to go out with the band after the show.

“(The band said), ‘We're going to go out now, do you want to go with us?’ I said, ‘Nah, you know, I better not,’” Preston recalled. “Back then I was kind of a shy guy. I went to the concert with my cousin, and she was still sitting out there waiting for me. Other people I've told this to go, ‘You should've asked your cousin if she wanted to go too!’”

The exhibition is free to the public and on display until the end of June. The collection includes posters for Michigan artists like Rare Earth and Bob Seger, as well as rock icons like Alice Cooper and Edgar Winter. Most posters feature trippy, psychedelic lettering, and some feature odd-ball creatures from Preston's imagination.

“When people just let me go and do what I want,” said Preston, “I'll just stick on the headphones and come up with some pretty weird things.”

# WHAT WAS I INKING?

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# Concerts

from page 9

## MASON THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE

All concerts start at 6 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason (517) 676-1046, masonchamber.org.

- June 22:** Life Support (acoustic)
- July 6:** The Brian Randall Band
- July 20:** Sea Cruisers
- Aug. 10:** Backwoods Band
- Aug. 24:** Twilight Memories Big Band
- Sept. 14:** Mason High School Marching Band and Cheer Squad

## SOUNDS OF SUMMER AT LAKE LANSING PARK SOUTH

Bounce house and slide available for children. All concerts start at 7 p.m. FREE. Lake Lansing Park South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. (517) 347-1689, friendsofinghamcountyparks.org.

- June 16:** New Rule and Gemini
- June 23:** Capital City Chordsmen
- June 30:** Meridian Community Band
- July 7:** Lansing Concert Band
- July 14:** The JPP Band
- July 21:** Sea Cruisers
- July 28:** Avon Bomb
- Aug. 4:** Peat in the Creel and Glen Erin Pipe Band
- Aug. 11:** Oldies But Goodies
- Aug. 18:** Don Middlebrook
- Aug. 25:** Jeff Baldor

# No off season

MSU's Rob Roznowski prepares for summer show at Williamston Theatre

By Ty Forquer

Summer is supposed to be a chance for university types to relax. Not so for Department of Theatre Professor Rob Roznowski, artistic director of MSU's Summer Circle Theatre. The outdoor theater series, which kicked off last week with "See Rock City & Other Destinations," will open and close four more shows before the calendar flips to July.

Oh, and he's also preparing to direct "Murder for Two," which opens at Williamston Theatre July 13.

"It's a busy time," Roznowski said with a laugh.

Rehearsals for "Murder for Two" begin next week. Roznowski, who has directed three other shows at Williamston Theatre,

jumped at the chance to work with the group again, even if it will cut into his summer break.

"They are the nicest, kindest, most even-keeled people I've ever worked with professionally," he said.

"Murder for Two" is a two-person musical that plays off of classic murder mysteries. True to the trope, a great American novelist is killed at his own surprise birthday party. Mark Schenfisch plays a small town policeman who is trying to prove his sleuthing skills by solving the case before the real detectives show up. The suspects, a dozen eccentric party guests, are all played by one actor, Andrea Wollenberg.

"It's like 'Clue' on steroids," Roznowski said.

The casting of this musical was difficult, Roznowski said, because both actors must be able to play the piano. There is no band or pit orchestra; the two performers take turns accompanying each other. Wollenberg has performed this play before, and Roznowski is looking forward to working with her and exploring the cast of characters she must bring to life on stage.

"That's the best part of acting," Roznowski said. "You work with every tool at your command — your voice, your

movements, your expressions — to create these characters."

While it's a bit of a hike out to Williamston — about 15 miles from the middle of Lansing — Roznowski insists it is worth the trip.

"You can get a nice dinner and catch a show," he said. "There's a really cool food scene. It's really becoming a great destination."



Roznowski

Due to an editing error, Williamston Theatre's summer shows, "Taking Shakespeare" (now playing through Sunday) and "Murder for Two" (July 13-Aug. 20), were left out of the Summer Theatre Guide in our May 24 issue. The complete schedule, including the shows at Williamston Theatre, is available at [lansingcitypulse.com/summertheater](http://lansingcitypulse.com/summertheater).

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DIRECTED BY JOHN LENNOX

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RECOMMENDED: AGE 10+

*Failure:  
A Love Story*

BY PHILIP DAWKINS  
DIRECTED BY ANDY CALLIS

July 25-29 ■ 7 p.m.

RECOMMENDED: AGE 10+

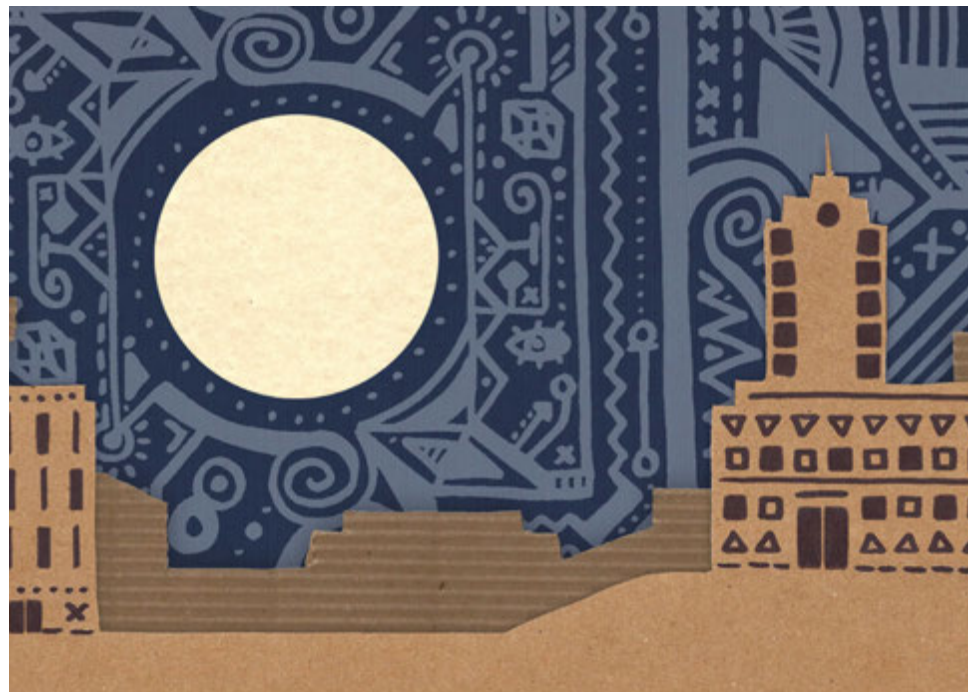
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LANSING

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LCC'S OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATRE  
[lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo)



Courtesy photo

"Interplay," by Alexander Watts, was made with Sharpie on paper and cardboard and then touched up in Photoshop. Watts describes the piece as "a visual representation of the harmonious exchange of energy between nature and culture on humid summer evenings."

## Meet the artist

Alexander Watts sends strong messages with simple materials

By CLARISSA KELL

Art has always found a way into Alexander Watts' life, and even more lately, as he's been picking up some new tools while he is away at college.

Watts, who grew up in East Lansing, studies digital media and visual communications at Loyola University Chicago, where he is learning more about digital design software. Many of his works, including the cover art for this issue, were created as collages that he touches up with Photoshop.

"I am super jazzed about (this week's Pride Issue cover), this is a huge honor," Watts said. "Being gay is something I love about myself, and being able to safely voice this on such a public platform is a tremendous privilege."

The art was described by Watts as "a visual representation of the inclusive and unifying forces housed within the LGBTQ+ community."

"Nothing really matches the nurturing nature of the queer community," Watts said. "I'm so incredibly lucky to have a supportive family, loving friends and a generally respectful community that lets me exist as I am."

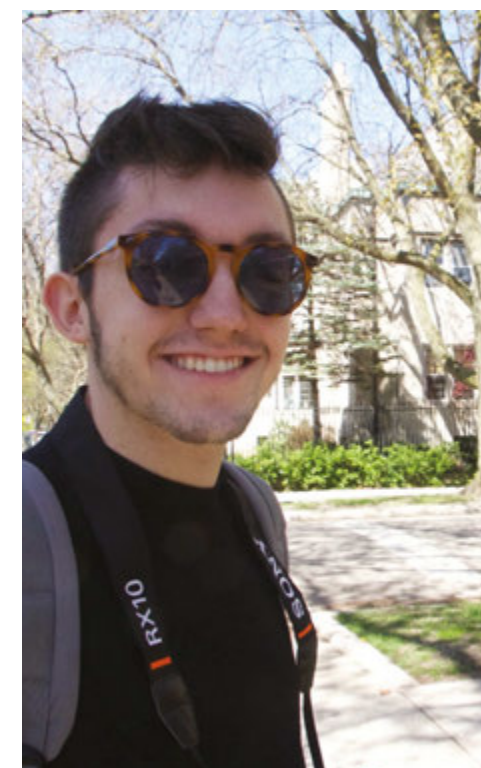
Watts, 19, said he thinks so many groups within the community are overlooked, and it is essential to accurately and inclusively represent everyone who helped shape LGBTQ+ history.

"Drag queens, people of color, trans people and everyone at the intersections of these identities were and still are fundamental to the queer community's prog-

ress," Watts said.

Watts said he works art into many facets of his life. He is only halfway through his time at Loyola, but he would love to have his art be a viable career.

"I like to tackle social issues in my art, I've been very active with social issues in my adult life," Watts said. "Art is a powerful and universal tool."



Watts

## Neck or Back Pain?

The MSU Center for Orthopedic Research is conducting a series of research studies to understand the mechanisms of manual medicine in treating pain.

### Who can participate?

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- Those **with low back pain**.
- Those who have **not** had spinal surgery.
- All participants must be between the ages of **21 and 65**.

Participants will be compensated and receive up to 4 treatments of manual medicine.

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## City Pulse LGBTQ Inclusion Awards to honor eight

An émigré from oppression, a rights advocate since grade school, a transgender leader, two health workers, a union that made domestic-partner benefits happen in a big way, and a newspaper that chronicles all things gay: Those are some characteristics of this year's recipients of the second annual City Pulse LGBTQ Inclusion Awards on Thursday night.

The recipients this year are Rachel Crandall-Crocker, Emily Dievendorf, S. Hope Dundas, Delicious Jackson-Clark, Dwayne Riley, Nana Thierry, the newspaper *Between the Lines* and the UAW. You can learn more about all eight honorees in profiles appearing inside this section.

The awards party and ceremony begin at 7 p.m. at Spiral Dance Bar, 1447 Center St., in Lansing's Old

Town. Tickets are \$20 in advance at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) or by calling (517) 999-6704 before 2:30 p.m. Thursday. Tickets at the door are \$25.

Tickets include a party with heavy appetizers and half-price on all drinks — and a wrist band for the White Party the next night in Old Town as part of the annual Michigan Pride Festival. The wrist band has a \$10 value.

The awards ceremony begins at 8 p.m. Sam Singh, the Democratic leader of the state House of Representatives, is the master of ceremonies.

Food is being provided by Zaytoon Mediterranean, Jersey Giant, Whipped, McAlister's Deli, Eastside Fish Fry and Waterfront Bar & Grill.

Other sponsors are Spiral, The Plant Professionals,

Capital Imaging and Absolute Gallery.

Alex Jackson of A&M Photography photographed the recipients for their individual awards, which are framed covers of City Pulse with their pictures on them.

Introducing the honorees will be state Sen. Curtis Hertel; journalist Todd Heywood, a 2016 honoree; Spiral general manager Liz Deatrick; 2016 honoree James McClurken; City Pulse editor and publisher Berl Schwartz; Ligia Romero-Balcarcel of the Lansing Area AIDS Network; 2016 honoree Dr. Erik Wert; and Dee Hurlbert, director of the LGBT Resource Center at Michigan State University.

This year's winners were selected by a mix of 2016 honorees and community leaders.

