

# City

a newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

March 22-28, 2017

FREE

## TOP OF THE TOWN TURNS 10!

THE CITY PULSE/FOX 47 10TH ANNUAL BEST OF CONTEST BEGINS TODAY, P. 13



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Thursday, March 30, 2017

## Save the Whales: a flute, cello and piano recital featuring George Crumb's VOX BALAENAE (Voice of the Whales)

<b>Sonate En Concert Op. 17</b>	Jean-Michel Damase
<b>The Harp of the Dagda</b>	James Sclater
<b>Viaje</b>	Zhou Tian
<i>Intermission</i>	
<b>Vox Balaenae (Voice of the Whale)</b>	George Crumb
<b>Vocalise (...for the beginning of time)</b>	
<b>Variations on Sea-Time</b>	
Sea Theme	
Archeozoic [Var. I]	
Proterozoic [Var. II]	
Paleozoic [Var. III]	
Mesozoic [Var. IV]	
Cenozoic [Var. V]	
<b>Sea-Nocturne (... for the end of time)</b>	



Richard Sherman,  
flute



Carl Donakowski,  
cello



Casey Robards,  
piano



Jaime Paisley, WKAR  
Concert Guide



**Event Center**  
1213 Turner Street  
Lansing, MI 48906

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### CITY OF LANSING PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017 SPECIAL ELECTION

**Notice is hereby given** that the public test of the program which will be used for tabulating the results of the Special Election to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the City of Lansing will be conducted at the City Clerk's Election Unit located at the South Washington Office Complex at 2500 South Washington Avenue on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

#### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Registered voters can get an Absent Voter Ballot for any of the following reasons:

- You are 60 years of age or older
- You are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another
- You expect to be absent from the City of Lansing for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day
- You cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- You are an appointed precinct worker in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside
- You cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

We must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at [www.lansingmi.gov/Elections](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Elections) or by calling 517-483-4131.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

The Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit, 2500 S. Washington Ave (rear entrance), will be open

- Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 4, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4 p.m. is the deadline to request an absentee ballot. Ballots requested on Monday, May 1, 2017 must be requested and voted in person at the Clerk's Office at 124 W. Michigan Ave, 9th Floor or 2500 S. Washington Ave.

**Chris Swope, CMMC/CMC**  
Lansing City Clerk

[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)    [www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#17-055

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## March 23 - April 23, 2017

The Michigan Premiere of a ferocious and provocative adaptation of one of the most prescient works of literature of the last century.  
(Contains mature language/content)

**1984**

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**ADAPTED BY**  
**MICHAEL GENE SULLIVAN**

**Directed by Tony Caselli**  
Featuring: Tobin Hissong, Curran Jacobs, John Lepard, Robin Lewis-Bedz, Brandy Joe Plambeck, David Wolber

**Pay-What-You-Can Preview**  
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**\$15 Previews**  
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Mar. 25 @ 8PM  
Mar. 26 @ 2PM  
Mar. 30 @ 8PM

Williamston Theatre  
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[www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

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## A time of prayer, meditation and dramatic presentations

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March 22, 29 and April 5

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Lansing, MI



125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Sunday - 10 AM  
(517) 484-7434  
PilgrimUCC.com



# CADL CELEBRATES READING MONTH



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Magazine



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# UrINETOWN

Music and Lyrics by Mark Hollmann  
Book and Lyrics by Greg Kotis


URINETOWN was produced on Broadway in September, 2001 by the Araca Group and Dodger Theatricals in association with TheaterDreams, Inc., and Lauren Mitchell

URINETOWN is presented through special arrangement Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

APRIL 14 - 23, 2017  
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Musical Direction by Dave Wendelberger


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2017



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

**Now you have two ways to sound off:**

**1.) Write a letter to the editor:**

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

**2.) Write a guest column:**

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

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

More public notices can be found on  
page 26.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority is seeking vendors for lawn maintenance at its properties. Insurance required. Qualification Packet is available on or after March 22, 2017 at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due March 29, 2017 at 1 pm and will be opened March 29, 2017 at 1 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.  
RFQ #: 2017-0329- LB

**CP#17-078**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017** in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1403, an ordinance to amend section 50-792, 50-793 and 50-794 of article VII – Other Districts – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to exempt certain requirements of the East Village District with regard to housing requirements for developments under 50,000 square feet ground coverage and reduce the standards to allow buildings up to 140 feet.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1404, an ordinance to amend section 50-382 of Chapter 50 – Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing to allow for extended care facilities to be licensed for the sale of alcohol beverage and alcoholic liquor.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1407, an ordinance to rezone the properties at 314, 328, 334, 340, and 341-345 Evergreen Avenue from Conditional B3, City Center Commercial District to RM32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential and P, Parking. The property is 1.76 acres in size.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1408, an ordinance to rezone the properties at 314, 328, 334, 340, and 341-345 Evergreen Avenue from RM32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential, and P, Parking to Conditional B3, City Center Commercial District. The properties are 1.76 acres in size.
5. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Next Generation Investment Properties, LLC, for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 358 N. Harrison, 733, 723 and 717 W. Grand River Avenue to demolish the existing single-family structures and construct a 3-story sorority house. The sorority will have 11 single-occupancy bedrooms and 15 double-occupancy bedrooms for a total dwelling occupancy of 41 persons. The properties combined are .514 acres in size and are zoned RM32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential District.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

**CP#17-079**

# CityPULSE

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Free the Ionia 3 ... dogs, that is

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Conrad Herwig slides into MSU jazz residency

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'Boogie' Bob Baldori remembers Chuck Berry

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By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

**COVER  
ART**



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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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HIS CALLOUS ATTEMPT TO DISMANTLE OBAMACARE IS A DISTRACTION FROM HIS UNCONSTITUTIONAL MUSLIM BAN!

HIS UNCONSTITUTIONAL MUSLIM BAN IS A DISTRACTION FROM HIS UNEXPLAINED TIES TO RUSSIA!

HIS UNEXPLAINED TIES TO RUSSIA ARE A DISTRACTION FROM HIS INCOMPREHENSIBLY TERRIBLE BUDGET PROPOSAL!

THE RELENTLESS CHAOS OF HIS DYSFUNCTIONAL ADMINISTRATION IS A DISTRACTION FROM HIS LATEST HORRIFYINGLY UNHINGED TWEET!

HIS INFURIATING DEPORTATION POLICIES ARE A DISTRACTION FROM THE RELENTLESS CHAOS OF HIS DYSFUNCTIONAL ADMINISTRATION!

HIS COUNTLESS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARE A DISTRACTION FROM HIS INFURIATING DEPORTATION POLICIES!

HIS INCOMPREHENSIBLY TERRIBLE BUDGET PROPOSAL IS A DISTRACTION FROM HIS COUNTLESS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST!

TOM TOMORROW © 2017



## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Swope running for Lansing city clerk, not mayor



BERL SCHWARTZ

Too late. Chris Swope will run again for Lansing city clerk this year. Reality caught up with him on his nascent bid for mayor. Andy Schor is too far ahead.

It's a cautionary tale for Judi Brown Clarke, the Council-

woman who is running against Schor. He's a front-runner even a Silver Medalist will have a very hard time catching.

Not that Swope didn't want to try. He went from not running to running to not running. "I went full cycle — I'm not, I am, I'm not."

On the late February Monday when incumbent Virg Bernero dropped out, Swope wasn't running. He was "shocked and surprised" by Bernero's announcement. And he didn't see how he could run or be mayor and also help his partner expand their Old Town home and garden business to Grand Rapids.

But by the next morning, he was looking at it. And very quickly he was telling people he was in.

"It's my shot at it," he thought. If Schor gets elected, then he'd be running against an incumbent in four years — even a longer shot.

Things continued that way for a week or two. Swope is nothing if not deliberative, so he kept looking. And he kept finding dead ends.

"Things were in motion I didn't know were in motion," he told me Tuesday over the phone as he drove to Mount Pleasant for clerk training. "Some institutional support was locked

See Schwartz, Page 7



Courtesy Image

An Indianapolis-based developer plans to convert the long-vacant, century-old "Abigail" (right) and high school (left) buildings on Lansing's former Michigan School for the Blind campus to 60 units of housing for people 55 and older, if the project is approved for federal low-income housing and historic tax credits. The developer also proposes a new 72-unit family-housing complex called Walnut Park for the property.

## Love at last for the Abigail?

## \$24.5 million 'family housing' complex gains momentum at School for the Blind

The grand old maids at the heart of the 40-acre former Michigan School for the Blind campus may finally see new development this summer to the tune of \$24.5 million.

Since 2000, limited rehab work and selective demolition have nibbled at the fringes of the long-derelect campus on Lansing's near west side, but the campus' century-old, hulking centerpieces, the 1916 Abigail building and a 1910 high school, have remained stubbornly vacant.

Elizabeth Whitsett, development director of Indianapolis-based developer TWG, said the 1950s-era auditorium behind the Abigail will be demolished

this summer to make room for Walnut Park, a four-story, 72-unit "family housing" complex. It will cost an estimated \$12 million.

The project was approved for federal low-income housing tax credit this spring.

More significantly, TWG is awaiting approval in July for similar credits to finance a long-awaited renovation of the Abigail itself into 42 units of housing for people 55 and older. The high school would be converted into 18 units of the same. Together, they will cost an estimated \$14.5 million.

TWG has rehabbed about a dozen school buildings, mostly in the Indianapolis area, and turned them into se-

nior or low-income housing.

"The plan is to save them and convert them," Whitsett said.

"We think the Lansing project could be really great. The campus itself is an amenity."

But the Abigail, named after School for the Blind co-founder Abigail Rogers, has endured more than its share of heartbreak over the years. With its neo-classical façade and colossal Doric columns, the Abigail stood watch over the campus as its administration building until the school was phased out in the 1990s and is still one of the most significant, and endangered, structures in Lansing.

Eric Schertzing, Ingham County treasurer and director of the county's Land Bank, which owns the west side of the campus, is cautiously optimistic about his latest announcement, but he is

See Abigail, Page 6



**Property:** First Church of Christ, Scientist  
709 E. Grand River Ave.,  
East Lansing

The date of this edifice's construction in 1953 is noted prominently on the cornerstone facing Grand River. However, the building's dedication was postponed until October 1969. In accordance with the denomination's policies, dedication ceremonies did not take place until the debts connected with the building's construction were retired.

While the building features many of the trappings of a traditional church — including a columned portico and patinated copper spire — it breaks away from these orthodox details. The modern main portico features fluted columns, freed of their classical capitals and bases. The porch itself exhibits a subtle curve, which is echoed in the steeple's tower.