## As openly gay candidates proliferate, Swope recalls when it wasn't so easy

By TODD HEYWOOD

Sixty-five votes and 21 years. Those are the numbers that span Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope's political career.

The first number is how many votes Harold Leeman Jr. garnered over him in 1995 to win the 1st Ward Council seat. That was a year of political upheaval in the city. The city had just gone through a controversial early retirement scandal, and there was a call for a clean sweep in City Hall. Swope was hoping to be one of those voices and to make history as the city's first openly gay elected official.

Swope announced his candidacy in the newsletter of the Lansing Association for Human Rights, an LGBT community advocacy organization. He promised readers he would run as an "openly gay candidate." Anonymous notes were distributed to seniors and church attendees highlighting his sexuality.

Swope said he had more votes at the polls that day, but lost in the absentee ballot count.

The fliers contributed to his loss, he recalled.

But the political landscape started changing dramatically after that.

Swope was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners in 2000 and as a clerk in 2005.

Swope helped usher in an openness to LGBT elected officials that has become a hallmark of Ingham County. Currently, there are at least two on city councils; Ruth Beier in East Lansing and Kathie Dunbar in Lansing; a Lansing school board member,

Peter Spadafore, who was just endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce for the City Council; an LCC trustee, Ryan Buck; and three county commissioners, Ryan Seabolt, Brian McGrain and Bryan Crenshaw.

"No one made anything about their sexuality," Swope said about the three county commissioners. "It wasn't even mentioned. It just wasn't a thing."

He suspects the out candidates on this year's ballot for the City Council — Spadafore, and Dunbar, Amanda Bernes and Jim McClurken — won't face the kind of whisper campaign he faced in 1995.

"I think individuals' attitudes have changed," he said. "I think it is very broad. It's not just Lansing. It's not just Michigan. Look at what was on TV in 1995 and the change to today. Some of our media notables are out. We're still a little bit lacking when it comes to movie stars. I think it's our whole society changing."

That doesn't mean wisps of homophobia aren't still there in the political realm.

He provided a real-time experience from earlier this month.

"The person who is running against me made a comment that made me scratch my head when he said at a candidate forum that since Virg was leaving office maybe it was time to clean out the closet," Swope said. "Now closet isn't usually a political term, it's usually a term referring to the LGBT community. So, I think that was kind of an oblique reference."

Swope's opponent, Jeremic Clayborn III, said he never made that comment.

State Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, who is one of three openly gay House members, said having members of the LGBT commu-

nity sitting at the table is important.

"You're no longer talking about us, you're talking to us," he said. "That makes a difference. I can walk across the aisle and have a conversation now."

For Swope, there is a more fundamental reason to be out.

"Our society is not universally positive," he said. "Having people out, known and

visible helps that. It helps bring everyone forward. It helps give that gay kid a positive vision of what their future can be rather than thinking 'I have to hide this for the rest of my life.'"

While there have certainly been an increase in the visibility of out LGBT candidates and elected officials, and there has been significant gains in equality for the community, there remains a dark undertone still — one that echoes the reality 21 years ago.

"I think there are always going to be people who are antigay, who are fighting our progress," Swope said, "I think unfortunately it's never going to leave us at all."

In 1996, Bob Gross, a beloved sports writer for the Lansing State Journal, was found brutally murdered and his body set on fire. His murder was classified as a hate crime. In recent years there have been cases in Eaton County and Ingham County where men have preyed on the LGBT community to rob and assault them. And Larkin Neely Jr. is facing a felony murder and armed robbery charge in the brutal murder of Kevin Wirth earlier this month, a murder civil rights experts have said has the hallmarks of a antigay bias crime.

McGrain, the county commissioner, said living in a "progressive bubble" it is sometimes easy to forget that "there are people out there with misdirected hatred against us as gay men."

"It's always in the back of my mind, that hate crimes are happening in the neighborhood," he said. "I think it is our duty to advance the struggle."



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Swope

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# Second Annual City Pulse LGBTQ Inclusion Award Honorees

Profiles by Lawrence Cosentino



## DWAYNE RILEY: Glass of water

Dwayne Riley, prevention manager at the Lansing Area Aids Network, has life-saving news and wants to share it.

Riley, 28, helps people overcome their reluctance to be tested for HIV and connects them with the latest prevention and treatment tools.

"As a black gay man, HIV impacts the communities I identify with in many ways," he said. "That diagnosis of HIV can change the trajectory of someone's life."

Public perception of HIV as a death sentence is 15 or 20 years behind the reality, and that complicates Riley's job.

HIV prevention and treatment have improved to the point where patients can reach undetectable viral levels, he said.

"Not only that, but the medications that are available now are highly effective and often people live out their life expectancy they would have if they are HIV negative."

He sounds like a man with a glass of water, trying any way he can to get the attention of people around him who are dying of thirst.

"The epidemic is not what it was in the 1980s and '90s, but there are still populations that are disproportionately impacted by HIV," Riley said.

"One of two black gay men, and one out of four Latino gay men, are expected to be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes."

While studying at the University of Michigan, Riley started volunteering in health services in nearby Ypsilanti and went on to work in intervention services in Detroit.

"That's when I knew it was my passion," he said.

In Lansing, Riley manages a team of HIV test counselors and outreach specialists. The prevention program takes HIV testing and counseling into the community, using a rapid test that can be used in the office or go anywhere it's needed.

LAAN also does outreach events such as a national testing day, coming up June 24.

Most of Riley's family lives in Detroit, but he feels he's where he needs to be and plans to work in the field indefinitely.

"Lansing is a unique place," he said. "I'm comfortable here."



## S. HOPE DUNDAS: Reason for hope

In an earlier life, S. Hope Dundas was a systems and database administrator, but she got tired of seeing her transgender friends getting shoddy medical care, or being refused care, and longed to be part of the solution.

Dundas, 43, has worked at Ingham Community Health Center for about two years as a physician assistant, specializing in transgender patients. In little over a year, she has built up a clientele of about 60 patients who come from as far as Midland to the north and Milan to the southeast.

Every day, she sees the toll harassment and systemic discrimination take on the health of her transgender patients.

She said that up to 40 percent of transgender people attempt suicide, compared to about 4.6 percent in the general population.

"It's beyond even the elevated risk that lesbian and gay and bisexual people experience," she said. "Mental health issues are pretty common — depression, anxiety, PTSD, homelessness, unemployment and underemployment, lack of insurance."

Four days a week, she works at Eastern Health Center at Lansing's Eastern High School, giving primary care to all students while helping LGBTQ kids work through the problems they face. She often links them with Teens Respecting and Understanding Each Other — TRUE — a support group that meets at 4 p.m. Thursdays at Everybody Reads bookstore.

"That group is particularly good for trans and non-gender-conforming kids 14 to 18," she said. A support group for younger students is in the works.

Since the November election, the prospect of cuts to federal funds that help Ingham's health centers, the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its trans-friendly provisions, and a fresh wave of anti-LGBTQ harassment and violence, have Dundas on edge. "I feared for my patients, but there are a lot of signs for hope," she said. "The greatest promise is in the upcoming generation. They are so strong and resilient and hopeful and they're very creative and they defy boundaries."



## BETWEEN THE LINES: Back in the soup

After the Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling in 2015, the staff of the Michigan-based LGBTQ paper *Between the Lines* thought they could loosen up a little.

"We actually had conversations about, 'What do we do now? Maybe we should just do a gay cooking book,'" co-owner Jan Stevenson said. "Then came November 2016 and we were back in the soup."

The election and aftermath brought a wave of newly emboldened anti-gay threats and legislative attempts to erode gay rights.

"The wolves have been released," Stevenson said.

Like opportunistic strains of bacteria, endlessly mutating "religious freedom" bills keep on coming.

"It doesn't matter that you can get married if someone can say, 'You're evil, so I'm not going to sell you a house, I can throw you out of my restaurant and fire you from your job,'" Stevenson said.

In 2018, *Between the Lines* will celebrate 25 years of continuous publication. Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, who are also partners in life, took over the publication two years after it was started by a group of students at the University of Michigan.

Back then, it was hard just to find people who were willing to be out in the paper. "People wanted to keep their jobs," Stevenson said.

The paper's key activist phase started in 2004, when Michigan's anti-gay-marriage amendment shocked the LGBT community.

"We stepped into a leadership role," Stevenson said. "We were not only writing, but organizing."

Even in the age of social media, print readership is growing. About 15,000 copies go out each week, mainly in Detroit, and about 50,000 readers visit its website.

*Between the Lines* is one of 12 papers in the National Gay Media Association. "In 2016, our distribution, as a group, went up 16 percent," Stevenson said.

Stevenson jokes that for her and Howowitz, 25 years of home and work life adds up to "75 years together."

"But we have no plans to slow down as long as it's fun," she said. "And it is."



## EMILY DIEVENDORF: Not Debatable

Emily Dievendorf, 38, has been an activist for as long as she can remember. The president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights since 2015 was already getting thrown off the school bus in grade school for calling out the bus driver's racism.

In high school, Dievendorf wanted to be Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Activism was an obvious choice for her. There are plenty of gray areas in life, she said, but civil rights are not among them.

"Human rights, what we all deserve at the bare minimum, how we should be treated equitably and fairly — that is not debatable," she said. "I can defend that forever."

After working in the state Legislature, she joined Equality Michigan and became the group's director.

Many people told her not to expect much progress under a Republican-controlled state Legislature.

"We passed an anti-bullying bill," she said. "We played defense and stopped a lot of horrible things when the Legislature threw one thing after another at us. We built a marriage movement and helped get the marriage case to the Supreme Court."

Some battles were more bruising than others. The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival ended its 40-year run in 2015 after Equality Michigan led a push to include trans women and a series of top acts boycotted the event. (Founder organizer Lisa Vogel didn't mention the controversy over inclusion of trans women as a reason for the festival's demise.)

"I re-initiated a conversation about trans inclusion in feminist spaces and will go down in history for that, for good or bad, and I'm really proud of that," Dievendorf said.

While struggling to run and fund LAHR, Dievendorf finds time to help Equality Michigan with pro bono victim services and hate crime response.

"When somebody is murdered in a hate crime, they don't get shot and the suspect walks away," she said. "They are beaten, burned, dismembered. People need to hear about it and consider why we need to provide safe, accepting spaces wherever we can."





**UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS Spoke in the wheel**

In summer 2000, the three largest automakers in the United States announced they would extend health benefits to same-sex partners of their employees.

The joint announcement by General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG heralded the full participation of America's manufacturing sector in a quiet revolution already underway among many Fortune 500 companies.

Gerald Kariem, Region ID director of the United Auto Workers union, said the breakthrough was not the result of some dramatic top-down directive. The bargaining was done that year the same way it is always done: The union locals put together resolutions and submit them to the bargaining team.

"The resolution came from the members," he said. "To their credit, GM agreed."

Once GM was on board, the UAW was able to take the resolution to Ford and Chrysler in a classic piece of "pattern bargaining."

Kariem described the milestone as a logical extension of UAW's strong traditions. "UAW not only advocates for better wages, health and safety, but at the same time we are a social movement," he said.

He declined to detail disagreements that must have broken out among rank-and-file membership leading up to the resolution, but he admitted that his own path took some twists and turns.

"Some folks don't know how to have that discussion," he said. "I didn't. My granddaughter taught me how to have that discussion. She taught me about judging. I had to take a look at my own personal inventory."

The LGBTQ community, he said, is firmly installed as a crucial spoke of the "great wheel" of UAW.

"It's no different than civil rights with Martin Luther King," he said. "I remember people having conflicts about civil rights, affirmative action and all that. The bottom line is it was the right thing to do."



**RACHEL CRANDALL-CROCKER: Happy but scared**

Eight years ago, pioneering transgender activist Rachel Crandall-Crocker created the International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31.

The day is now marked in dozens of countries, from Russia to Africa to Asia. This year, One World Trade Center was lit up in the transgender pride colors of pink, white and blue.

"It's weird to see articles on Facebook that are all in Chinese with my name in the middle," Crandall-Crocker said. "I hope they're not saying I'm a dirty rotten bitch."

Did we mention that she has a warped sense of humor?

Crandall-Crocker, 57, founded Transgender Michigan in Lansing with her life partner, Susan Crocker, whom she married two years ago.

"We are really, really happy," Crandall said. "I really love her so much."

Outside the marital cocoon, however, things aren't so bright.

"A lot of my community are really, really scared," Crandall-Crocker said. "I know one person who stopped her transition when Trump was elected and went back to being a man. That's why Transgender Michigan was created."

Transgender Michigan has one of a handful of toll-free help lines in the nation for transgender people. They recently started a Facebook group for transgender people who are disabled.

The group's annual Pride in the Park event in Ferndale, the largest transgender event in Michigan, drew 300 people this year despite a relentless day of rain. About 1,000 people are on the statewide mailing list with thousands more involved in local affiliates.

One of Crandall-Crocker's fondest hopes for the future is to create a first-class, spacious shelter for transgender people.

"Shelters say they have rooms for men and rooms for women and no rooms for us," Crandall-Crocker said. "I have friends that were kicked out of shelters in the middle of winter when there were beds available."



**DELICIOUS JACKSON-CLARK: Be yourself, honey**

When Lansing drag queen Delicious Jackson Clark works the stage to Jill Scott's "Hate on Me," her toughness, vulnerability, joy and defiance radiate from every pore: "Go ahead and hate on me, hater, I'm not afraid of what I got paid for."

Jackson Clark, 38, is a legend in Lansing, not only for his 18-year run of Saturday gigs at Spiral Dance Bar, but also for mentoring countless LGBTQ kids in the community, in person and via Facebook.

Jackson Clark is glowing extra brightly these days. He just married his partner of three years, Kyle Clark, May 20. They had a big wedding in his grandmother's backyard and a reception for 400 people at the Eagles Lounge.

Basking in Jackson Clark's warmth and poise makes it seem possible to be yourself in spite of it all, and that's a life-saving message for young LGBTQ people.

"We try to grab young kids before they get to that suicidal age and talk to them," he said. "Life is not that bad. I tell them, 'Let them say, 'Fag this' and 'fag that.' You just be who you want to be, honey.'"

He decided to try his skills as a drag queen about 20 years ago, for a drag show at Club Paradise.

"It wasn't hard because I did it on Halloween," he said. He ended up trying for Miss Paradise at a big drag show.

"I haven't stopped since," he said.

Performing is a big release after a rough day job in home health care.

"When I'm stressing out, I can take that frustration out in my performance and do a good show," he said. "Making yourself look totally different — I love that."

His "nuclear jam" is "Hate on Me," but he also gets the right feeling from Love To's "Talkin' Body" and any number of songs by Beyoncé and Rihanna.

"I'm versatile with that," he said. "But if I don't feel it, I don't do it."



**THIERRY NANA: Not just a talker**

Thierry Nana is living out a life of liberation that began 29 years ago in Cameroon. He moved to Lansing two years ago.

"In Cameroon, people cannot be happy or free to say they are gay," he said.

He was ridiculed in school and his father tried more than once to beat the gay out of him. He tried to commit suicide three times.

"I wasn't happy to be gay, but that was because the way people were making me feel," he said.

An aunt already lived in Lansing. Thierry's mother hoped the aunt could cure him of being gay. He hoped to find gay paradise.

But happiness was elusive at first.

Between his accent and the culture shock, he said, "People looked at me like I was coming from Mars."

He started going to First Presbyterian Church and came under the mentorship of James McClurken, a gay man and a church elder.

He started taking art classes at Lansing Community College and painted at night. McClurken and his husband, Sergei Kvitko, hosted an exhibition of his work at their mansion, the Potter House. The art show doubled as a portfolio that helped him into the Kendall College of Art and Design, in Grand Rapids, studying fashion design and painting.

With only six months of English study under his belt, he is making stunning progress. He has another art exhibition at McClurken and Kvitko's house July 27 and is aiming to get into Grand Rapids' ArtPrize festival. He plans to take advantage of Kendall College's ties with FIG Collective in Brooklyn, an ultra-chic "concept store" and workshop, to take the Big Apple by storm.

"Everyone who enters that school became famous," he said. "That's my goal. I want to be in the runway show and I will make it. I'm not just a talker."



**City Pulse LGBTQ Inclusion Awards Party and Ceremony**

Thursday, June 15  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Cocktail party 7 to 8;  
awards ceremony 8 to 9.  
Spiral Dance Bar,  
1247 Center St., Lansing  
Tickets, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Includes food, half price drinks and admission to the Michigan Pride White Party the next night.  
In advance: www.lansingcitypulse.com or call Suzi at (517) 999-6704

# Michigan Pride 2017

**Friday, June 16**

## White Party

Old Town kicks off this year's Michigan Pride with a multi-venue party. A \$10 wristband grants access to festivities at Spiral Dance Bar, Esquire Bar and Sir Pizza Grand Café. Revelers are encouraged to wear white in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

7 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. Old Town, Lansing.

**Saturday, June 17**

## Michigan Pride Parade

This year's parade begins at Adado Riverfront Park and ends at the Capitol steps. Participants meet at Adado Riverfront park at 11:30 a.m.; the parade steps off at noon. From the park, the parade trav-

els south on Grand Avenue, then west on Ottawa Street and finally south on Capitol Avenue to end up at the Capitol steps. As the parade passes, spectators are encouraged to follow the parade to the Capitol for the rally. Registration for parade participation is free; see michiganpride.org for registration details.

Noon. FREE. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing.

## Rally at the Capitol Steps

Immediately following the parade, a rally at the Capitol steps features Shane Shananaquet, a 14-year-old transgender Adrian High School student and LGBT activist. In January, he was selected to be a youth ambassador for the Women's March on Washington's Youth Initiative.

FREE. Michigan State Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

## Michigan Pride Festival

Saturday's outdoor festival takes over Old Town's Turner Street, offering live music from Starfarm, Ty Teon, Emma Sapphire and more. Child-friendly activities, provided by Impression 5, are available from 2:30-4 p.m., and a beer tent is available for adult partiers. Parking is available at Lot 56; attendees are encouraged to carpool to reduce their carbon footprint.

1-10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Intersection of Grand River Ave and Turner Street, Lansing.

See [michiganpride.org](http://michiganpride.org) for more details and frequently asked questions.

# 'Unflagging devotion'

## Inclusion Awards posthumously honor gay rights leader Jeffrey Montgomery

By TODD HEYWOOD

Jeffrey Montgomery is no longer walking among us, but his passion for equality and freedom have shaped the way the LGBT community — indeed, the country — think about queer freedom.

Montgomery, the founder of Detroit's Triangle Foundation, will receive a posthumous honor at the second annual City Pulse Inclusion Awards Thursday. He died last year at 63. The statewide rights group Equality Michigan was formed out of a merger with the Triangle Foundation in 2010.

Montgomery took a personal tragedy and turned it into a stellar career as one of the leading national voices for sexual freedom and against anti-LGBT violence. In 1984, after he raised millions of dollars to restore and renovate the historic Detroit Orchestra Hall, the trajectory of his life was forever altered. His partner, Michael, was shot outside a Detroit gay bar.

He recounted being told, the day after the funeral, that he should not expect an arrest or even heavy lifting by Detroit police in the efforts to find his lover's killer. It was, he was told, "just another gay murder."

Using his fundraising skills and a disarming wit and charm in public speaking, Montgomery launched the Triangle Foundation with John Monahan and Dr.



Henry Messer in 1991. The group's main goal was to track anti-LGBT violence. It commissioned a study of the controversial use of police resources to conduct sting operations targeting men who have sex with men in public spaces. That study revealed the Michigan State Police called such operations "Bag-a-fag."

His national platform came from an odd murder case in Detroit. Scott Amedure, a Lake Orion gay man, participated in the taping of an episode of the television tabloid talk program "The Jenny Jones Show" on March 6, 1995. On the show, Amedure revealed his crush on Jonathan Schmitz. Once back in Metro Detroit, but before the show aired, Amedure left sexually suggestive notes at Schmitz's home. Schmitz withdrew cash, purchased a shotgun and showed up at Amedure's front door. He shot Amedure twice, left the scene and called 911 to confess to the murder. He was convicted of second degree murder in 1996.

Montgomery came to national attention as an outspoken critic of Schmitz's "gay panic attack" defense, as he did again in 1998 in the brutal beating death of Matthew Shepherd in Wyoming. Cathy Renna, who was with the national media group GLAAD, said Montgomery was instrumental in getting national media to understand the ridiculousness of a gay panic defense, which led, in part, to the judge rejecting it as a defense in the case.

Montgomery graduated from Michigan State University and came of age as the LGBT movement was in its infancy. He participated in the Gay Activist Alliance, which once operated on Michigan Avenue. But his national and statewide accolades also hid a dark side. Montgomery struggled with alcoholism and was a heavy smoker.

"No other local activist for LGBTQ rights and sexual freedom from the past twenty-five years has had the potent impact on our history as Jeffrey Montgomery," said Tim Retzloff, an adjunct assistant professor at Michigan State University who has extensively studied the LGBTQ rights movement in Michigan. "His unflagging devotion to queer justice and social justice will be a model for generations to come."

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# Island of acceptance

**Transgender, non-binary students find support in MSU programs**

By **EVE KUCHARSKI**

While other students stressed about fixing their hair or picking the perfect outfit, Jay Hull felt a huge sense of relief on ID card day at MSU. After six months of coming out to friends and family with their chosen name, Hull didn't have to anymore.

"It was really freeing to come to college, where no one knew me by my birth name. I just introduced myself as Jay, and it was so cool," Hull said. "I changed my preferred name, so I had an ID card, and it was one of the happiest moments of my freshman year."

Hull is nonbinary, someone who does not identify as either male or female, hence the they/their pronouns. Nonbinary people can identify as either both male and female or neither, depending on the individual. The MSU senior said that until coming to college, they struggled to find common ground with their family and peers.

"At home, I felt like people weren't respecting my identity as trans, so I had to be super, super trans-masculine in my presentation, in my actions and in my name, because that was the only way I felt valid," Hull said. "In college, being with people who accepted my trans identity and people who were trans and who had a wide range of presentations, I got to be a little kinder to myself. I got more comfortable and started to present myself like I wanted to."

For the first time in years, Hull said, they can wear skirts without worry of being perceived as too feminine.

According to Dee Hurlbert, the director of the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Resource Center at MSU, Hull's exploration of their identity is natural. College is a time of growth.

"It's important to note that it's not just peo-

ple who go to college, but really, it's age-appropriate," Hurlbert said. "There are still a lot of folks who, when they come to college, have some degree of self-awareness, and this is their time to really explore that more fully and meet other people who are LGBT."

And with nearly 40,000 undergraduate students, the campus is filled with many students of diverse backgrounds exploring their sexualities and gender identities for the first time.

"I think our unit really excels at meeting student needs in a way that's intersectional, that honors all the intersecting identities and experiences that students have," Hurlbert said. "We've been particularly successful at connecting with students who are African American, Latino and international students who are also LGBT."

But that isn't to say MSU's campus is perfect. Google "LGBT-friendly college campuses" and Michigan State University doesn't make the top 50.

As with any campus, homophobia and transphobia sometimes rears their ugly head.

"I had one professor, and he misgendered students overtly in class," said Joe Shemanski, a senior microbiology student at MSU. "I called him out on it, and he said, 'Oh no, it's for the foreign exchange students to avoid confusion.' What kind of excuse is that?"

Shemanski, who is also nonbinary, identifies as gay. They said that even with MSU's resources, there's still a lot the university can do better.

"First, more neutral bathrooms, because there are barely any, their distribution is very clustered and a lot of it is out of the way," Shemanski said. "Then, I think the teachers getting more sensitivity training — especially the older generation, the tenured people."