Although the standard common brick bond is employed, the dominant pattern features wider Roman bricks set in a staggered bond. Limestone accents form the main entablature, which is capped with a crown and wide dentils, and in the stone coping, which introduces a square motif found throughout the building.

The church had been temporarily housed in the Masonic Temple on MAC and the (now demolished) State Theater. A Christian Science reading room was added about a decade ago; from within, one may enjoy expansive views of Michigan State University.

— 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 or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.



# Abigail

from page 5

worried that the clock is running out on the building.

"We have lost many beautiful structures in this community, and you can't save them all," Schertzing said. "We've tried like hell with the Abigail. How much longer is its integrity going to hold together? We're working with all the parties involved to get the next round of funding approved."

The long-empty campus enjoyed a piece-meal revival beginning in 2010, when the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition bought a library building on the southeast corner and refurbished it into the Neighborhood Empowerment Center, a home for the Coalition and other nonprofits. That same year, the third early-20th-century building on campus, the 1914 superintendent's residence, was refurbished into offices.

In 2015, the "cottages," a ring of 1950s-era housing on the west end of campus, were demolished, along with a service building and a maintenance building behind the Abigail, using a state blight removal grant, to make the rest of the property more attrac-

tive to developers.

But the improvements did little to bring suitors to the Abigail and the high school, both of which have sat idle since serving briefly as a training center for the state Corrections Department in the mid-1990s.

After the 2008 housing crash, a plan to convert the two buildings to senior housing failed and the buildings went to a creditor, the Great Lakes Capital Fund.

In 2013, the campus' two chief owners, the Land Bank and Cinnaire (the new name of the Capital Fund) jointly sent out a request for proposal to 90 developers in the Midwest. Only two developers expressed interest.

One of them was Indianapolis-based TWG, a senior housing specialist that has rehabbed dozens of old school buildings, mostly in the Indianapolis area.

"TWG is a bright spot and a tremendous asset in this process," Schertzing said.

Cinnaire's vice president, Tom Edmiston, said there was "no way" the financing would have been possible without the credits.

The Walnut project will get \$1.087 million in federal tax credits a year for 10 years, for a total of \$10.8 million.

Rehab costs are high for century-old hulks like the Abigail, not only because of

the repairs needed, but because of the need to remove asbestos and lead-based paint.

"The tax credits give us the ability to get investors to step in as part of the ownership of the development," Edmiston said. "You look at the rents that can be supported in the area, maybe \$500 to \$1,000 a month — how much debt can you actually support with that? You just can't get to the number you need to do the necessary improvements, and that's why the tax credits have been critical for this."

The new projects would bring this secluded, sylvan campus into the latest of several phases of service.

The campus was first developed in the 1850s as the Michigan Female College, founded by Abigail and Delia Rogers, with backing from Lansing pioneer and merchant James Turner. (Turner also named his daughter, Abigail, after Rogers.) When state colleges started admitting women in 1869, the Female College was closed. After a brief interlude as an Oddfellows hall, the Lansing campus became the Michigan School for the Blind in 1879, serving students from preschool to their mid-20s. (Its most famous alumnus is music icon Stevie Wonder.)

A blond brick high school went up in 1912, making it the oldest building on the site. Lansing architect Edwin Bowd designed the high school, the 1914 superintendent's house and a new "Old Main" building, also called the Abigail. Bowd designed dozens of Lansing-area landmarks, from Christ Community Church to the Ottawa Power Station.

"This is a historic investment area for the city of Lansing going back decades," Schertzing said. "The Land Bank looked at that 10 years ago and knew this was an area to invest heavily in." The Land Bank owns the western side of the campus and has invested in rehabbing many homes in the immediate area.

"We have put millions and millions into the surrounding neighborhood," Schertzing said. "This is a perfect area for both of these projects."

But Schertzing said the housing market

faces an uncertain future, especially with interest rates going up. More ominously, he worries that low-income housing tax credits may not stay in favor with the new presidential administration and Congress.

Edmiston said the tax credit program, developed under President Ronald Reagan and made permanent under President Bill Clinton, has bipartisan support. The developers are also applying to get the Abigail and the high school on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that comes with additional tax credits that could help lure investors.

Whitsett said the Abigail/high school project "requires both the low income housing tax credits and the historic tax credits to move forward." In 2007, an application for federal historic credits for the campus' "eastern quadrangle" was turned down, on the grounds that the campus as a whole is not intact, but Robert McKay of the State Historical Preservation Office said that's not necessarily a deal-breaker.

"It doesn't mean the front portion can't be listed," McKay said. "Those front buildings — there's a reasonable case to be made that there's still an intelligent story to be told."

That leaves one more "if" in the mix. Edmiston said that if the Abigail/high school project isn't approved for federal tax credits or historic designation, the developer can come back to the owners with another proposal or back out of the purchase agreement without penalty.

To Schertzing, that means "don't believe until you see it."

"This site has been victim to some over-promising," Schertzing said. "Until somebody has pulled the demolition permit, the equipment is actually moved on site, and they're actually spending money, nothing is happening."

— Lawrence Cosentino



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1207

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to amend Section 1460.49 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by adding the requirement that delinquent real property taxes be paid prior to issuance of a certificate of compliance for rental properties.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#17-075

### NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING OF THE INTENT OF THE TOWNSHIP TO CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IN SUCH CASES WHERE RESIDENTS, AND/OR PROPERTY OWNERS FAIL TO CONTROL OR ERRADICATE SUCH WEEDS ON THEIR PROPERTIES.

This notice is published in lieu of notice to individual property owners. In the event that any property owner shall fail or refuse to destroy any noxious weeds by cutting them or by other means of control before the first day of May, 2017 or fail to keep them cut and/or controlled at any time thereafter during the growing season, the Commissioner of Noxious Weeds of the Township shall have the duty of entering such lands, and such weeds will be caused to be cut or destroyed by the Township. The owner or owners of such lands shall pay the expense incurred in such destruction to the Township. The Township shall have a lien against such lands for such expense, which lien shall be enforced in the manner now provided by for the enforcement of tax liens against the lot to be charged and will be collected as in the case of general property tax against lot or lots in question in the event the charges involved are not paid by the owner, agent, or occupant of said lot within thirty (30) days from the date of billing to said person by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. Charges will be made in accordance with Section 52.5 of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Lansing.

This notice appears by authority of Public Act 359 of 1941 of the State of Michigan and the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Chapter 52 of the Charter Township of Lansing.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#17-061

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **April 13, 2017** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Xinyi Fang, for the property at 942 Cresenwood, to remove and replace all existing siding. The applicant is also seeking to replace the existing windows.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-080



# Three-dog night-fall?

## Canine trio face death sentence In disputed case in Ionia County

Allen Hustin earned a Purple Heart in Iraq. Mario and Luigi are dogs he got at the recommendation of the Wounded Warrior Project to help him overcome the impact of war and his injuries.

Now Mario, Luigi and a third dog, Major, are facing a death sentence — an unjust one, attorneys say.

They're in court in Ionia County today trying to save the dogs' lives.

Major's owner, Susan Vamvakias, calls Mario and Luigi "loving and giving. The kids sleep on 'em and lay on 'em and play with 'em." As for her dog, Major, he's "just a clumsy German shepherd you trip over because he's under foot."

The three dogs have been in the Ionia County Animal Shelter since July 8, when they broke out of the yard of Vamvakias' yard. She was watching Hustin's dogs while Hustin and his wife, an active duty soldier on leave, spent time at a local motel. They hadn't seen each other in a year.

Major, a 3-year-old German shepherd, and Mario and Luigi, both 2-year-old pit-bulls, ran through the countryside. They were found trapped in a goat pen with the bodies of three dead goats hours later.

Ionia County prosecutors contend the dogs are dangerous and sought an order to have them euthanized back on July 27. Ionia County District Judge Raymond Voet signed such an order after a one-day trial. That order was upheld in Ionia Circuit Court in January.

Vamvakias, through her attorneys, Celeste Dunn and David Draper, is trying to get Voet to overturn his ruling and return

the dogs. In court filings, the attorneys argue that an Ionia County assistant prosecuting attorney, Adam Dreher, misled the court, withheld information and pursued a case Animal Control officials did not agree with.

The attorneys accuse Dreher of misconduct. Ionia County Prosecutor Kyle Butler denied it in a phone interview Monday.

"The law was enforced, the accused had their due process, and the judge ruled in accordance with the law," Butler said by email. The statement acknowledges the high emotional stakes of the case.

The case against the canine threesome seemed open and shut.

The goats had had their throats bitten open. An Ionia County Sheriff report says the goats were "bloated, rigor had set in and flies were swarming the bod-

ies." In the front yard, a mauled and dead cat was found.

The prosecution needed to prove by a "preponderance of the evidence" that the dogs had in fact killed the goats. That means the prosecutor need only prove that it was more likely than not that the dogs were responsible for the torn-out throats of the goats. It's a much lower standard of proof than the reasonable doubt standard in a criminal case.

The attorneys don't know how the goats died if the dogs didn't do it, but they speculated it was coyotes. A friend of the court filing by the animal law section of the state Bar Association points out the Michigan Department of Natural Resources issued a coyote warning for Ionia and Kent counties in April 2016.

Dunn and Draper allege Dreher, in his

position as prosecutor, overstepped his bounds when he brought the action to destroy the dogs.

"The Prosecutor withheld evidence that exonerated the dogs at issue at the time of the trial," the attorneys wrote in a motion for relief from judgment. At issue is an affidavit from Robin Anderson, Ionia County's Animal Control/Animal Shelter manager, dated Aug. 2 and apparently signed in October. It was not revealed until well after the trial, and only after Vamvakias filed a Freedom of Information Act request for documents related to her case.

"It was never my opinion or the opinion of the Animal Control Officer that these dogs should be destroyed," Anderson wrote. She also noted that the dogs had no blood on their bodies, and that a vet consulted by her determined the goats had likely been dead "8 to 10 hours" before the photos had been taken. A witness places the dogs outside the pen an hour and half before they were found with the dead goats. The prosecution contends the dogs got into the pen and were unable to get out. The dogs have also shown no aggression towards people or other animals during their time at the shelter.

Dreher brought his case on behalf of the Animal Control. Dunn and Draper also argue that the prosecutor relied on the testimony of an officer of Animal Control that did not have knowledge of the case. Specifically, they say, Erica Gleason's sole knowledge was based on taking care of the dogs in the shelter. She had nothing to do with the investigation. The law requires witnesses to have personal knowledge of a case.

"The dogs' lives hang in the balance," wrote Dunn and Draper in their motion, "when the entire case was based upon misleading information that was not supported in fact or in law."