**"In college, being with people who accepted my trans identity and people who were trans and who had a wide range of presentations,**

**I got to be a little kinder to myself.**

**I got more comfortable and started to present myself like I wanted to."**

**— Jay Hull, nonbinary MSU student**

Shemanski also recommends on-campus job training.

"I've worked on campus, and supervisors will use 'sir' with customers and employees, and it's definitely a situation where I don't feel comfortable saying, 'Don't call me sir, because that's not what I am,'" Shemanski said. "If they put something out there, something to reassure that you can come forward about it, that would be really cool."

But perhaps the school's saving grace is that the MSU LGBT Resource Center staff realize where the school falls short, and, according to Hurlbert, there is a push to do better.

"We are still struggling with bathrooms," Hurlbert said. "However, there is a plan in place to roll out and add to the network of restrooms that are available."

Hurlbert said that MSU is one of the nation's few campuses that has a gender-inclusive multi-user bathroom. And as transgender issues become more prominent in the

national discussion, other shortcomings are revealed.

"We have a lot that's changed, or that there are plans of action in place to address some of the needs that have arisen more clearly in the last few years," Hurlbert said, citing concerns like healthcare access and transitional access for students who are transgender, emergency funds for students who might be cut off from their family and gender-neutral housing options and roommate selection availability for students to have more options in choosing who they'll live with.

So even though MSU doesn't reach the country's top lists of LGBT-friendly schools, there are signs of forward progress. The city of East Lansing itself was rated especially LGBTQ friendly. The Human Rights

Campaign gave East Lansing a 100 percent in its municipal equality index, putting it leaps and bounds above Lansing's 65-point score and at the same level as the state's top-scoring cities, Ann Arbor and Detroit.

Though Shemanski said they experienced various instances of homophobia and micro-aggressions since coming to campus, they said that overwhelmingly their MSU experience was positive, especially recently.

"I'm seeing a lot more moves by the Resource Center to put more stuff up," Shemanski said. "Just seeing advertisements for LGBT stuff everywhere, and in terms of my singular most positive experience on campus, finding TransAction was pretty great."

TransAction is an on-campus club for transgender and gender non-conforming students and their allies, one of several on-campus LGBT clubs. Both Hull and Shemanski are part of the student-run organization.

"TransAction is super fulfilling," Hull said. "That was really a crucial part of me being able to express myself and be comfortable with myself. I feel like at a smaller college, a group like that would have been more difficult for me, and (at MSU) it wasn't really."



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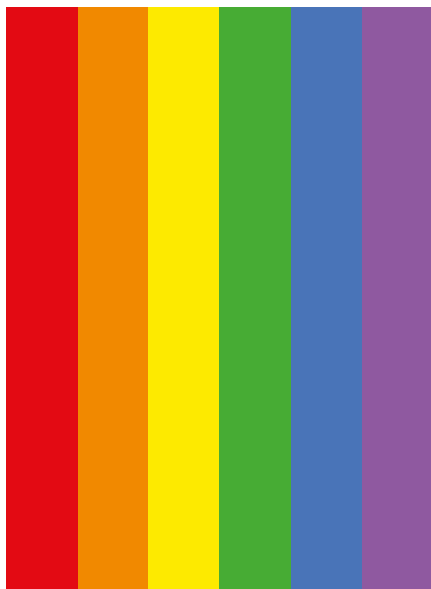
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# Open to all

Faith Lutheran Church celebrates  
LGBTQ-friendly recognition

By **DYLAN TARR**

Just in time for National Pride Month, Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos is spreading the word that its doors are open to all. In a public statement issued June 7, the church has made clear its intent to create a safe worship space for the LGBTQ community.

The statement comes after Faith Lutheran was recognized by the nonprofit ReconcilingWorks, an advocacy group for the equality of LGBTQ Lutherans. Since 1984, the organization has been helping to provide and identify safe space congregations, churches and other religious groups with its Reconciling in Christ, or RIC, recognition program.

"RIC is a designation that congregations receive when they adopt a public welcoming statement," said Rich Weingartner, a Faith Lutheran congregation member and head of the team that led the church through the process of becoming RIC recognized.

Churches that become RIC recognized welcome all gender identities and sexual orientations, said Weingartner, adding that ReconcilingWorks strives to dismantle systematic injustices in faith-based settings and encourages the "adoption of a welcoming statement to fully welcome everyone was natural for our congregation."

The process to become RIC recognized took about a year to complete and focused on outreach and education within the church to help the congregation learn more about the LGBTQ community. Even during the application process, Weingartner saw the church evolving in a positive direction.

"We have had an increased interest of people coming to our congregation, either as

visitors or as members," he said. "They want to be part of a congregation that is fully welcoming and affirming to all people."

For Weingartner and many others, that's a step in the right direction.

"As a gay Christian, I've struggled throughout my life trying to figure out what it means to be both gay and a Christian," Weingartner said.

And while he has always felt welcome at the church, the RIC recognition assures him that he's fully included in Faith Lutheran's community. As the church moves forward with its officially LGBTQ-friendly congregation, Weingartner is excited for a future of inclusion.

"We will be assessing our building, signs and worship services to make sure they fully support our welcoming statement and that we are truly welcoming and inclusive to all people," Weingartner said. "We will continue education events on a variety of topics of diversity to allow our congregation to continue to grow."

To commemorate the new policy, Faith Lutheran will hold a diversity-based service this Sunday. The service will include passages, hymns and prayers focused on inclusion.

"We are also encouraging people to wear something that reflects who they are and gives them a story to tell about what makes them unique," Weingartner said.

And while Weingartner said the RIC designation specifically highlights equality for all sexual orientations and gender identities, Faith Lutheran is devoted to celebrating diversity in all forms and welcomes anyone just the way they are, no strings attached.

LGBTQ friendly churches are often difficult to find, especially in mid-Michigan. To Weingartner, Faith Lutheran is a place where everyone is not only welcomed but also affirmed, and he hopes Faith Lutheran's RIC recognition will enable the LGBTQ community to find a safe place to worship and a loving congregation.

But most importantly to Weingartner, Faith Lutheran's RIC recognition "reassures me that I am loved and accepted by God and the congregation, exactly as I am."

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## Golden ambitions

### Haslett High School junior dreams big at Grammy Camp

By **CLARISSA KELL**

Every year, the biggest names in American music vie for the Grammy Awards' gilded gramophone trophies. This summer, just over 100 high school students — including one from East Lansing — got a boost on their path to Grammy eligibility through the organization's five-day Grammy Camps.

Jennifer Barnett, a 16-year-old Haslett High School junior, was one of 119 students selected out of over 1,000 other instrumentalists, vocalists, songwriters and audio engineers who applied for this year's Grammy Camps.

"This experience was the highlight of my year," Barnett said. "It was an amazing experience, and I gained so much inspiration."

Of the 119 students selected, Barnett was the only one from Michigan. The students were split into smaller groups, which attended camps at either Belmont University in Nashville or the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Barnett's group, which featured 32 students, attended the camp May 30 to June 3 in Nashville. She worked with other campers to learn and per-

forming a song specifically written for her.

"Before I went there, I had the drive to do what I love, but it is just so inspiring to see others with so much talent and passion for music," she said.

Rachel Hoke, Barnett's mother, said the level of talent at the Grammy Camp was something she had never seen before.

"You will definitely see these people become Grammy nominated," Hoke said.

And there is precedent there. Maren Morris, who won a Grammy for Best Country Solo Performance in 2016, gave a shout-out to Grammy Camp during her acceptance speech. She attended the program in 2015, the first year of the program.

Barnett has been studying under Grammy-nominated jazz singer Sunny Wilkinson for years, and she often performs with a jazz combo featuring local jazz fixtures Ron Newman, Ed Fedewa and Austin Howard.

"I have the best dynamic with my coach," Barnett said. "We are close friends despite the age difference, because she completely understands what I am going through."

Barnett said she first got into music through Amy Winehouse. She loved her sound and memorized the lyrics to the entire "Frank" album.

"From (Winehouse) I found jazz," Barnett said. "I started listening to who Amy Winehouse listened to, and then started lis-

tening to older jazz music, and I just fell in love with the sound."

Hoke was researching summer music programs when she discovered the Grammy Camp program. It was close to the deadline, but Barnett focused on the application, made her audition recording sound as good as it could and sent it off.

At Grammy Camp, Barnett and the other vocalists were paired up with songwriters, also high school students, who were charged with writing a song for each vocalist to perform at the end of the program. The singers were asked to perform a song that really displayed their sound and musical taste for the songwriters, so the writers could create a song that matched well with the vocalist. Barnett was the first to perform but the last vocalist to get her song.

"I didn't like the song that I was given right away," Barnett said. "I had to change it up — it was too much like something you would hear on the radio. Being a songwriter myself, I just couldn't sing something that I felt I wouldn't normally sing."

When it came to the final performance, the songwriters performed how the song was originally prepared, and then the vocalists took to the stage with their bands to perform their renditions of the songs.

"It was amazing to see how everyone had their own twist to the songs that were made



Courtesy Photo

Haslett High School junior Jennifer Barnett was one of 119 students selected to attend this year's Grammy Camp. The camp offers an intensive five-day experience for high school instrumentalists, singers, songwriters and audio engineers.

"At other programs, I didn't make that strong connection that I did at Grammy Camp," Barnett said. "I was just so in awe of everyone's skill and absolute passion for music. I can't emphasize enough the importance of the relationships and connections."

Barnett and her bandmates from Grammy Camp are trying to meet up again to record a new song together, because they had so much fun at the camp.

Barnett said the best thing that came from the experience was everyone she met. She misses the other campers already, but she has been keeping in touch with them.

## CURTAIN CALL

### Worth falling for 'Catch Me If You Can' charms like a con man

By **PAUL WOZNIAK**

The old maxim says crime doesn't pay. But in Terrance McNally's musical adaptation of "Catch Me If You Can," crime not only pays, but it's also lots of fun. Based on the feature film of the same name, the musical tells the story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a real life conman-turned-FBI investigator. Riverwalk Theatre's production works very hard to conjure the sights and sounds of the swinging '60s. What Riverwalk lacks in star power — no Leo or Tom Hanks here — it makes up for with strong performances, great costumes and lots of music and dancing.

Set between the years of 1964 and 1969, "Catch Me If You Can" follows a young, charming Abagnale (Brian Farnham) from his first con — impersonating a substitute teacher — to his eventual capture, highlight-

ing his daring exploits in between. During this time, he cashes homemade phony checks while impersonating a Pan Am pilot — one of his many disguises — and falls in love with a nurse named Brenda Strong (Taylor Rupp). He's doggedly pursued and eventually caught by intrepid FBI investigator Carl Hanratty (Adam Woolsey) but not before stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars. Accompanied by the music and lyrics of Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the songwriting team behind Broadway's "Hairspray: The Musical," "Catch Me If You Can" is a genre- and globe-hopping musical with nods to jazz standards, Dusty Springfield, John Denver and others.

Farnham is a capable fit for the smart and suave Abagnale. Encouraged by the lofty dreams and stick-it-to-the-man attitude of his own father, Frank Sr. (Bob Purosky), Abagnale is less a criminal mastermind than a driven individual who exploited systemic weaknesses in the name of the American dream. Farnham's strong voice, smooth steps and boyish features make him easy to root for. During Thursday's opening night production, Farnham struggled to find his

comfort zone at times, particularly in more serious moments, but his banter with the audience and Woolsey were spot on.

As the equally smart but more seasoned FBI agent Hanratty, Woolsey is a stand-out performer. Although he looks more like Farnham's younger brother than a middle-aged federal agent, Woolsey works hard behind his dark mustache to make his character feel as authentic as possible. Hanratty's Act I song, "Don't Break the Rules," is a jazz-driven showstopper punctuated with the tightest choreography of the entire production. And Woolsey's scenes drive the show with the intensity of a man on fire.

Strong supporting performances come from Rupp, as the over-capable/under-confident love interest, and her father Roger, played with intensity by Ben Holzhausen. But the show's most valuable player is Laura Croff. Croff plays two roles, first a '60s era stewardess for "Riverwalk Airlines," performing the preshow announcements and perfectly setting the tone for the goofy production to follow. She returns in Act II as Brenda's sassy southern mother, Carol Strong, who describes young Frank as a "hunky hunk of you betcha." Her song, "Family Tree," alongside Holzhausen and his bushy mustache, is an Act II highlight.

Director, set and properties designer Jane Falion keeps the show moving with mid-cen-

tury modern furniture on wheels propelled by the synchronized running crew. The show's biggest hang-ups are not the scene transitions, but the slower, single person ballads, where the stage feels empty. A spotlight to isolate the singer might help, but without it, the fully lit stage swallows the singers.

The rest of the supporting roles and chorus do their part to keep up the energy. Karyn Perry's choreography blends swing steps with '60s pop dances that looks sharp in unison. The chorus kicks are nicely in step with musical director John Dale Smith's tight pit band. And Kris Maier's costumes are also fun, starting with pastel colored leggings and evolving into colorful yet period appropriate suits and dresses. One particular highlight is the custom Elmer's Glue-inspired headgear created for an in-show "commercial."

Those subtle touches are notable in a large and sometimes loud musical like this. Despite its minor flaws, this is a con worth falling for.

### "Catch Me If You Can"

Riverwalk Theatre  
7 p.m. Thursday, June 15; 8 p.m. Friday, June 16-Saturday, June 17; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 18  
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# Trouble in Amish Paradise

## MSU veterinarian publishes debut thriller

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Last week I read two books. The first was “Camino Island,” another ballyhooed thriller from John Grisham, who is well known for the more than 20 legal thrillers he has penned. The second, “Casting Demons Into Swine,” is by MSU veterinarian R.J. Erskine of Grand Ledge. Set in the 1980s, the novel follows a young vet who gets caught up in a mystery in Pennsylvania’s Amish country.

Grisham’s annual entry in to the beach read world is a literary mystery — which I am a sucker for — in the vein of John Dunning’s “Booked to Die” series, which features an independent bookseller as the protagonist. In Grisham’s novel, some high-tech thieves steal five original F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts, including “The Great Gatsby,” from a university’s archives. The manuscripts land in the hands of a successful independent bookseller in a Florida beach front community, which is run by a man with a penchant for rare books and beautiful women. It’s rumored he may trade in and collect stolen literary gems.

An insurance recovery company hires a young woman to go to the island and act as bait and detective. Coincidentally — and there are many coincidences in “Camino Island” — the young woman had summered on the island growing up as a child and a teenager. Without giving away the dreadful conclusion, let’s just say that in the end, everyone gets what they want.

Do not read this book. Instead order Erskine’s more lifelike and enjoyable read off of Amazon (\$9.99 paperback, \$3.99 Kindle). It is a much more interesting and layered approach, with much more likable characters, including an old Scout — the Jeep-like vehicle — named “Lucille” after B.B. King’s guitar.

Interestingly, Grisham and Erskine do have something in common. Both writers turned to self publishing their first books, which led to Grisham peddling his books from the trunk of his car. The 21st century equivalent finds Erskine selling his novel on Amazon. The self published book is uncharted territory for Erskine, whose previous published work detailed such choice subjects as mastitis therapy and ruminant physiology.

Don’t be alarmed when you read “self published.” Erskine’s book is professionally edited and presented with very few of the embarrassing gaffes that usually show up in self published books.

“Casting Demons Into Swine” is about a large animal veterinarian who works primarily with cows, so there are no cute

cat or dog stories save for Precious, a mixed-breed canine sidekick of the vet. In fact, the tension in the book begins with a large black dog that is killing farm animals and may be rabid.

Erskine has been a veterinarian for nearly 30 years, and his power of observation and the ability to convert it to prose is impressive. He studied at the University of Illinois before moving to Pennsylvania, where he received both an advanced degree and an intense introduction to the lives of Amish farmers.

Erskine, who lives on a gentleman’s farm in Grand Ledge, recently met with me at the Delta Township Library to talk about his long-awaited — by him — book. Several decades ago and right across the street from the library, cows ranged at a large dairy farm owned by the Sharpe family. He reflects on what it was like in the 1980s for a young veterinarian.

“I like how dairy farmers think,” Erskine said. “They are straightforward, practical and you know where you stand. They face the eternal struggle against the entropy of nature, and they know there are no guarantees.”

The book is semi-autobiographical in that Erskine’s first job in the field is the basis for the book’s backdrop. So when he writes about prolapsed placenta repair, he did it. Erskine is one of those writers who keeps daily journals, and it’s those journals which allow him to re-create the life of a young vet and the realistic scenarios in the book. When he writes about what it was like to be called out in the middle of the night during a raging snow storm to help a desperate farmer, he nails it.

Erskine’s protagonist, Malcolm Cromarty, is a likeable, dedicated vet who is dealing with a recent divorce while

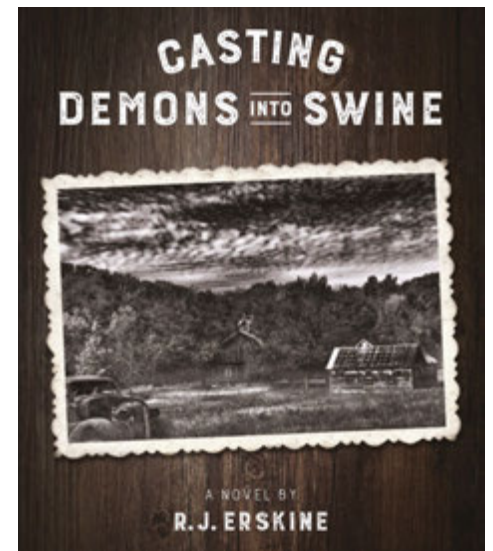
learning the ways of the Amish. Along the way, he will find a love interest and learn more about the home remedies and superstitions of the Amish. He even grows to like being called “veterinary” as he tries to decipher the German of the Amish.

He said the book began more as a “memoir book” similar to James Herriot’s “All Creatures Great and Small,” but that his first drafts of the novel “read like a clinical manual.”

“I struggled with balance and learned to write realistic and not crude (in describing treatments and procedures),” he said, adding that he also learned a lot about plot, dialogue and pacing.

Some of the book is tear-jerking and some is outright funny, including the name of Erskine’s publishing company, Stray Voltage, a less than subtle reference to the effects of high power lines on cattle and people.

He emphasizes that the novel is not “a primer on Amish life,” nor is it a thriller in the shadows of a Robin Cook. The book, which Erskine sees as developing into a series, is “more about how common people deal with a problem.”



Courtesy Photo

“Casting Demons Into Swine,” a self-published novel by MSU veterinarian R.J. Erskine, is a thriller set in Pennsylvania’s Amish country.

## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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.

## Wednesday, June 14 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Endnote X7 and Endnote Online.** Basic Introduction. 10 a.m.-noon FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. 517-353-8700.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** At 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. 517-882-4114

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing. 517-420-5820. [ow.ly/3aWl30crcLc](http://ow.ly/3aWl30crcLc)

**Shamanic Healing & Education Clinic.** Shamanic demonstration clinic and talk. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free/Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3 Lansing.

**SMART Recovery.** Self Management Addiction Recovery Training for any dependency. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing. 517-507-9166. [smartrecovery.org](http://smartrecovery.org)

**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](http://reachstudioart.org)

## MUSIC

**Turn Up the Bricks at Allen Farmers Market.** Performance from Turn Up the Bricks. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org)

**Concerts in the Park.** Thornetta Davis performs. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive Lansing. 517-483-4313. [lansingmo.gov/parks](http://lansingmo.gov/parks)

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** From 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square Lansing. 517-374-5555

**Turn Up the Bricks at Allen Farmers Market.** Performance from Turn Up the Bricks. 5 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org)

## EVENTS

**Allen Farmers Market.** From 2:30 to 7 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St Lansing. 517-999-3911.

**ANC Senior Discovery Group.** YMCA rep. discusses blood pressure and diabetes. 10 a.m.-noon FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org)

## ARTS

**Conscience of the Human Spirit: The Life of Nelson Mandela.** From 12 to 2 p.m. Free. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus East Lansing.

**Pop Up Demo: Juanita Baldwin.** Demonstrations by professional artists. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 113 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. 517-374-6400.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

## Transatlantic beats



Courtesy Photo

Hip-hop producer Terrel Wallace, aka Tall Black Guy, comes to Lansing Saturday for the Jump Off, a beat battle where local producers compete for cash prizes.

## JUNE 12

We see rap battles all the time on television, in movies and in YouTube videos. But this weekend, Lansing audience can see the behind-the-scenes music producers battle it out in a different kind of contest.

Music producers and beat makers face off in the Jump Off beat battle Saturday at the Robin Theatre. The event, hosted by All of the Above Creative, brings 16 of these artists into one venue to compete tournament-style in front of a panel of judges for \$200 and some serious bragging rights.

Tyson Pumphrey, who performs as Ozay Moore, said the beat battle grew from a need for beat makers to have an exhibition for their work, separate from other artists.

"I'm originally from Seattle, and these events were happening all the time," said Pumphrey, executive director of All of the Above Creative. "That culture already existed where I was from, and when I moved out to Lansing, I saw that we had tons of talent, a lot of great producers, but there wasn't really a solid or consistent avenue for these producers to pursue. When are these guys going to have a chance to have a moment in time where they're getting their just dues? I saw a need, and decided why not try to fill it?"

This event marks six years of

creating an outlet for these underappreciated artists.

"It's kind of an ongoing opportunity for producers who are typically behind the scenes in the hip hop industry to be at the forefront, so they can showcase their music," Pumphrey said. "No rappers involved."

Participants bring 15 to 20 pre-prepared beats and are judged on creativity, mix, technique and presentation by judges hand selected from the Lansing area. The tournament is set up so that producers face off head-to-head, going back and forth attempting to one-up each other's beats.

"It's a win for everybody," said Pumphrey. "It's a win for contestants for just being able to have an audience where it's just about them for a second, stepping out from behind their computer in their basement or their dorm room or wherever it is they make their music. And it gives our audience a chance to participate and celebrate it with them."

This beat battle features an appearance by producer Tall Black Guy, real name Terrel Wallace, who will serve as judge and performer for the evening. Originally from Detroit, Wallace is now based in London. Pumphrey said he believes

Wallace attracted many past winners, such as Mosaic and Young Heat, to come back to compete in front of the well known producer.

"It's a great networking tool," Pumphrey said, "especially for aspiring rappers and folks who want to see who's bubbling up in the beat scene, to share a card or maybe connect and figure out who's going to produce their next project."

Pumphrey said the ultimate goal of the event is for the producers, usually hidden in the industry, to emerge from behind the curtain.

"As AOTA, we're always trying to show the flipside of the coin as it pertains to hip-hop culture," Pumphrey said. "We want people to leave feeling as if they got a taste of some more of what hip hop has to offer. We like people to leave inspired, encouraged, enlightened, educated and a little further into what the culture's about."

### The Jump Off

7 p.m. Saturday,  
June 12  
\$10  
Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington  
Ave., Lansing  
(989) 878-1810,  
[therobintheatre.com](http://therobintheatre.com)

— DANIELLE CHESNEY



# Out on the town

from page 24

lansingartgallery.org.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Bookworms at the Broad.** Stories/songs about motion + art! Ages 2-5. Siblings welcome. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing. elpl.org

## Thursday, June 15 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly** • Weigh-in 5:15 p.m. In room 207. 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. 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 Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale Lansing. crisisrfg.com

**Celebrate Recovery.** For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road Lansing. http://ow.ly/sVbF30crhfz

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

## THEATRE

**Taking Shakespeare.** Michigan premiere. 8-9:30 p.m. \$25/\$23 Military/Senior (65+)/\$10 Student. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW.