— Todd Heywood



Courtesy Photo

Allen Hustin and his dogs Mario and Luigi.

## Schwartz

from page 5

that I thought wasn't. While people weren't necessarily saying where they were, they were already down a path of another candidate."

While Swope was surveying the scene, Schor was announcing one endorsement after another: most of the countywide elected officials, all the county commissioners, unions, community leaders. Swope had conversations with the big ones still out, the chamber and the UAW. He won't say what they said, but it couldn't have been encouraging.

As he explored, word got around he had Bernero's support and that he'd promised to keep Bernero's people in City Hall if he got elected.

"I did not make any promises — a number of them I have great respect for who do their jobs wonderfully, but it certainly isn't universal — and I don't know if I'd say I had his endorsement, but he was supportive of me running and encouraged me to take a close look at it."

Swope, the first openly gay elected official around here, couldn't even count on support from that quarter. Friends told him they were already for Schor or that at best they would try to help both of them.

"I've been there before, when Ryan Sebolt and Wyatt Ludman ran for my old county commission seat, two gay guys, both qualified, both young and energetic." He backed Sebolt, whom he'd known longer, "but I wish Wyatt had run for an office I could have supported him for."

Realitied out of the mayor's race, he's not wasting his energy on what might have been

or dreading four more years as clerk, where he's a shoo-in. He's run unopposed the last two times and may again.

And he's looking forward to reelection.

"That was a big part of my decision. I love being clerk. I love my staff. There's nothing about my job I don't like except maybe a City Council meeting that goes longer than I think it should."

He's knee deep in complying with a big statewide requirement to implement new voter equipment by 2018. It will happen in Lansing in time for the August primary. Semi-wonk that he is, Swope's excited about it.

And he's excited there will be a new mayor. It's no knock against Virg. "Virg and I came in at the same time. I've never seen a change in the corner office. It's an exciting prospect, and I'm glad I'll be there to help make that transition."

He's also looking forward to a new mayor

because of the potential for a "change in tone" with the Council. "I hope they work better together. It's no one's fault, just a whole combination of personalities and individual histories."

Whoever the mayor is, he'd like to see better customer service from the city, which is one of the things he would have run on. Little stuff, like not telling people who call on Monday because their trash or recycling pickup got missed on Friday that they waited too long to complain.

Swope is only 49. It's not his year to move up. But as he says, "I see other things I would like to do in the future."

As a journalist, I was hoping he'd run. It would have made the mayor's race a better story. And I could have written:

"Stop me if you heard this: A Jew, a gay man and an African-American woman run for mayor ..."



# ARTS & CULTURE

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## THE ART OF BREATHING



**Trombonist Conrad Herwig slides poetry into practice at weeklong MSU visit**

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Trombonist Conrad Herwig kicked off a weeklong MSU residency Monday with a concert at MSU Federal Credit Union's headquarters. He will cap a week of performances and masterclasses with a Friday night gig at the Wharton Center with MSU's jazz orchestras.

### By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Conrad Herwig was imprinted for life on his 12th birthday. His parents took him to the Hanohano Room, a revolving restaurant at the top of the Waikiki Sheraton in Hawaii, to hear trombonist Trummy Young.

"I thought all jazz quartets were led by trombone players," Herwig said. "I had never heard any other jazz quartet."

Herwig, 57 is a poet, a mystic, a salsa man, a lifelong student of the fine art of breathing and the latest in a series of stellar guest artists in Michigan State University's jazz studies program.

He told his origin story in a rare quiet moment Monday after kicking off a hectic week-long residency with a concert at the MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters.

Back in Hawaii, Young, a stalwart of Louis Armstrong's All-Stars for many years, dedicated a tune to young Herwig. Almost immediately, Herwig announced to his parents he wanted to be Trummy Young. He patiently waited out the inevitable backlash — "But what are you really going to do?" — and never looked back.

At MSU, Herwig is prodding the students to approach music from unexpected angles.

"I'm a big fan of yoga and tai chi," Herwig said. "When we play a brass instrument, we play a cold piece of metal, yet we give character and life to it. Our breath is our life force. It seems so obvious. The one thing we have to do now, in the moment, is breathe."

Director of jazz studies at Rutgers University since 2003, Herwig started his career touring with trumpeter Clark Terry, put in several years with Frank Sinatra's orchestra and has long been part of the Mingus Big Band, centered on the music of the brilliant bassist and composer Charles Mingus.

In the '80s and '90s, he was as much a *salsero* as he was a jazzman, playing hundreds of gigs with iconic Latin bandleaders Eddie Palmieri, Mario Bauzá, Tito Puente and Paquito D'Rivera. Since then, he's had a lot of critical success, including a shelf full of Grammys, many of them for recordings that re-imagine the music of John Coltrane, Joe Henderson and Wayne Shorter in a

Latin style.

At Rutgers, Herwig collaborates with Sue Mingus, the widow of Charles Mingus, to bring in musicians for Mingus-centric residencies, but he admitted he's "jealous" of MSU's jazz studies residency, funded by a \$1 million grant from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

"This is the way the arts are supposed to be presented," he declared.

Herwig and MSU students and faculty played at Detroit's Carr Center Arts Academy Saturday and are scheduled to visit high schools in Royal Oak, Spring Lake and Alma this week. Friday, Herwig and MSU jazz orchestras will strut their stuff at a gala concert at the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre.

Monday, a row of fascinated students listened from the back of the room as Herwig and MSU trombone professor Michael Dease sauntered through Dizzy Gillespie's "Ow" in an outrageously slow tempo, as if they were daring the tightrope to sag under them.

Dease's sound was thick gold; Herwig's a ductile silver. Trombonists often default to showmanship, but the gears never seemed to stop turning in Herwig's cranium. In a series of searching solos, especially on the classic "Lover Man," he sounded like a man locked in a luxurious room of melody, now enjoying himself, now looking for ways to escape.

"He straddles traditional jazz and cutting-edge harmonies," Dease said. "His voicings are often simple but raw, the best of both worlds."

Among the students watching Herwig carefully was Jordan Davis, in her first year in jazz studies. Davis was already working on a Herwig tune, "Morning Shades," before playing it with Herwig and the Jazz Orchestra III Friday.

Davis is amazed at the caliber of artists the residency has brought to MSU.

"They're phenomenal players I get to meet and learn from and interact with," she said.

Dan Parrish, a trombone student and MSU freshman, binged on as many of Herwig's recordings as he could before Herwig hit town. There are a lot to choose from — over 20 as a leader and 200 as a sideman.

Herwig gets a lot of his inspiration outside music. One CD, "The Tip of the Sword," was inspired by Taoist writings.

Others were inspired by poems of the Persian mystic Rumi, Pablo Neruda and the works of Umberto Eco.

He tells students that there is a process for creativity, "just like there's a process for melody and harmony and rhythm."

"He's already exceeding our expectations," Parrish said. "I've been listening to his records, but in person, it's such a different experience altogether."

"He has a very colorful and personal way of relating life and music together," Dease said. "He's a heavy thinker and passionate player. He's stamped two or three different sounds on the instrument as his own, and not many people can say that."

At Friday's concert, Herwig and the student bands will perform tunes from his latest sextet album, "Reflections," and a set of arrangements chosen to reflect troubled times. These include a re-harmonization of George Gershwin's "It Ain't Necessarily So" and Mingus's "Prayer for Passive Resistance."

Herwig's version of "Prayer" finished a job started by his close friend, the brilliant post-Coltrane reed player John Stubblefield, who handed the unfinished arrangement to Herwig before he died in 2005. Mingus's music was a volatile cocktail of love and rage at the treatment of African-Americans in the mid-20th century.

Herwig doesn't shy away from discussing its ongoing relevance.

"Mingus was the Nostradamus of jazz," Herwig said. "Everything he was dealing with in the '50s — we're back again. Sometimes it feels like one step forward, two steps back."

Herwig urged the audience to support the arts at Monday's concert, but after the gig, he suggested that the music will find a way to survive, with or without institutional support.

"Jazz has a life of its own," Herwig said. "It always has. Sometimes it's a little more in the shadows, sometimes it's a little more in the light. But it's always been a music of freedom and struggle and we're not going to give up."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease (right) shared the stage with Conrad Herwig at Monday night's concert.



## MMA Mama

Lansing-based cage fighter prepares for professional debut

By EVE KUCHARSKI

Hitting the gym three times a week is a struggle for most people. For Aurelia Cisneros, it's a light day if she only gets to the gym three times.

"I wrestle with one of the coaches here at MSU twice a week. Then I do MMA (mixed martial arts), which is boxing, sparring and jujitsu — we basically live-spar, live fighting three times a week," Cisneros said. "On top of that I do my plain jiu-jitsu; that's about four times a week."

### Aurelia Cisneros MMA fighter meet and greet

1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 25  
FREE

Spiral Dance Bar  
1247 Center St., Lansing  
cisnerospromotions.com

That schedule doesn't even include her job as a personal trainer at ZIFIT in Frandor Shopping Center, where she sometimes pushes herself just as hard as her trainees.

"I do train with my clients, just to get that extra strength in," Cisneros said.

But why all the training? Because the 24-year-old mother and graduate of MSU is also known as Aurelia "The Beast" Cisneros, an amateur MMA cage fighter. Cisneros, who stands 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs in at 145 lbs., will go pro in just over a month. On April 29, her amateur-level record — six wins, one loss — will be wiped clean, and she will face her first professional opponent. While she knows who her opponent will be, she's not allowed to reveal that just yet.

"I feel very confident with the opponent that I have been locked in with. I know her ins and outs; We are actually friends," Cisneros said. "We've punched each other in the face before, so why not make some money off of it?"

This confidence has been hard won. Barely three years ago, Cisneros was just getting her start in the fighting world. Even picking up the sport was happenstance. She was approached by a stranger who told her that she looked like she could fight.

"I had no idea what MMA was. I had no formal training of any sort — I got into a little trouble in high school, but that was it," Cisneros said with a laugh. "Being a fresh body, I've learned every aspect of the game from the beginning without any bad habits, therefore I feel confident in every aspect."

A self-described freestyle fighter, Cisneros doesn't favor a single fighting style when she trains or competes. She wants to remain as versatile as possible.

"You need to know every aspect of fighting — jiu-jitsu, wrestling, kickboxing, boxing, every single form," Cisneros said. "I even do salsa dancing classes for my footwork. Yoga too — I do everything possible."

Yet Cisneros isn't doing this only for herself and her love of the sport. She has other, stronger motivations.

"Sobriety was something I was struggling with since I was 13, and it got really bad in college," Cisneros said. "After I had my daughter, she actually kind of saved me. But she didn't save me 100 percent, and I still continued to drink."

Fighting became the answer for Cisneros. In the most unlikely place, she also found another, more personal means of support.

"MMA helped me find God," Cisneros said. "I know this may sound crazy to other people, but I am now 20 months sober. And that's why I fight. I fight to stay sober to have a good life."

Since then, Cisneros has launched her



Photo by Jacqueline Marie Luttrell

Lansing-based amateur MMA fighter Aurelia Cisneros, seen here sparring with a trainer, will make her professional debut next month in Grand Rapids.

own company, Cisneros Promotions LLC, and has funneled all her available time and resources into becoming a professional fighter. With all the time she puts in at the gym, one might expect Cisneros' lifestyle to put a strain on her family.

"My daughter's been going to the gym with me ever since she was 1 year old. She actually trains with me," Cisneros said. "Now my fiancée, she had no idea what MMA was when we first met, but now that we've been together, she actually is my business partner. Everyone does their part."

To promote her upcoming professional debut, Cisneros is hosting a meet and greet at Spiral Dance Bar Saturday to garner support for her upcoming fight and to give back to the community. The family-friendly event includes free pizza and other giveaways.

"Every person that comes in is going to receive a free T-shirt, and I will be collecting donations for Oak Park YMCA Kids Camp arts and crafts," Cisneros said.

Attendees are asked to bring arts and crafts supplies to donate. Cisneros is looking forward to the event, but after Saturday, it will be complete focus on her professional debut in Grand Rapids.

"I'm going to be able to showcase what I've learned these past few years and why I'm going pro and why I deserve this," Cisneros said. "That's what I'm excited about, win or lose."

## CURTAIN CALL

### Wacky world

Ixion Theatre explores the absurd in pair of plays

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Were I less dedicated to my work, I might grab a thesaurus and find all the synonyms for "wacky," list all of them, add a few identifications, send it to my editor and say, "This review is finished!"

"Askew Askance A Squirrel," the latest Ixion Theatre production, surely was wacky. Or zany. Or madcap. Whatever synonym you choose, the pair of one-act plays were full of the absurd and the nonsensical. That doesn't mean they didn't make sense — they often went so far as to make sense of nonsense.

The package is subtitled "An Evening in Lisa Konopliksky's World." From the start of "Nebraska Rapture," the evening's first offering, it was clear that the playwright's world is a very complex, intelligent and, of course, wacky planet. The play introduced five looney characters who could quote everything from Walt Whitman to Blondie to the Book of Revelations.

### "Askew Askance A Squirrel!"

Ixion Theatre  
8 p.m. Saturday, March 25; 7 p.m. Sunday, March 26  
\$15/\$10 adv.  
The Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com

Their laughable, wild and comedic dialogue often blended with brainy bits and moments of cruelty. "Nebraska Rapture" was a mixture of jokes and serious introspection. Although sometimes painful to watch, the entire journey was an enjoyable trip to crazy town.

Sadonna Croft, as the Bible-thumping mom, was the embodiment of an overzealous evangelical. Her skill gave the charac-

ter a creepy appeal. Her daughter, Grace — played with a constant snarl by Danica O'Neill — was every God-fearing mother's nightmare. Nick Lemmer, as Toby, played a peculiar part, portraying a pet (or a person?) that was part playful puppy, part precocious preacher and particularly partial to Pup-Peroni.

Monica Tanner, as Emily, was reminiscent of Beverly Owen's Marilyn Munster in the TV show about a family of monsters. Emily, like Marilyn, was the most "normal" character on the set. Tanner established her own acting skills not just by delivering lines with a realistic and measured ease; she used facial expressions and hand and body movements to great effect. There were many times when others on the Robin Theatre stage were speaking, but I found myself focused on Tanner instead. She could command that kind of attention just by blinking her eyes and shifting in her seat.

Tanner also made an appearance at the start of Konopliksky's second play, "SAL-9000." She was one of two movers who delivered a sophisticated robotic washing machine to Jill (Katy Kettles), a housewife at odds with her life. Tanner and her fellow mover (Nick Lemmer) mastered the cadence of carnival barkers explaining the virtues of the SAL-9000 to Jill.

Tracy Dolinar masterfully handled the smooth voice of the machine. He had a well suited computer voice, similar to the iconic Hal 9000 from "2001: A Space Odyssey." Only some microphone distortions and pops tarnished a silvery delivery.

Kettles dominated the stage for the three-scene "SAL-9000," frequently standing at the front of the stage in the intimate theater. Her reactions to SAL-9000's banter, which was often filled with hilarious sexual innuendo, felt genuine.

Again, the comedy in the second play

See Curtain Call, Page 10



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Amplified Empathy

## “Voice of the Whale” takes chamber music series into deep waters

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Music lovers are always searching for an evening that will take them out of themselves, but out-of-body experiences are rare,

let alone out-of-species ones.

### Save the Whales

Featuring George Crumb's "Vox Balaenae"  
Absolute Music  
Richard Sherman, flute; Carl Donakowski, cello; Casey Robards, piano  
7:30 Thursday, March 30  
\$5-20  
UrbanBeat Event Center  
1213 Turner St., Lansing  
(517) 256-8913,  
absolutemusiclansing.org

On March 30, “Vox Ballaenae,” or “Voice of the Whale,” by American composer George Crumb, will fill Lansing’s UrbanBeat Event Center with blue light and glassy, elusive tones

inspired by the songs of whales.

It’s a deep dive into interspecies communion and an adventurous entry in the highly successful Absolute Music chamber series, which usually sticks to the safer waters of Brahms and Mozart.

Richard Sherman, fiery principal flutist of the Lansing Symphony, senses that the cultural vibe is right for “Vox Balaenae.”

“There’s a whole aural landscape that most people going to traditional chamber concerts have never heard before,” Sherman said. “It reminds people that they are not the center of the universe. This represents,

not just whales specifically, but we’re a part of something bigger and need to take care of that bigger world.”

After hearing the first recordings of whales in the 1960s, Crumb amplified three instruments of a classical chamber trio — flute, cello and piano — and stretched their tonal palettes to deep-sea reaches of strange beauty. The work, performed for the first time in New York in 1971, is rarely heard.

Touches of theater, including oceanic blue lighting and black masks — both prescribed in the music’s score — shift the focus from the performers and their egos to even greater mysteries.

Sherman and cellist Carl Donakowski will have to coax harmonic overtones from their instruments and whistle. In addition to playing conventional notes, the pianist caresses the strings with a glass rod, strums them and sends out clicks emitted from paper clips inserted between the strings.

Crumb’s demands on the flutist go beyond virtuosity to include multi-tasking. Simultaneously singing and playing flute is a feat more closely associated with jazzman Rahsaan Roland Kirk than Debussy or Schubert.

“I have to make enough of a flute sound to counterbalance what’s going on in my throat, and that’s more effective some times than others,” he said.

At the end of the piece, Sherman will play a set of crotales — small, tuned metal cymbals — perched on Donakowski’s cello stand.

“It’s kind of a smorgasbord of 20th-century extended techniques for flute, keyboard and cello,” Sherman said. But it’s not musical anarchy. Sherman said the unusual

effects build from a “tonal base” listeners will find familiar.

“It’s not going to be so hard on the ears that people won’t be drawn in,” he said. “The whistling at the end, if amplified the right way, will really transport people to another place.”

The movements are grouped into long arcs of time, from the beginning of the universe to the end, with geological names like “Archaeozoic” and “Cenozoic.”

Sherman has played the piece only once in his long career, in 1982 as a student at Tanglewood, summer home of the Boston Symphony.

“I have not even heard it live since then,” he said. “This is possibly a once in a lifetime



Next week’s Absolute Music performance features George Crumb’s “Vox Balaenae,” written for amplified chamber trio and based on the songs of whales.

opportunity. It’s just not done.”

He thought “Vox Balaenae” would make a nice follow-up to last year’s Absolute Music ear-stretcher, “Quartet for the End of

Time” by French mystic Olivier Messiaen, but the Crumb piece presents a whole new world of challenges.

“If it comes together, it will be a small miracle,” Sherman said. “I feel a bit out of my depth, thrown into the deep blue sea, but I’ll tread water as best I can.”

It helps that Donakowski, a professor at James Madison University in Virginia, and Robards, who is based at Oberlin College, have played it more often than Sherman has.

“This will be a romp in the park for Casey,” he said. “She’s really versatile — she can do everything.”

The deep dive into Crumb will take up the entire second half of the evening. The first half is full of recent music by composers Jean-Michel Damase, James Sclater and one of four recently hired composition professors at MSU, Zhou Tian. All the pieces fall squarely in the lyrical, surging style at which Sherman excels.

Sherman is not a save-the-whales obsessive, but the message of “Vox Balaenae” fits the mood he’s sensing in audiences these days.

He still recalls a woman coming up to him after the Tanglewood performance in tears, saying, “We have to do something for these animals.”

Sherman isn’t comfortable getting into politics. He’s mostly interested in the musical challenges and charms of “Vox Balaenae.” But he feels that empathy, the heart of the piece, is in short supply.

“There’s just a lot of meanness out there,” Sherman said. “Whatever musicians and artists can do to help people think about things other than themselves, I’m all for it.”

## Curtain Call

from page 9

was mixed with some harshness and introspection. I found the mix less appealing in “SAL-9000,” and thought it was a little too long. The charm of having a passionate relationship with a washer gradually dissipated like a cloud of bubbles.

## Despair on rye

### ‘American Hero’ explores the struggle of the under-employed

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

In his director’s notes, Andy Callis suggested that “American Hero” had heroic

characters who found solutions to “problematic lives.” But when the play ended, all three lead characters — former “sandwich artists” for a national sandwich chain — were still unfairly unemployed. One was in jeopardy of losing her kids, one still struggled with a shaky marriage and an MBA he couldn’t use and the third lost the two

jobs she depended on to pay for her ailing father’s medication.

The cover of the playbill for Lansing Community College’s black box play included the quote, “We are all free now. We can do what we want.” But that never

### “American Hero”

LCC Theatre Program  
8 p.m. Friday, March 24 and  
Saturday, March 25  
\$10/\$5 students  
LCC Black Box Theatre  
Gannon Building, Room 168  
422 N. Washington Square,  
Lansing  
(517) 483-1488, lcc.com/  
cma/events

seemed possible for the principal characters, because the issues of corporate abandonment and inequality that caused their dismal states were never conquered.

Those weren’t the only questionable moments during the play. Why did a mom fighting for child custody attempt murder? How could a subway chain shop survive while selling peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as a mainstay? Why did an employee think a trip to tour the corporate office was such a grand “prize?” Why would a corporate executive reveal intimate details of his life to underlings he has just met? And why did the shop manager disappear?