## EVENTS

**12-Step Meeting** . AA/NA/CA all welcome. Every Tuesday and Thursday in room 209. 2-1 p.m. FREE.

Donations welcome.. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing.

**Club VINE: Chardonnays of the World** . Wines from California, Chile, Argentina, Spain and Italy. Appetizers too. 6:30-9 p.m. \$40 + tax and gratuity . Capital Vine , 2320 Showtime Dr Lansing.

**Practice Your English.** Practice English in friendly setting. FREE. All skills welcome. 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

**Spanish Conversation.** Practice listening to and speaking English in a friendly setting. All skill levels are welcome.7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**The Storytellers.** Songs/stories from Caribbean, Western Africa and more. 6:30 to 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 510-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us

## Friday, June 16 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Mud & Mug.** From 7 to 10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

## MUSIC

**Live Music w/ Chris Canas** . Pottery workshop. Guests can bring snacks. 7-10 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. SHIAWASSEE STREET Lansing. 517-371-2600. http://www.reachstudioart.org/

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## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 >> OLDSMOBILE HOMECOMING

Car lovers from all over Michigan and beyond roll out their prized automobiles Saturday for the Oldsmobile Homecoming. This year's event is hosted by the Auto Owners Insurance Complex in Lansing, giving patrons and exhibitors more room to show off their cars in the world's largest one-day Oldsmobile car show. The event, which is hosted by the local chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America, is free for spectators; fees are required to participate in the car show, for sale lot or swap meet. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Auto Owners Insurance Complex, 6101 Anacapi Blvd., Lansing. (517) 645-7438, reolds.org.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 >> LANSING BEER FEST

Over two dozen Michigan breweries will be pouring pints in REO Town Saturday for the fifth annual Lansing Beer Festival. The lineup includes heavy hitters like Bell's Brewery, Dark Horse Brewing Co. and Perrin Brewing Co., as well as local brewers like Midtown Brewing Co., Old Nation Brewing Co. and Ellison Brewery. For those who aren't fans of beer, the festival also includes ciders, spirits and wine. The slate of live music features Young Pioneer, Vandalay and LOA, and food trucks offer a bite to eat between drinks. Designated drivers can buy a ticket to enter for only \$10. The 21-and-up event is held outside, rain or shine. 4-9 p.m. \$35/\$40 VIP. REO Town, on Washington Avenue between South Street and Elm Street. lansingbeerfest.com.

## JUNE 15-17 >> LANSING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Every year, Juneteenth is celebrated across the country to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. This year's 23rd annual Lansing Juneteenth Celebration offers a variety of activities and spanning several locations. The festivities begin Thursday with a kickoff event in the lobby of City Hall. The next day offers the Freedom Festival at St. Joseph Park in Lansing. The celebration wraps Saturday with the African American parade and a second day of the Freedom Festival. Juneteenth will also include a health festival, essay contest and an assortment of vendors. FREE. Call or see website for locations and times. (517) 394-6900, lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org.

## JUNE 16-17 >> 'DR. HORRIBLE'S SING-ALONG BLOG' AT OVER THE LEDGE THEATRE CO.

Dr. Horrible, an aspiring supervillain, faces steep odds as he attempts to join the super exclusive Evil League of Evil in Over the Ledge Theatre Co.'s staged reading of Joss Whedon's "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog." Played in this production by Josh Martin, Dr. Horrible is foiled every step of the way in his quest for infamy by Captain Hammer, a self-centered, walking parody of a superhero, played by Andrew Snyder. The duo's antics escalate when Penny (Ann Carlson), an unsuspecting love interest, enters the mix. 8 p.m. \$8. The Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579, overtheledge.org.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18 >> 'CELTIC WOMAN' AT WHARTON CENTER

Fusing the traditional and the modern, Celtic Woman blends centuries of musical tradition into a unique performance Sunday at the Wharton Center. The quartet has enjoyed 12 years of success, selling 10 million albums and 3 million tickets worldwide. Celtic Woman — singers Máiréad Carlin, Susan McFadden, Éabha McMahon and violinist Tara McNeill — are joined by a group of talented musicians and dancers to showcase the group's 2016 release "Voices Of Angels," as well as other songs from its extensive catalog. 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$47. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com

## THEATRE

**Phantom of the Universe.** From 8 to 9 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**Taking Shakespeare.** Michigan premiere. 8-9:30 p.m. Adult \$30, Military/Senior (65+) \$28, Student \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

## EVENTS

**Golf Fore Giving Golf Outing.** Fundraiser to benefit Cristo Rey Community Center.9 a.m. to 2 p.m. College Fields Golf Club, 3800 Hagadorn Road Okemos. 517-927-4536. cristokeycommunity.org


**Phantom of the Universe.** Presentation on dark matter. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road East Lansing. 517-355-4672.

**Small Town, Big Engines.** Eighth annual Dimondale Business Association car show. 6-8 p.m. Downtown Dimondale, Bridge Street Dimondale. 517-646-8358. discoverdimondale.com

**Cruise in at the Double Deuce Diner.** Band, firewordks and classic cars. 5 p.m. 555 W. Main St., 517-290-4971

See Out on the Town, Page 28

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 >> ART IN THE PARK AT RANNEY PARK

Musicians and artists team up for a free outdoor concert Saturday at Ranney Park. In a partnership between MidMichigan Environmental Action Council's Art in the Wild Committee and Marshall Music, Art in the Park features performances by the Webberville Concert Band, Tom & Mary, Marshall's School of Music Rock Band and more. At the end of the event, audience members are invited to participate in a ukulele play-along and/or a drum circle with instruments provided by Marshall Music. The concert aims to bring awareness to a project initiated by Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick E. Lindemann to reduce water pollution in the Red Cedar River and create new public spaces and trails along the river. Food is provided by the CruZine food truck; attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and snacks. 2-6 p.m. FREE. Ranney Park, 3201 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. artinthewild.org.

## JUNE 16-18, 23-25 >> 'SISTER ACT' AT OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS

When lounge singer Deloris Wilson is witness to a mob crime, the wise-cracking musician takes refuge with the witness protection program in an unlikely location: a Catholic convent. "Sister Act," Owosso Community Players latest production, follows Deloris as she inspires the convent choir with her infallible voice and fresh disco moves — much to the disapproval of the straight-laced Reverend Mother. Detroit School of the Arts valedictorian and jazz musician Savannah Fisher plays the lead role of Deloris Wilson in this musical adaptation of the classic Whoopi Goldberg film. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$23. Joseph H. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main Street, Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

## POWERFACE REUNITES AT THE LOFT



SAT., JUNE 17TH

Powerface

**Saturday, June 17 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$12/\$10 adv., 8 p.m**

Powerface, the defunct '90s-'00s metal band, reunites Saturday at the Loft for the first time since the band's last reunion show in July 2010. Openers are Jonestown Crows, Heartsick and LOA. The concert benefits amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research and the family of Bill McCann, a local man who was recently diagnosed with the disease. Powerface earned a solid following into the early 2000s, packing venues like the now closed Temple Club. The Holt-based groove-metal band, which disbanded in 2004, comprises vocalist Jeremy Keinitz, bassist Jeremy Schopp, drummer Chris Doerr and guitarists Robb Underhill and Elijah White. After its formation in 1992, Powerface issued a series of records on various labels, including Yikes!, Heavy Jack Records and Four/Seven Media. The band's first full-length, "The Method," hit stores in 1997, and "Steal Your Soul" followed in 2003.

## YOUNG PIONEER AT BRIDGE FEST, LANSING BEER FEST



SAT., JUNE 17TH

Young Pioneer

**Saturday, June 17 @ Lansing Beer Fest, REO Town, Lansing. 21+, \$35/\$30 adv., 4 p.m.**

The alt-pop sounds of Young Pioneer can be heard at two Lansing shows this week, starting with a free Thursday performance at Bridge Fest, which starts at 5:30 p.m. near the Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Dr., Lansing. The Accidentals and Tangelo also perform. Then, on Saturday, Young Pioneer takes the stage again at the fifth Annual Lansing Beer Fest. The outdoor craft-beer shindig happens on Washington Avenue between South and Elm streets in REO Town. Sharing the bill are Vandalay and LOA. To sample Young Pioneer's sound, check out the video for the band's single, "Playing Pretend," on Youtube. Its 2015 "Where Does the Night End" LP is also streamed on the band's channel.

## THE FRETLESS AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



FRI., JUNE 23RD

The Fretless

**Friday, June 23 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave, Lansing. All ages, \$15/\$12 adv., 7:30 p.m.**

At this year's Juno Awards, aka the Canadian Grammys, the Fretless were nominated for Instrumental Album of Year. Next week, the group performs an intimate all-ages set at the Robin Theatre. The Fretless plays a fresh brand of folk music that transforms fiddle tunes and folk melodies into complex yet striking, high-energy arrangements. The group debuted in 2012 with its "Waterbound" LP, which earned the Canadian group a handful of folk music awards, plenty of critical acclaim and the opportunity to tour across Germany. The Fretless comprises fiddle/viola players Trent Freeman, Karrnel Sawitsky and Ben Plotnick along with Eric Wright on cello. Last year, The Fretless released its latest Celtic-folk record, "Bird's Nest." The disc is available online via CD Baby.

### UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic.	GTG Free	Devil's Cut
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Joe Burt, 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd	John Persico, 6 p.m.	Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.	Bill Strickler, 6 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			John Persico, 9 p.m.	
Brookshire Inn, 205 W. Church St.			Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.			3rd Degree, 8 p.m.	Billy Mac, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Live Music, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Blue Hair Betties
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles 6 p.m.	Bill Strickler, 6:30 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		White Party, 9 p.m.	Pride Day
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Little Brothers Cozmic Van, 9:30 p.m.	The New Rule, 9:30
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!!	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	ICY DICEY, Cybil and the Beast
Harpers, 131 Albert Ave.	Reggae Lou, 5 p.m.	Daryn Larner, 5 p.m.		Steve Cowles, 5 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Allstair Beerens, 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,		The Bad Hombres, 8 p.m.	Hoist - A Tribute to Phish, 9 p.m.	Powerface, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	A Daydream Away, 7 p.m.	P-Lotus, 5 p.m.	Red Legs, 9 p.m.	Eryn Wood, 6:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	3rd Degree, 9 p.m.	Martila Sanders & Gee Q, 9 p.m.	Good Cookies, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road	Don Middlebrook, 6 p.m.	Reggae Lou, 6 p.m.	The Tenants, 6 p.m.	Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	Mike Cooley, 6 p.m.	Bob Standal, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford - Duo, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Mike Cooley, 6 p.m.	Jacob Ford, 6 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	Mike Cooley, 6 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.		Allstair Beerens, 6 p.m.		
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Allstair Beerens, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Open Mic	Craig Hendershott and Scott Seth	Craig Hendershott and Scott Seth	