The sandwich-maker leads were not to blame my bewilderments. Michelle Le-

rma, as Jamie; Jesse Deardorff-Green, as Ted; and Anna Hill, as Sheri, offered determined performances that got me to believe in the unsubstantiated characters overseeing the Torpedo Subs franchise, offering substance and distinction to their unfolding roles. The trio made their substantial, anything-but-subtle parts anything but sub-par. However, Bess Wolh’s substandard script, with its dubious subtext, doomed their efforts to failure — in my subjective opinion.

What was authentically sublime was the “American Hero” set, designed by Bob Fernholz, who also designed the play’s crafty lighting. Realistic signage by Taylor Riffle added to the sub shop décor. Props designed by Madj Shank included a real soda dispenser and cash register and walls adorned with loaves of bread. Oddly, though, there was no sign of an oven.

The set, complete with detailed paneling, trim work and bright paint, would have fit a big-budget TV studio as well as the black box stage. Accurate sound additions by Scott Crandall, including “pings” when anyone came through the entranceway, were also professionally executed.

Coordinated, colorful furniture and

walls matched the hues of the workers’ uniforms, which were fashioned in all their humiliating glory by Stephanie Henderson. Only the cowboy boots Stephen Clark awkwardly walked around in seemed out of place. Clark played the only customer to visit the shop during the weeks it was open.

The surreal Sandwich — embodied by Ndegwa McCloud — felt incongruent in a play that dwelled on miserable lives and bad choices. The flamboyant and glittery figment-of-a-dream character, despite McCloud’s charming performance, seemed more like a lost member of Parliament Funkedelic inserted as weird comic relief than a plausible solution to real-life injustice.

Dunia Zawideh, in her brief role as Beth the manager, was memorable — but remembered most for being hard to comprehend. Hunter Folleth, as corporate-type Gregory, suited his role, even if his role didn’t seem an accurate executive stereotype.

Alas, the true heroes of “American Hero” were none of the mostly-selfish characters portrayed on the LCC stage. It was most heroic when the steadfast actors delivered those characters’ full-of-stumbles-in-logic lines without stumbling.



# Berry 'n' Boogie

**The Woolies' Bob Baldori looks back on 50-year friendship with Chuck Berry**

By RICH TUPICA

When rock 'n' roll icon and pioneer Chuck Berry died over the weekend at 90, high-profile tributes lit up television and social media as the news broke.

"He taught me how to write rock," said the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. "He was a magician making music that was exotic yet normal," wrote Paul McCartney on his website. Meanwhile, Bruce Springsteen hailed Berry as "rock's greatest practitioner, guitarist, and the greatest pure rock 'n' roll writer who ever lived."

With a '50s-rock songbook that includes guitar-scorching hits like "Johnny B. Goode" "Roll Over Beethoven," "Rock and Roll Music" and "Maybellene," his vision inspired not only pop hit makers, but also lit a fire under punk-rock renegades like the Ramones and Detroit's own MC5.

Berry's immeasurable impact on pop culture is profound and far stretching, and a solid slice of that history belongs to Lansing, thanks to the Woolies, the Lansing-based band that backed up Berry at hundreds of shows over the last 50 years.

"Chuck and I were good buddies," said "Boogie" Bob Baldori, keyboardist and harmonica player of the Woolies. "I'd talk with him all of the time. After the gigs we'd go out to dinner to a Chinese restaurant. When I went to St. Louis, I'd stay at his home."

"I was 19 or 20 when I first started working with him," Baldori added. "I've probably played more gigs with Chuck than anybody else — dead or alive."

Baldori was at Berry's side, playing piano and harmonica, at many prestigious shows, including Wrigley Field in 1984 and at the White House in 1994 when Bill Clinton was president. Berry even chose Baldori's Lansing Sound studio to record his "San Francisco Dues" LP, issued in 1971 on Chess Records.

"He kept telling me, 'I'm going to cut my next album with you guys,'" Baldori said. "We were thinking, 'Yeah right, Chuck Berry is going to come here and record with us.' Next thing, I'm sitting there in the studio and he pulls up in a Cadillac. He spent a week here."

Courtesy Photo  
"Boogie" Bob Baldori and Chuck Berry share a laugh on stage in Orillia, Ontario, in 2004.



It all started in mid-August 1968, when the Woolies walked into the Dells, a now demolished music venue in Haslett on Lake Lansing. The young musicians were there to see their hero, Chuck Berry.

"We were out there at the Dells on the first night," Baldori recalled. "They'd hired a heavy metal-type band to back him up, so that first set was a train wreck."

The Dells' promoter spotted Baldori in the crowd and decided to fire the hard-rock band immediately and get the Woolies.

"(The promoter) said, 'Can you handle this?' Next thing I knew, I was in the dressing room with Charles and he was telling us what to do," Baldori said.

The shaggy haired, college-aged, blues-inspired rock 'n' roll group was hired for a multiple-day run backing the guitar legend. While the Dells gig was last minute, the well-rehearsed band knew all of Berry's material and was ready to back him on a whim.

"It was always easy," Baldori said. "It's like we were born to it."

Berry, a known stickler about his rhythm sections, took a liking to the Woolies and insisted their partnership continue beyond mid-Michigan. From there, Berry would continue working with pick-up bands at each show, but insisted that his booking agency, William Morris, recommend the Woolies to each promoter.

"When you hired Chuck, you'd get him, the guitar and the duckwalk — the promoter had to provide everything else," Baldori said. "If a promoter knew what they were doing, they'd hire us."

It wasn't lost on Baldori or his fellow

Woolies — which included his brother Jeff Baldori (guitar) and William Metros (drums) — that they were playing with the innovator of the music they loved.

"He's a pioneer, because he had the business point of view and knew he had to write and publish his own songs if he wanted to make money," Baldori said. "He's credited as being one of the most original creative forces of the 20th century in pop music, but he readily acknowledged his roots. He was picking it up from Elmore James, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, all of those people."

Aside from creating the rock 'n' roll blueprint, Berry was also known for his sometimes hot temper, which is demonstrated on well-known footage of him having it out with Keith Richards during a rehearsal.

"It goes back to Chuck being profes-

sional," Baldori said. "He could read music. He could say, 'Play in E flat,' and he'd expect you to be right there and do it. He'd expect you to listen, not just get up there and blast away. When you did that around Chuck, he could get ornery."

It's been two years since Baldori shared the stage with Berry. Their last show together was one of Berry's monthly gigs in St. Louis at Blueberry Hill.

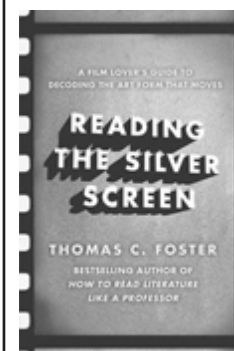
"I've been sad about this for a while," Baldori said. "For the past 50 years, every time we went up it was electric."

"Everyone talks about 'playing in the groove,' but almost nobody really does it," he added. "It requires a certain amount of technique, finesse and awareness. It's hard to find people who can do it. Chuck did it every night. If there's one thing I really learned from him, it's how to do that. I'm sure as hell going to miss not being able to do it with him again."

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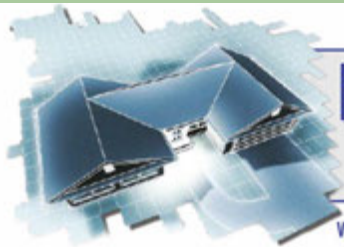
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# TOP OF THE TOWN TURNS 10!



### THE RULES

Like previous years, the contest is broken up into two rounds. In the first round, which runs from now through April 11, you can write in your own choices or choose people/places/businesses that have already been submitted. We started the contest this year by automatically adding the Top Five from the 2016 contest — or the Top Four where some have gone out of business.

**IMPORTANT:** If the business you are nominating has more than one location, be sure to indicate as specifically as possible which location, such as “Cedar Street” or “West Lansing.” In categories like Best Bartender or Best Hairstylist, be sure to list the person and the business he/she works for.

On May 10, we whittle the list down to the top five in each category, and those five battle it out in a Final Five runoff contest through May 23. Votes totals start at zero for the Final Five round, so be sure to support your favorite businesses, people and place through both rounds!

There are seven main categories and 126 subcategories. You must vote in at least 15 subcategories to have your votes count. You may spread your 15 votes through multiple main categories. You can only submit one entry per email address, so don't hit that submit button until you've voted in all the categories you wanted to.

Winners are announced in the June 7 issue of City Pulse. Winning a Top of the Town award means major bragging rights for local businesses, people and places, so grab your computer or smartphone and start voting!

**FOX 47** YES!  
WSYM TV

**CityPULSE**



Welcome to the 10th annual Top of the Town awards, presented by City Pulse and Fox 47. When we announced the winners of our first-ever best of Lansing contest on May 7, 2008, Hillary Clinton was locked in a fierce Democratic presidential primary with a young upstart named Barack Obama and America was just beginning to feel the effects of the Great Recession. The first installment of Marvel's “Iron Man” film franchise dominated box offices. Hits by Flo Rida, Lil Wayne and Mariah Carey topped the charts.

The big winner in our inaugural contest,

then called the Best of Greater Lansing, was Bonnie's Place (rest in grease), which took home 13 awards, including wins in Best Place To Be Seen, Best Burger and our short-lived Best Looking Bartenders/Waitstaff category.

Scattered throughout this section are breakouts that look back on the history of our contest. After you've checked out the categories in this issue, head over to [lansingcitypulse.com/tott2017](http://lansingcitypulse.com/tott2017) and get started. If you'd prefer a paper mail-in ballot, contact Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704 or [suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com)

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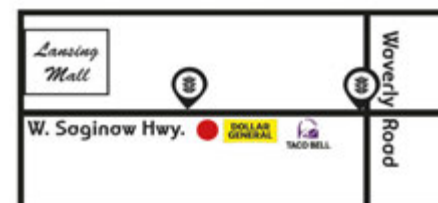
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- Asian Buffet
- Bakery
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- Brunch New!
- Burger
- Chinese
- Cocktails
- Craft Beer Selection
- Dessert
- Diner
- Family Friendly Restaurant New!
- Fish Fry
- Fries
- Greek
- Ice Cream Shop
- Italian
- Late Night Food New!
- Margarita New!
- Mediterranean
- Mexican
- New Restaurant
- Pizza
- Restaurant Wine List New!
- Sandwich/Deli
- Seafood
- Steak
- Sushi
- Thai
- Upscale Dining
- Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Options

### BEST HANGOUTS

- Biggby
- Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)
- Dance Bar
- For Students
- Gay/Lesbian Bar
- Happy Hour
- Karaoke
- Lansing-area Brewery
- Lansing-area Distillery
- Local Outing with Friends
- Movie Theater
- Music Venue
- Patio
- Place to Take Kids
- Bar
- Spartan Sports Hangout
- Sports Bar

### BEST LOCAL ARTS & MUSIC

- Cover Band
- Classical Musician
- Club DJ
- Event/Wedding DJ New!
- Folk Band/Artist
- Hip-Hop Group/Artist
- Jazz Group/Artist
- Theatre Group (local)
- Radio Station
- Rock Band/Artist
- Visual Artist New!

### BEST PEOPLE

- Bartender
- Budtender New!
- CATA Bus Driver
- Hairstylist
- High School Coach New!
- Local Advocate/Activist
- Local Comedian
- Local AM/FM Radio Personality
- Local TV News Personality
- Massage Therapist
- Nail Tech
- Personal Trainer New!
- Realtor New!
- Restaurant Wait Staff
- Best Local/State Politician
- Worst Local/State Politician

### BEST SERVICES

- Auto Repair
- Bank
- Cab Company New!
- Credit Union
- Bicycle Shop
- Car Wash/Detailing
- Chiropractor
- Dance Studio
- Dental Practice New!
- Gym/Fitness Studio
- Heating/Cooling/Plumbing/Electrical
- Bed & Breakfast
- Lawyer/Law Firm
- Cleaning Service (changed from Maid Service)

See Categories, Page 15



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TOP OF THE TOP

A LOOK AT SOME OF TOP OF THE TOWN'S LONGEST DYNASTIES

- Nine is the finest**
  - Crunchy's — Nine-time winner for Best Karaoke
  - Common Ground Music Festival — Nine-time winner for Best Annual Event/Festival
  - Flat, Black & Circular — Nine-time winner for Best Record/CD Store
  - Elderly Instruments — Nine-time winner for Best Musical Instruments Store
  - Horrocks — Nine-time winner for Best Produce, seven-time winner for Best Grocery Store
- Eight's pretty great**
  - Deluca's — Eight-time winner for Best Pizza
  - Jersey Giant — Eight-time winner for Best Sandwich/Deli
  - MSU Federal Credit Union — Eight-time winner for Best Bank/Credit Union
  - Schuler Books & Music — Eight-time winner for Best Bookstore
- El Azteco — Eight-time winner for Best Mexican
- Lucky number sevens**
  - Woody's Oasis — Seven-time winner for Best Mediterranean
  - Mitchell's Fish Market — Seven-time winner for Best Seafood
  - Green Door — Seven-time winner for Best Dance Bar
  - Spiral Dance Bar — Seven-time winner for Best Gay/Lesbian Bar
  - NCG Eastwood Cinemas — Seven-time winner for Best Movie Theater
  - Starfarm — Seven-time winner for Best Cover Band
  - Root Doctor — Seven-time winner for Best Original Band or Best Blues Band
  - Douglas J Salon — Seven-time winner for Best Nail Salon
  - Riverwalk Theatre — Seven-time winner for Best Local Theater Group

CATEGORIES

from page 14

- Marijuana Dispensary
- Men's Barbershop
- Nail Salon
- Non-profit Organization
- Pet Care/Vet Services
- Photographer/Photography Studio
- Real Estate Company **New!**
- Salon/Spa
- Tattoo Parlor
- Yoga Studio

**BEST SHOPPING**

- Antique Shop
- Art Gallery
- Beer Selection (Retail Store)
- Bookstore
- Butcher
- Candy Shop

- Clothing Store (Local)
- Consignment Shop
- Farmers Market
- Florist
- Gift Shop
- Grocery Store (Local)
- Indoor Grow Shop
- Jewelry Store
- Musical Instruments Store
- Organic/Natural Market
- Pawn/Secondhand Shop
- Pet Store
- Record/CD Store
- Wine Selection

**BEST WHATEVER**

- Eye Candy Place
- Local Instagram Account **New!**
- Local Twitter Account **New!**
- Most Unique Public Bathroom **New!**
- Worst Eyesore Place
- Worst Pothole - specific location **New!**

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## REST IN PEACE A LOOK BACK AT SOME TOP OF THE TOWN WINNERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US



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BEST COFFEE SHOP**

**Bonnie's Place** — In 2013, just one year after winning Best Burger award for the fourth year in a row, Bonnie's Place called it quits. The menu featured more than two dozen burger options, including the Bonnie Burger (a half-pound burger topped with ham) and the Texas Burger (served open-faced and covered in chili and shredded cheese). Local cholesterol levels haven't been the same since.

**Gone Wired Café** — Not so much gone as completely reimagined, this three-time Best Coffee Shop winner (2009, 2010, 2012) was transmogrified from a coffee-and-WiFi social hub into a raucous rock 'n' roll dive bar. Recently, the kitchen of this Eastside Neighborhood mainstay was turned over to Ruckus Ramen, specializing in authentic Japanese cuisine. Bet those crusty punks never saw *that* coming.

**The Edge 94.1** — In 2015, Lansing radio listeners finally found out what "alternative" music was the alternative to: classic country! Despite winning Best Radio Station in 2014, The Edge was rebranded as Duke FM the following year, and the mosh pit was officially supplanted by line dancers. Following this reactionary theme, sometime around the year 2020, the station will turn into an all-Dixieland jazz format.

**Emil's Restaurant** — One of Lansing's longest-running eateries, Emil's Restaurant took home the award for Best Italian Restaurant in 2010 and 2009, a testimony to the loyalty the restaurant enjoyed even after it was past its heyday. The bar and restaurant traced

its roots back to 1921, when Emil DeMarco opened a fruit stand on Michigan Avenue that gradually evolved into an Italian restaurant of the old school, with maps of Italy on the wall, red vinyl booths and an endless supply of unfussy, pre-artisanal, meatball-centric pasta dishes. The (unproven) legend that Al Capone ate there while in hiding from the Feds at Lake Lansing in the 1930s made the chicken diablo taste even more diabolical. Emil's closed in 2015. The building, along with most of the 2000 block of Michigan Avenue, was razed last year to make room for the Venue at East Town, an upcoming Gillespie Co. mixed-use development.

**The Irish Pub** — The Irish Pub was a St. Paddy's Day staple for over 30 years, earning City Pulse's Best Pub/Tavern award in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Alas, that goodwill wasn't good enough to keep the business going, and the final hurrah for this west side hangout was (fittingly) on St. Patrick's Day 2013. Shortly after it closed, it was bought by Grand Ledge resident Jeremy Werner, who had hoped to have it reopened within a few months. Obviously that never happened, but just this week he said progress was made to secure new financing. You can't keep a good pub down.

**Goodrich's Shop-Rite** — Known for its formidable wine and beer selection and meat counters, East Lansing grocer Goodrich's Shop-Rite wasn't the glitziest market in town, but it may have been the most beloved. Staffers

and customers stayed loyal for half a century or more. Mainstays like "Dr. Beef" (Dave Lindemann) and wine buyer/co-owner Steve Schefel read customers' minds, packing their orders before they even walked in the door. Rising rents, the rise of upscale chain markets and changing tastes caught up with Goodrich's, but it lasted long enough to take home awards for Best Butcher and Best Local Grocery Store in 2008 and Best Wine Shop in 2009. The store closed its doors for good in 2014 after 76 years of business in the Lansing area. Midwest grocery chain Fresh Thyme moved into its old digs on Trowbridge Road in 2015.

**BoarsHead Theatre** — The BoarsHead lived up to its grand Shakespearean appellation by virtue of big-city ambition and larger-than-life players, none larger than its founder, actor/director John Peakes, and his brilliant successor, actor/director Kristine Thatcher. The leading force in Lansing's theater scene for over 40 years and the region's only Actor's Equity theater, BoarsHead worked miracles in a converted car dealership in downtown Lansing, mounting new plays and venerated classics with gutsy professionalism. Actor John Hurt and several other movie and theater luminaries got their start at BoarsHead, but the glory of BoarsHead flowed from the many gifted players who stayed local, sharing their gifts with the community through a succession of hard financial times. BoarsHead took home the award for Best Local Theatre Group in 2008 and 2009, just before the company folded in 2009, citing financial hardships.



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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, March 22

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Beyond Stretching Class.** Learn slow movements to reduce muscle tension. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10.

LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. [beyondstretching.weebly.com](http://beyondstretching.weebly.com).

**Going to Market: Internet Marketing for Farmers and Artisans.** Course on increasing sales online. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Charlotte City Hall, 111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. (517) 483-1921, [ow.ly/axB93078j1W](http://ow.ly/axB93078j1W).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**MSU Creative Writing Center Group.** All creative writers encouraged to attend. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Women Heroes Journaling Craft.** Grades 1-5 with adult create a journal about female heroes. 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### EVENTS

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

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

**World Water Day Michigan.** March for Michigan water issues, including Flint crisis and Nestle situation. 3:30-7 p.m. FREE. State Capitol Building, 110 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [ow.ly/JjvA309RJjc](http://ow.ly/JjvA309RJjc).