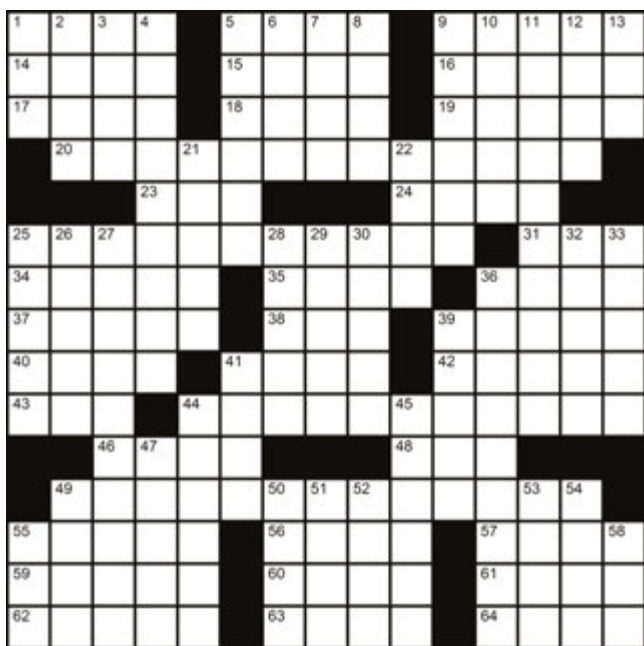
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"All for It"--literally so.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Greek letters shaped like pitchforks
- 5 Retired NHLer Larionov whose nickname was "The Professor"
- 9 Wright of 2017's "Wonder Woman"
- 14 Hosiery shade
- 15 Neighborhood near Greenwich Village, slangily
- 16 Bacteria in spinach recalls
- 17 Poetic foot
- 18 Vivacity
- 19 Crack filler
- 20 Racquetball match, in a way?
- 23 Debtor's note
- 24 2010 Apple debut
- 25 With 44-Across, exasperated complaint about endless corridors?
- 31 \_\_\_ Pen (injector for some allergic reactions)
- 34 Garlicky dip for sweet potato fries, e.g.
- 35 "Look \_\_\_ this way ..."
- 36 Seize suddenly
- 37 Pouting countenances
- 38 Tony-winning Sweeney portrayer Cariou
- 39 Part of an M.O.?
- 40 Dies down
- 41 "Shameless" blurb
- 42 "I would give all my fame for a pot \_\_\_ and safety": Shakespeare's "Henry V"
- 43 Montreal steak seasoning?
- 44 See 25-Across
- 46 Part of Q.E.D.
- 48 Ear, in German
- 49 Left like a tossed football?
- 55 African country just north of the equator
- 56 Move like a batch of homemade slime
- 57 Ingredient in some diaper rash creams



- 59 Limp Bizkit frontman Fred
- 60 Taj Mahal location
- 61 Embarrassing defeat
- 62 "Orange" drink that's really black
- 63 Yearling, previously a Backpack and Map

### Down

- 1 Louvre Pyramid architect I.M.
- 2 Scraped elbow souvenir
- 3 Jon's usual waitress, in "Garfield"
- 4 Feature on some Blu-Rays
- 5 "Rhapsody \_\_\_"
- 6 45th American vice president
- 7 Only U.S. state with a non-rectangular flag
- 8 It provides coverage
- 9 Episode summaries
- 10 City between Jacksonville and Tampa

- 11 Barrier later renamed for Herbert Hoover
- 12 Maladies
- 13 No-good conclusion?
- 21 Andrew Marvell's "\_\_\_ Coy Mistress"
- 22 Go bad, like kale
- 25 Willie of "Eight Is Enough" and "Charles in Charge"
- 26 Weeping statue of Greek legend
- 27 Be an ass in the lot, maybe
- 28 "X-Men: Days of Future Past" star Berry
- 29 Bought hook, line and sinker
- 30 Specialized slang
- 32 St. \_\_\_ Girl (German beer brand)
- 33 "Peer Gynt" dramatist Henrik
- 36 Phrase before "Move ahead" in "Whip It"
- 39 McCafe option
- 41 "2017: The Year for Animal Liberation" sponsor
- 44 Martial art debuting as an Olympic event in Tokyo in 2020
- 45 Game show option after The Banker makes an offer
- 47 Bygone detergent with an apt brand name
- 49 "Leaving Las Vegas" actress Elisabeth
- 50 Boulangerie purchase
- 51 Ainer of "RuPaul's Drag Race" before it moved to VH1
- 52 MSNBC contributor Klein
- 53 \_\_\_ gobi (Indian potato dish)
- 54 "How to Train \_\_\_ Dragon"
- 55 National economic indicator, for short
- 58 Announcement of when Alaska lands in Washington, e.g.

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 24**

# SUDOKU

# ADVANCED

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

### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 29

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 14-21

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): There are places in the oceans where the sea floor cracks open and spreads apart from volcanic activity. This allows geothermally heated water to vent out from deep inside the earth. Scientists explored such a place in the otherwise frigid waters around Antarctica. They were elated to find a "riot of life" living there, including previously unknown species of crabs, starfish, sea anemones, and barnacles. Judging from the astrological omens, Aries, I suspect that you will soon enjoy a metaphorically comparable eruption of warm vitality from the unfathomable depths. Will you welcome and make use of these raw blessings even if they are unfamiliar and odd?

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): I'm reporting from the first annual Psychic Olympics in Los Angeles. For the past five days, I've competed against the world's top mind-readers, dice-controllers, spirit whisperers, spoon-benders, angel-wrestlers, and stock market prognosticators. Thus far I have earned a silver medal in the category of channeling the spirits of dead celebrities. (Thanks, Frida Kahlo and Gertrude Stein!) I psychically foresee that I will also win a gold medal for most accurate fortune-telling. Here's the prophecy that I predict will cinch my victory: "People born in the sign of Taurus will soon be at the pinnacle of their ability to get telepathically aligned with people who have things they want and need."

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): While reading Virginia Woolf, I found the perfect maxim for you to write on a slip of paper and carry around in your pocket or wallet or underwear: "Let us not take it for granted that life exists more fully in what is commonly thought big than in what is commonly thought small." In the coming weeks, dear Gemini, I hope you keep this counsel simmering constantly in the back of your mind. It will protect you from the dreaminess and superstition of people around you. It will guarantee that you'll never overlook potent little breakthroughs as you scan the horizon for phantom miracles. And it will help you change what needs to be changed slowly and surely, with minimum disruption.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Now that you've mostly paid off one of your debts to the past, you can go window-shopping for the future's best offers. You're finally ready to leave behind a power spot you've outgrown and launch your quest to discover fresh power spots. So bid farewell to lost causes and ghostly temptations, Cancerian. Slip away from attachments to traditions that longer move you and the deadweight of your original family's expectations. Soon you'll be empty and light and free -- and ready to make a vigorous first impression when you encounter potential allies in the frontier.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): I suspect you will soon have an up-close and personal encounter with some form of lightning. To ensure it's not a literal bolt shooting down out of a thundercloud, please refrain from taking long romantic strolls with yourself during a storm. Also, forgo any temptation you may have to stick your finger in electrical sockets. What I'm envisioning is a type of lightning that will give you a healthy metaphorical jolt. If any of your creative circuits are sluggish, it will jumpstart them. If you need to wake up from a dreamy delusion, the lovable lightning will give you just the right salutary shock.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Signing up to read at the open mike segment of a poetry slam? Buying an outfit that's a departure from the style you've cultivated for years? Getting dance lessons or a past-life reading or instructions on how to hang-glide? Hopping on a jet for a spontaneous getaway to an exotic hotspot? I approve of actions like those, Virgo. In fact, I won't mind if you at least temporarily abandon at least 30 percent of your inhibitions.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I don't know what marketing specialists are predicting about color trends for the general population, but my astrological analysis has

discerned the most evocative colors for you Libras. "Electric mud" is one. It's a scintillating mocha hue. Visualize silver-blue sparkles emerging from moist dirt tones. Earthy and dynamic! "Cybernatural" is another special color for you. Picture sheaves of ripe wheat blended with the hue you see when you close your eyes after staring into a computer monitor for hours. Organic and glimmering! Your third pigment of power is "pastel adrenaline": a mix of dried apricot and the shadowy brightness that flows across your nerve synapses when you're taking aggressive practical measures to convert your dreams into realities. Delicious and dazzling!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do you ever hide behind a wall of detached cynicism? Do you protect yourself with the armor of jaded coolness? If so, here's my proposal: In accordance with the astrological omens, I invite you to escape those perverse forms of comfort and safety. Be brave enough to risk feeling the vulnerability of hopeful enthusiasm. Be sufficiently curious to handle the fluttery uncertainty that comes from exploring places you're not familiar with and trying adventures you're not totally skilled at.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "We must unlearn the constellations to see the stars," writes Jack Gilbert in his poem "Tear It Down." He adds that "We find out the heart only by dismantling what the heart knows." I invite you to meditate on these ideas. By my calculations, it's time to peel away the obvious secrets so you can penetrate to the richer secrets buried beneath. It's time to dare a world-changing risk that is currently obscured by easy risks. It's time to find your real life hidden inside the pretend one, to expedite the evolution of the authentic self that's germinating in the darkness.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When I was four years old, I loved to use crayons to draw diagrams of the solar system. It seems I was already laying a foundation for my interest in astrology. How about you, Capricorn? I invite you to explore your early formative memories. To aid the process, look at old photos and ask relatives what they remember. My reading of the astrological omens suggests that your past can show you new clues about what you might ultimately become. Potentials that were revealed when you were a wee tyke may be primed to develop more fully.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I often ride my bike into the hills. The transition from the residential district to open spaces is a narrow dirt path surrounded by thick woods on one side and a steep descent on the other. Today as I approached this place there was a new sign on a post. It read "Do not enter: Active beehive forming in the middle of the path." Indeed, I could see a swarm hovering around a tree branch that juts down low over the path. How to proceed? I might get stung if I did what I usually do. Instead, I dismounted from my bike and dragged it through the woods so I could join the path on the other side of the bees. Judging from the astrological omens, Aquarius, I suspect you may encounter a comparable interruption along a route that you regularly take. Find a detour, even if it's inconvenient.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): I bet you'll be extra creative in the coming weeks. Cosmic rhythms are nudging you towards fresh thinking and imaginative innovation, whether they're applied to your job, your relationships, your daily rhythm, or your chosen art form. To take maximum advantage of this provocative luck, seek out stimuli that will activate high-quality brainstorming. I understand that the composer André Grétry got inspired when he put his feet in ice water. Author Ben Johnson felt energized in the presence of a purring cat and by the aroma of orange peels. I like to hang out with people who are smarter than me. What works for you?

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

# Out on the town

from page 25

## Saturday, June 17 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Reiki Reflexology Training.** Two-day course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$250 Advance Registration. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3 Lansing. 810-938-2410. willowstickceremonies.com

**Soul Retrieval Workshop.** Workshop on shamanism. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$40. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. 517-455-3902. ow.ly/lnbt30cpczq. aaron@lightiam.org

## MUSIC

**Henry's Place Summer Music Series.** Live music from local artists. Light jazz, acoustics & blues. 9-11:59 p.m. FREE. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd Okemos. 517-580-3075. pubmeridian.com

**Live Music w/ Mix Pack .** 8-11 p.m. FREE. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. SHIAWASSEE STREET Lansing. 517-371-2600.

## THEATRE

**Taking Shakespere.** Michigan premiere. 3-4:30 p.m. Adult \$27, Military/Senior (65+) \$25, Student \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

## EVENT

**Dinner Cruise.** From 4 to 8 p.m. \$41/\$39 Seniors/\$20.50 Kids 4-12. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St. Lansing. (517) 627-2154.

**Mayor's Family Riverwalk.** From 8:30 to noon w/FREE. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4221.

## Sunday, June 18 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. AL!VE, 800 W Lawrence Charlotte.

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

**Kendo Martial Art Class.** From 10 to 11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road Lansing.

## THEATRE

**Taking Shakespere.** From 2 to 3:30 p.m. Adult \$27, Military/Senior (65+) \$25, Student \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

## EVENTS

**Father's Day Brunch Cruise.** Scenic views and buffet. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$40/\$37 Seniors/\$20 Kids 4-12. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St. Lansing. 517-627-2154. michiganprincess.com

**Father's Day Dinner Cruise.** Scenic views and buffet. 2-5:30 p.m. \$45/\$22.50, Kids 4-12. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St. Lansing. 517-627-2154. michiganprincess.com

**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

## Monday, June 19 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**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 Lansing. 517-371-3010. www.unitylansing.org

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated & widowed. Room 9:7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd. Lansing. 517-323-2272.