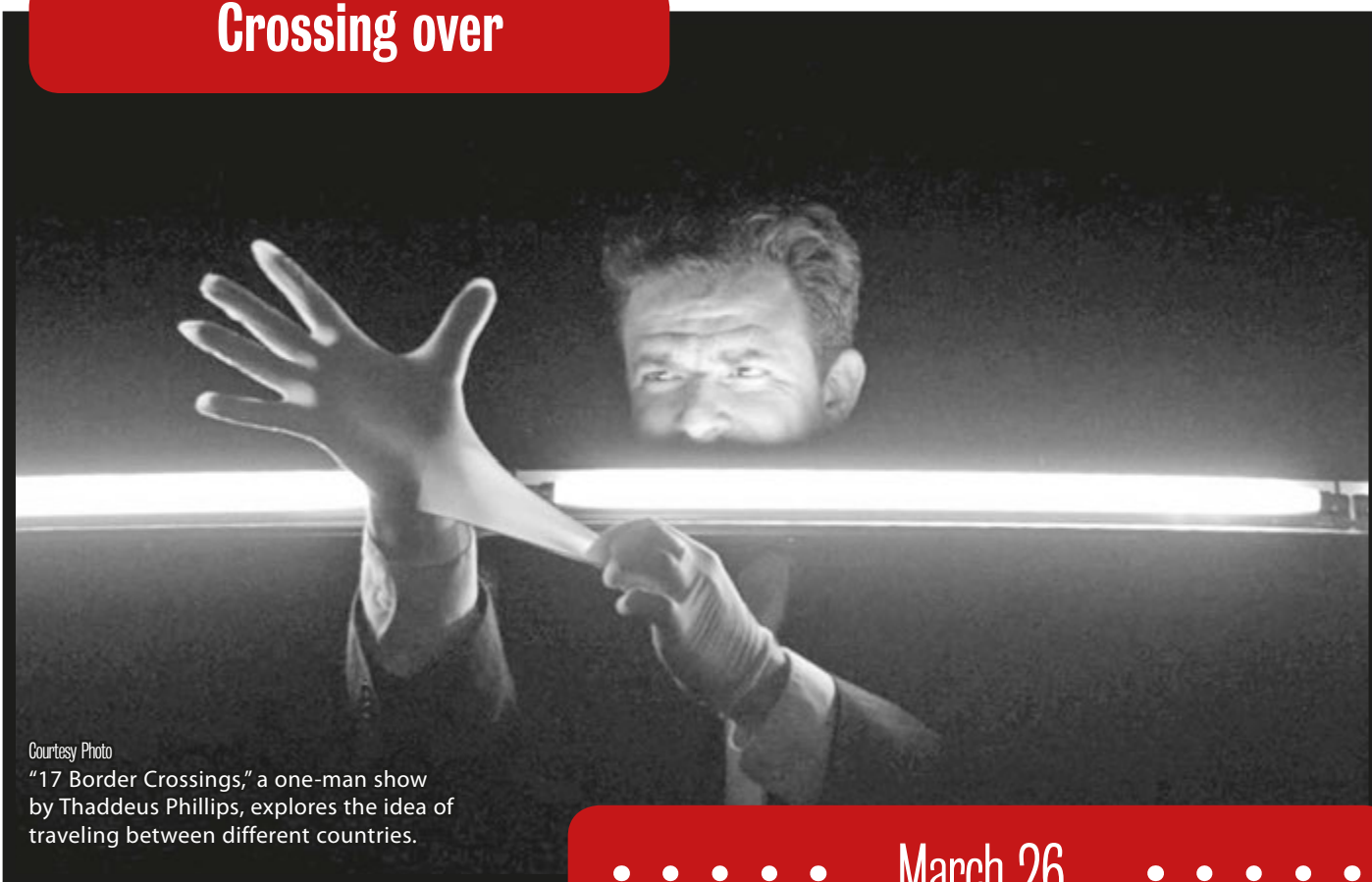
**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, [ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE](http://ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE).

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

**ICACS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions. All

See Out on the Town, Page 21

## Crossing over



Courtesy Photo

"17 Border Crossings," a one-man show by Thaddeus Phillips, explores the idea of traveling between different countries.

March 26

Some topical theater works date quickly as the world changes around them. Others come around again as events bring the world's attention back to certain issues. The reaction to "17 Border Crossings," Thaddeus Phillips' 2012 one-man show, is going through a new phase as issues of immigration and refugee rights dominate the headlines.

"A lot of the lines have a whole new level of meaning, without us doing anything," Phillips said. "That's been interesting, to explore the work in a different context."

"17 Border Crossings," which comes to the Wharton Center Sunday, is based in part on Phillips' travels in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Phillips explores the differences in travel in Europe, North America and the Middle East, including border crossings by plane, boat and tunnel.

"The premise of the show is very simple. It's different accounts of crossing borders," he said. "It kind of has a standup comedy feel, but then it turns to more serious things that have happened to people who have tried to cross borders."

The one-man-show is a mix of travelogue, live theater and commentary on the process of traveling between countries.

"The majority of crossings are based on real crossings that I did,

but we've transformed them into second person," Phillips explained. "You are now on this weird journey. It lifts it away from the personal, even though they're completely personal and highly detailed. Those personal crossings have been staged in a very theatrical way, using just a table and chair and a bar of lights."

Phillips also draws on the experiences of others to reflect on those who cross borders not by choice, but out of necessity.

"When I sit at the desk, in more of a monologue format, I tell stories from the news or other interesting stories that make the show about everyone," he said. "It gives you the perspective of other people trying to get out of their situations."

Some border crossings reflect a particular era. A pre-European Union crossing from Germany to Holland includes an encounter with border police. Other times, Phillips adjusts the show to reflect changes in countries' travel policies.

"I've started having U.S. border agents take away the character's cell phone, because that's something we heard they were doing," Phillips said.

Phillips finds that audience reactions have shifted over time in response to political events.

A U.S.-to-Mexico crossing set in Newark's Liberty International Airport, for example, is now colored by President Trump's fraught relationship with our southern neighbors.

"Some lines in there have much more resonance," Phillips said. "It's about borders all over the world, so it takes on different meanings at different times."

Phillips insists that his work isn't "explicitly political," but that it draws on the climate around him.

"We did a piece about tourism and terrorism right after 9/11. And I've done a piece about driving a Winnebago fueled by fryer grease from fast food restaurants, and it's all about global warming and running out of oil," he said. "But it's not directly about that. You're watching characters in situations that reflect those things. So in that sense, it's a roundabout, poetic way to look at the world."

— TY FORQUER

### "17 Border Crossings"

6:30 p.m. Sunday,  
March 26  
Tickets start at  
\$34.50/\$18 students  
Pasant Theatre  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane,  
East Lansing  
(517) 432-2000,  
[whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)





# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

### THE DEVIL'S CUT, LAST OF THE EASY RIDERS AT THE AVENUE CAFE



SAT. MARCH 25TH

The Devil's Cut

Last of the Easy Riders

Saturday, March 25 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10, 7 p.m.

The Devil's Cut, returning to Lansing after a U.S. tour, headlines a roster of rock 'n' rollers Saturday evening at the Avenue Café. The show was supposed to be the band's album release party, but due to a mastering hold up, only a free four-song teaser disc will be available. The forthcoming EP, "People Let You Down" on East Grand Record Co., is a follow up to 2015's "Antium" and features a fresh batch of tunes by the Devil's Cut frontman Joe Fox. While the band's genesis was more in the amped-up bluegrass realm, this new batch of tracks showcases Fox's ability to pen earnest, Springsteen-esque lyrics and pair them with robust, heartland-punk melodies. The band also features Jay Goldsmith (bass), Corey Staley (guitar) and drummer Derek Vaive.

Sharing the stage Saturday are fellow local bands Jason Alarm and Speak Easy, as well as Last of the Easy Riders, a Denver-based outfit. The four-piece specializes in Byrds-inspired folk-rock harmonies and country-tinged psychedelic sounds. The group's guitarist, Lansing native Christopher Minarik, is a former member of an assortment of other area acts, including Language. Last of the Easy Riders' self-titled debut EP was released last year on Agitated Records and features song credits from each member of the band, which also features Mitch Mitchum (drums, vocals), Daniel Duggan (bass, vocals) and guitarist Bradley Gear. While in town, the band is spending a week recording its new album with local analog producer George Szegedy.

## AMERICAN OPERA AND CARTER HULSEY AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



FRI. MARCH 31ST

American Opera

Friday, March 31 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. All ages, \$10, 7:30 p.m.

The Robin Theatre hosts two touring troubadours on March 31, American Opera and Carter Hulsey. Indie-rock songwriter John Bee's solo project, American Opera, has scored him not only a devoted national fan base, but also a record deal with Spartan Records, a Seattle-based label. Bee, who cut his teeth playing in the now-defunct post-hardcore band Your Best Friend, is a Saginaw native now living in Brooklyn. He spends much of the year touring the country, including high-profile gigs opening for acts like the Avett Brothers, Josh Ritter and Cursive. Last week he was performing showcases at South By Southwest. The American Opera debut LP, "Small Victories," is due out this year. Meanwhile, Hulsey is an American alt-country singer/songwriter from Joplin, Miss. Hulsey's songbook is stocked with haunting folk-rock melodies paired with polished, modern hooks.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	The Sneeks, FREE 9 p.m.	The Stick Arounds FREE, 7 p.m.	Devil's Cut, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistair, 9 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Chris Laskos, 8 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Mark Sala, 8 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Donald Benjamin, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd			Chaser, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Greg Smith, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Narc Out the Reds, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Rob K., 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,			Terminally Skilled, 8 p.m.	Hizen, 8:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Untied Skates / Former Critics, 8 p.m.	Half Waif, 7 p.m.	Captured By Robots, 8 p.m.	Beatz Bangin & Dj Enyce, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns, 9 p.m.	Freddie Cunningham Blues Band, 9 p.m.	Stan Craig Band, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 7:30 p.m.	Elkabong, 7 p.m.	
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Life Support, 8 p.m.	Bobby Standall, 8 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.				
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.		Collateral Damage, 4 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Live music, 9 p.m.	Live music, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.		Dan MacIachlan, 7 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		HENDERSHOTT, 7 p.m.		



# Out on the town

from page 19

animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.  
**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**ARTS**  
**Kresge Life Drawing Open Studio.** Open studio drop-in life drawing sessions with nude models. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/students FREE. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.  
**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.

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

**THEATER**  
**The Marriage of Figaro.** With MSU Opera Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$20 /\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

## Thursday, March 23

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 5:15 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.  
**A Course in Miracles.** Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.  
**Celebrate Recovery.** For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.  
**Mason Codependents Anonymous.** Support group. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.  
**Lean In Lead Up.** Professional development group for women. See web for location. 6-8 p.m. Panera Bread, 310 N. Clippert St., Lansing. bit.ly/leaninleadup.  
**Oracle Card Reading Workshop.** Bring or borrow a deck. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$20. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.  
**Raw Food Cooking Demonstration.** Recipes including zucchini noodles and chocolate brownies. 6-8 p.m. \$25 suggested donation. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/3IHs309E9d1.

**MUSIC**  
**Ken Yates with special guest Jen Sygit.** Concert with Canadian performer and Lansing-based performer. 7-10 p.m. \$15 suggested donation/kids FREE. Pumphouse Concerts, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 927-2100, ken Yates.com.  
**MSU Wind Symphony Concert.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students and kids FREE. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 >>> ‘EQUAL MEANS EQUAL’ SCREENING

East Lansing Film Festival and the Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame team up to celebrate Women’s History Month with a special screening and discussion of “Equal Means Equal.” The documentary explores issues of gender discrimination and systematic sexism. Through real life stories and legal cases, director Kamala Lopez shows how old-fashioned and discriminatory thoughts influence issues like workplace harassment, domestic violence and healthcare. A panel discussion follows the screening. 6:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/\$5 students. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. michiganwomen.org/marchfilm.aspx.