## MUSIC

**New Horizons Community Band.** Learn to play an instrument or dust off an old one. 6 to 8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. 517-355-7661. cms.msu.edu

## EVENTS

**A Smashing Time with Nuclei (8-14).** NSCL physicist with demonstrations and games! Register online. 1-2 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.org

**Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot .** Weekly activities

at the Center. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. 517-706-5045. ow.ly/5NaB30ani5D

**French Club.** Practice listening/speaking French. All skill levels are welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.org

**Social Bridge.** 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

## Tuesday, June 20 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Bach Vibrational Emotional Therapy.** Stress solutions with flower essences. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3 Lansing. willowstickceremonies.com

**Capital City Toastmasters Meeting.** Learn public speaking skills. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors.. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. 517-775-2697. ow.ly/1N4R30ctdtP

**Take off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit.. St. Therese Parish, 102 West Randolph Street Lansing. 517-487-3749. tops.org

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Black Authors Book Club.** Charcoal Joe by Walter Mosley. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.org

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.** Weekly. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-485-5287. ow.ly/Ygaa4

## EVENTS

**14th Annual Downtown DeWitt Cruise-In.** Live music, food vendors and farmers market. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Downtown DeWitt, The intersection of Bridge and Main St. DeWitt. dda@dewittmi.org

**AARP Finances 50+.** Learn about financing and budgeting. 10 a.m.-noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. 517-706-5045. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com

**Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre.** Weekly activities. 1-4:30 p.m. Cost Varies. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. 517-706-5045. ow.ly/5VC130aniFJ

**Knitting and Crochet Group.** All ages/levels welcome. Bring supplies or use ours. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420. 517-351-2420

**LCC West Toastmasters.** Public speaking/ leadership skills. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive Lansing. 517-483-1314. ow.ly/FVRr30ctere

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

**Reflexology.** Reflex sessions. Call ahead. 10:20 a.m.-2:50 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. 517-706-5045. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com

**Trending Topics.** Discuss local, state and national headlines. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.org

**Game Night at UrbanBeat.** Play provided games or bring your own. FREE. 7-11 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com. aruff@urbanbeatevents.com

## Wednesday, June 21 MUSIC

**Kari Lynch Concert in the Park.** Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Sycamore Park, 1415 South Pennsylvania Ave Lansing. 517-483-4313. lansingmi.gov/parks

**Tom and Mary at Allen Farmers Market.** Live performance at the Farmer's Market. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org

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**THE DOLSON**

Carito Sandini/City Pulse

The Dolson opens in downtown Charlotte this week. The restaurant's interior design is based on the Dolson automobile, a brass era vehicle that was manufactured in the city in the early 20th century.

**By ALLAN I. ROSS**

This week, the Lansing exurb of Charlotte unveils its biggest attraction yet in its effort to lure sidewalk shoppers and destination diners out of their urban comfort zones. Lansing-area foodies, meet **the Dolson**, a high-concept scratch restaurant opening Thursday in downtown Charlotte that's equal parts historic preservation project, economic development tool and place to grab a burger and bourbon chocolate malt.

"This isn't just a cool joint for Charlotte — this is comparable to what's cool in Detroit, Grand Rapids and even Chicago," said co-owner Jason Vanderstelt. "It's an amazing building, an incredible menu and a prime example of the potential Charlotte wants to reach."

Vanderstelt, 43, is one of the city's biggest cheerleaders. He grew up in Charlotte, started his first company there at the age of 12 — a DJ company that's still in operation today — and has served in a variety of city leadership positions. His latest role is lead marshal of the #CharlotteRising movement, aimed at reinvigorating the city both commercially and culturally. The Dolson is an offshoot of **Dutch Brothers Development Group**, a commercial and residential development company he cofounded with his brother, Darrell Vanderstelt.

"We knew if wanted to improve this community, we needed to find a restaurant property," Vanderstelt said. "Restaurants are always vital to a downtown area's resurgence. We figured, let's capture the building and bring someone in to run the restaurant. Darrell and I aren't restaurateurs; we're just professional eaters."

It didn't take long for Vanderstelt to set his sights on the **Potent Potables Project**, the 4-year-old restaurant group made up of Al Hooper, Aaron Matthews and Sam Short. Potent Potables had breathed new life into Old Town's dining scene with the one-two-three punch of **Zoobie's Old Town Tavern**, the **Cosmos** and **the Creole**, and Vanderstelt hoped to bring some of that magic to his neck of the woods.

"Really, if you're thinking about creative, inventive food in the Lansing area, (Potent Potables is) the first thing that pops into your head," Vanderstelt said. "And working with them has been a dream."

"To be honest, we really weren't looking (to open a restaurant) in this area, but after meeting with Jason, I knew this would be a good fit for us," Short said. "We're always looking to push the boundaries of what dining can look and feel like, and this community was very receptive to our ideas."

Darrell Vanderstelt oversaw the construction process, which included removing the plaster that had covered the brick walls for decades in the building's last incarnation, the Gavel restaurant, which closed in December. For 32 years, it was owned and operated by Tom and Sheryl Hewitt, who sold the property for \$305,000 last year. Vanderstelt estimates he and his team put about \$1 million of work into the 3,200-square-foot space, including re-enclosing the restaurant's original breezeway, which had been opened and used as an alleyway by the city. They also painted the exterior of the three-story building, but work on the other two floors was left to the future.

Short worked with chef George Sztroin to develop the menu's "re-

envisioned comfort classics," including upscale takes on meatloaf, chicken pot pie and burgers. Other items include a vegetarian cauliflower "steak," fried green tomatoes and slow-roasted barbecue ribs slathered in house-made barbecue sauce. Everything is made from scratch in-house, including the condiments. Specialty milkshakes — both with and without alcohol — will be given test runs on diners through the early summer before a final shake menu is eventually settled on. Similarly, a brunch menu is still in the works, to be unveiled in the coming months.

"If you want to throw a label, I'd call (the Dolson) a bedroom community gastro pub," Short said. "We employ chefs, not cooks. But we also wanted to make sure we were still approachable. This is out-there stuff, but it's still good, heartwarming, hand-crafted food."

The signature cocktail menu was developed by assistant general manager Heather Haslacker and features four "models" named for Dolson styles, including the Model E 32HP, made with Espolon Reposado tequila, house-made jalapeno syrup, rosemary, cucumber and soda. Haslacker was named Best Bartender in last week's Top of the Town contest for her drink-slinging skills at Zoobie's.

Both the restaurant's name and the themes in its décor are nods to the Dolson automobile, which was manufactured in Charlotte for four years in the early 1900s.

Short calls the theme "brass-era industrial," a fusion of pre-Art Deco styles that evoke turn-of-the-last-century optimism. The lighting is all done with Edison bulbs, the bar area features white subway tile, and a diamond-tufted banquette stretches along the length of one wall beneath a massive mural of a Dolson. The only remaining Dolson car in existence was bought in 2012 by Charlotte resident Joe Pray, the fourth generation owner/director of the nearby Pray Funeral Home.

"Joe brought it up and let me sit in it," Vanderstelt gushed. "Hopefully he'll bring it in again this Friday. It's gorgeous, and he gave us some spare parts to use in our design. I think it's perfect that this car that's a symbol of Charlotte has become a major part of the city's renewal."

**The Dolson (opens Thursday)**  
**112 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte**  
**11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday**  
**(517) 983-5264, thedolson.com**

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

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 From Pg. 27

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
 From Pg. 27

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## 'We're going back to Burma'

Naing Myanmar Family  
Restaurant to close for summer

By MEGAN WESTERS

Moe Naing Israel and Mi Latt Thenda moved to the Lansing area in June 2013 and opened Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant in November of the same year. What started as a family dream has become a favorite of many local diners, who have fallen in love with the food that this family has been serving to the community.

"This is my wife's dream to own our own business," said Israel.

While their dream has come true, this summer, they plan on finally cashing in their hard work for a vacation.

"We are going back to Burma," said Israel, noting that they haven't been back to see their family in 29 years.

Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant will be closed from June 17 to Sept. 5, a long time to go without some of the area's best Thai, Malaysian, and Burmese food. But the couple promises to come back.

"We will reopen in September, yes," said Israel.

A big part of the restaurant's success is its authentic food, including traditional dishes from Malaysia (Maggi soup and vegetarian fried egg noodles), Burma (tea pickled leaves with beans salad or fried water cress) and Thailand (Thai tom yum soup or Thai ladna). The large menu that Naing Myanmar boasts is surprising considering the space that the couple works in. The kitchen and restaurant space fit in a small strip mall storefront on Lansing's south side. And while there is a dining room, many people choose to order takeout. As a result, Naing Myanmar often has a one and a half to two hour wait on the weekends.

"Here, we make food, and it's all fresh, no reheated food," Israel said, explaining why the food can sometimes take a bit longer than other takeout joints.



Megan Westers/City Pulse

Mi Latt Thenda (left) and Moe Naing Israel, owners of Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant, are closing their business for the summer to travel to Burma.

"When you order, we cook," he added. "That's why people wait. Some people they play cards and sit down. They know. I say 'I'm sorry' and people say 'That's no problem.'"

Aside from the food that Naing Myanmar delivers, the customer service is a little different than your traditional restaurant. The "Family Restaurant" in the name is not a gimmick. Israel and Thenda have two sons, ages 12 and 3. When dining in, you may see their youngest in the corner playing with toys or their oldest helping his father serving customers. While Israel said it might bother some customers, it's the way it has to be for this hard working couple.

"Some don't like it that my kids are here," Israel said. "I say if you don't like it, you don't come. I have no choice. We try our best. We don't have any relatives here."

The couple explained that owning their own restaurant is their dream career, but it's also a way for their family to be able to see more of each other and work together.

"When I was in Boston, I worked a long time (at a coffee shop)," Israel said. "I would close and come home, and by then they're all sleeping. I would wake up, and my son is going to school. I never saw them awake. This, with our own business, we can all work together."

Taking their sons to see their extended fami-

See Burma, Page 15

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# Burma

from page 30

lies for the first time is something we as a community can be happy about, no matter how selfishly we want that delicious food to be available this summer.

As for the future of Naing Myanmar, Israel said he has plans to expand the kitchen area where his wife primarily works.

“When I get back from vacation, I want to make a bigger kitchen and a smaller dining room,” he said.

The couple considered a move two years ago, when a dispute between the landlord and the Lansing Board of Water & Light left the restaurant without running water for nearly a month. Israel said that he is interested in securing one of the lots on either side of the restaurant’s current location, 3308 S. Cedar St. Suite 3, for further growth. But he wants to be careful and grow his business responsibly.

“I want to take the side spot in the future, just not right now,” he said. “We want to give people a full stomach for not much money; that’s our goal. Food for everyone, not just the rich people. We want everyone to come.”

# Café Benny — Soup Spoon Café

I moved to East Lansing from Portland, Ore., nearly 10 years ago. One of the things I immediately missed about Portland was the vibrant and diverse food scene.

Since that time, the Greater Lansing restaurant scene has grown in leaps and bounds. The area now has a number of fantastic restaurants, and interesting new ones are popping up all the time. And one of the pioneers in this recent food boom was Soup Spoon Café, which opened its doors in 2006.

Soup Spoon started as a scrappy breakfast and lunch joint that focused on well-made food and quality ingredients. It has since tripled in size and added dinner options and a full bar. But the commitment to quality remains.

The Café Benny is a solid symbol of the café’s early years. It’s simple — two perfectly poached eggs with housemade Canadian bacon on English muffins and drizzled with hollandaise sauce — but it’s a delight. If you want to jazz up your Benny, there are other options, like a Yooper Benny with fresh walleye or the “San Diego,” with avocado and ancho pepper hollandaise. But the beautiful simplicity of the Café Benny is always a brilliant way to start your day.

## Soup Spoon Café

7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-midnight Friday; 8 a.m.-midnight Saturday  
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
(517) 316-2377, soupspooncafe.com

— Ty Forquer



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# THE PULSIFIEDS

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**B/17/093 SEWER LINING** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, @ 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on **JUNE 29, 2017** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or Stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) for content and purpose of this bid.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

**B/17/096 WAYFINDING PROJECT** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, @ 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on **JUNE 26, 2017** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or Stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) for content and purpose of this bid.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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