MARCH 22-26 >>> ‘THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO’ AT FAIRCHILD THEATRE

MSU Opera Theatre closes out its 2016-2017 season with a Mozart classic. Premiered in 1786, comic opera “The Marriage of Figaro” follows the antics of Count Almaviva, who attempts the thwart the marriage of two of his servants, Figaro and Susanna. This production is directed by MSU Professor of voice Melanie Helton, and Daniel Beckwith will conduct the orchestra. Beckwith served for six seasons as assistant to James Levine at the Metropolitan Opera. Helton delivers a pre-performance lecture 45 minutes before each show. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$20/ \$18 senior/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353- 5340, music.msu.edu.

MARCH 24-APRIL 23 >>> ‘1984’ AT WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

As the Trump administration continues to throw out baseless claims of wiretapping and surveillance microwaves, Williamston Theatre prepares to mount George Orwell’s dystopian tale of the always watching Big Brother. Originally written in response to looming communism and fascism in the 1940s, the novel’s descriptions of fear mongering and doublespeak feel just as relevant in today’s polarized political climate. 8 p.m. Thursday- Friday; 3 p.m and 8 p.m. Saturday (no matinee March 25); 3 p.m. Sunday. See website for ticket prices. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, willamstontheatre.org.

EVENTS

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.  
After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.  
After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room  
209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.  
Beginning Embroidery. Ages 8-16 embroider basic stitches over four weeks. Call to register. 3:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.  
Connecting with Dolls. Talk with doll collector Cindy Zimmerman. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.  
Drop-in Coloring. Ages 13 and up use coloring sheets and other supplies. 2-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville.



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Hours: Tues-Fri: 10-6 || Sat: 10-5 || Sun: Noon-4 || Closed Monday

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**Family Storytime.** Ages 6 and under build early literacy skills. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.  
**Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.** All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiessilverblades.com.  
**Spanish Conversation Group.** All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**THEATER**  
**1984.** Dystopian novel adapted for the stage. 8 p.m. Pay-what-you-can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, willamstontheatre.org.

## Friday, March 24

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.  
**Craft Talk with Ana Castillo.** Talk with Mexican-American writer. Registration required. 3 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/eqhg30a57lg.  
**Elementary Statistics Class Series.** 4-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**The Magic of Fairy House Building.** Create a whimsical mini-house. For ages 21 and up. 6-9 p.m. \$35. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road,

See Out on the Town, Page 22

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# Out on the town

from page 21

Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**An Evening With Ana Castillo.** Talk with Mexican-American writer. Registration required. 6-8 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/lAsb30a59bR.

**StoryTime.** Stories and activities for ages 2-5. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

**MSU Jazz Orchestras and Jazz Trombonist Conrad Herwig.** 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors/\$5 students and kids. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340,

music.msu.edu/event-listing.  
**MSU Wind Symphony Concert.** 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students and kids FREE. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.  
**The Kidd or the Deacon Show.** With Deacon Earl Darnell and Roger "Kidd Cincinnati" Gentry. 7-10 p.m. \$5. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 482-7910, urbanbeatevents.com.

## THEATER

**The Marriage of Figaro.** With MSU Opera Theatre. 8 p.m. \$20 /\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.  
**1984.** Dystopian novel adapted for the stage. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

## EVENTS

**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal

## MARCH 25-26 >>> JACOBSON'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CLOTHING DRIVE

In honor of Women's History Month, the Jacobson's Alumni Association is hoping to provide help for women re-entering the workplace. The group's two-day event is a combination clothing drive and clothing sale. For every piece of office-appropriate clothing attendees donate (limit five items), they will receive 5 percent off of their purchases. Donations benefit the Professional Clothing Closet of the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, which provides professional attire for women re-entering the workforce to wear to job interviews. Over 250 items were donated at last year's event. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. FREE, donations welcomed. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25 >>> SAVE A LIFE SOIREE

Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter offers a night of music, dancing and dining in hopes of saving more animals. The Save A Life Soiree, the group's largest annual fundraiser, raises money to provide better treatment for shelter animals. The evening also features live and silent auctions, including gift certificates to local businesses and plenty of goodies for pets. WLNS anchor Chivon Kloepper and Jim Bosh from WLMJ's "Bosh in the Morning" show will serve as emcees, and the group promises "some exciting announcements" about animal shelter improvements and the planned new animal shelter. 6 p.m. \$75/\$60 RSVP. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. (517) 676- 8370, ac.ingham.org.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26 >>> MICHIGAN GLOBAL ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Broad Art Museum hosts a concert of international music Sunday afternoon. The Michigan Global Roots Music Festival, a Michigan-based traveling festival, features contemporary Celtic group An Dro, local musicians Elden Kelly and Igor Houwat, traditional Japanese drumming group Michigan Hiryu Daiko and an array of dancers. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Card Party.** Guests form groups to play their favorite games. 7-9 p.m. \$5/\$8 couples. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com.  
**Ice Worlds.** Examination of icy ecosystems and ice on other planets. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. ow.ly/S30L307wkTS.  
**Make 'N' Take Iceberg Slime.** Grades 7-12 make crunchy texture slime. 4-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**St. Casimir Church Fish Fry.** Fried fish and

sides for Lent. 4-7 p.m. \$10/\$9 seniors/\$5 kids. St. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-8930.

## ARTS

**Michigan Collegiate Art Exhibition.** Opening reception March 24. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. ow.ly/E6RB308IOUX.

## Saturday, March 25 THEATER

The Marriage of Figaro. With MSU Opera

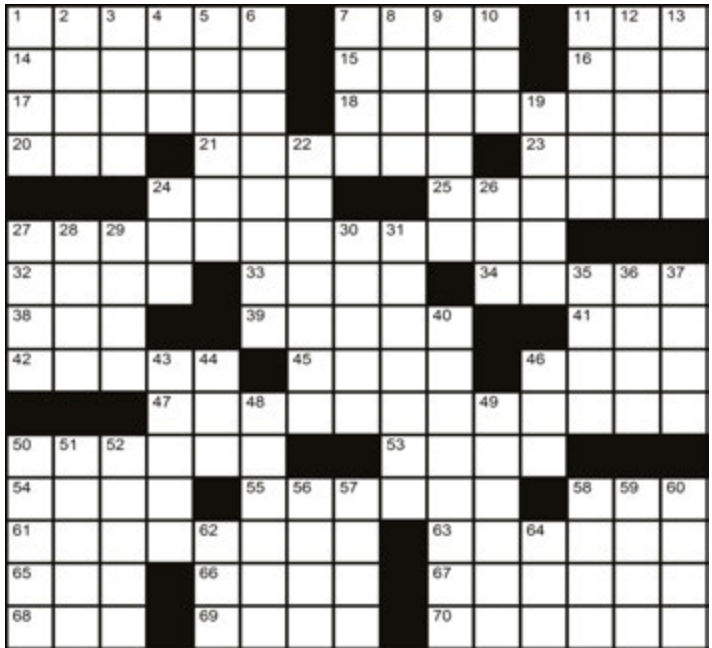
See Out on the Town, Page 23

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Ego Trips" — state your name.  
Matt Jones

**Across**  
1 2009 film set in 2154  
7 Backs of boats  
11 A.D.A. member's degree  
14 "Everybody Loves Raymond" star  
15 Grade  
16 Down Under hopper  
17 "Mean \_\_\_\_" (recurring Jimmy Kimmel segment)  
18 Frozen kids?  
20 ID for a taxpayer  
21 Aptly named card game  
23 Witty criticism  
24 "Entourage" actress Mazar  
25 Like some week-end "sales events"  
27 Leader of a Russian Doors tribute band?  
32 "Look!" to Dora the Explorer  
33 It's a question of time  
34 Plucks unwanted plants  
38 Took those plums from the icebox (that you were probably saving for breakfast)  
39 Lindsay of "Mean Girls"  
41 Bank acct. transaction  
42 Go down without power  
45 Actor Spall of "Life of Pi"  
46 One's in a lifetime?  
47 Mineral-fortified red wine?  
50 Head shop patron, presumably  
53 Fargo's st.  
54 Cyrano's protrusion  
55 Like Dick Clark's New Year's Eve specials  
58 "Foucault's Pendu-



lum" author  
61 CEO painter?  
63 Often-spiked drink  
65 Frozen food bag bit  
66 Met highlight  
67 Christian who plays the titular "Mr. Robot"  
68 Blow it  
69 Atmospheric 1990s CD-ROM puzzle game  
70 "Chappelle's Show" character who's always scratching

**Down**  
1 Cultural interests  
2 They're often exchanged for rituals  
3 "Absolutely!"  
4 \_\_\_\_ Bo (workout system that turns 25 in 2017)  
5 Spain's has no official lyrics  
6 Big game on January 1  
7 "The Kite Runner" protagonist

8 The 100% truth (accept no imitations!)  
9 Clandestine meetings  
10 If it's blue, it doesn't mean you're pregnant  
11 Priest of Stonehenge days  
12 Disco diva Summer  
13 How some people like their cereal  
19 O3  
22 Loud sound effect for rappers and morning radio shows  
24 "It's in my \_\_\_\_"  
26 "Where do I even begin ..."  
27 Computer since 1998  
28 Corleone patriarch in "The Godfather"  
29 8, for a two-by-four?  
30 It's supposed to be a sobering experience  
31 Low  
35 Hagman's "I Dream of Jeannie" costar  
36 Beyond reinflation

37 Full of life  
40 Most likely to squee over a Pi Day pie  
43 Bone-to-muscle connection  
44 Cool with Green Day  
46 Sound of a belly laugh  
48 Planetarium model  
49 Clumsily tall  
50 Long-billed marsh bird  
51 Cartridge stuff  
52 His first line was "Don't bang on my can!"  
56 Milo's canine pa  
57 Socialize in cyberspace  
58 Prefix with parasite  
59 Either "Barton Fink" director  
60 Grimm guy  
62 Sweet potato look-alike  
64 Long-jawed freshwater fish

## SUDOKU

## ADVANCED

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

## 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 24



Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

March 22-28

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Of course you want to get the best of everything. But that doesn't mean you should disdain cheap thrills that are more interesting and gratifying than the expensive kind. And of course you enjoy taking risks. But there's a big difference between gambling that's spurred by superstitious hunches and gambling rooted in smart research. And of course you're galvanized by competition. But why fritter away your competitive fire on efforts to impress people? A better use of that fire is to use it to hone your talents and integrity.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): If you own an untamable animal like a bull, the best way to manage it is to provide a fenced but spacious meadow where it can roam freely. So said famous Zen teacher Shunryu Suzuki, using a metaphor to address how we might deal with the unruly beasts in our own psyches. This is excellent advice for you right now, Taurus. I'd hate to see you try to quash or punish your inner wild thing. You need its boisterous power! It will be a fine ally if you can both keep it happy and make it work for you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): If I were to provide a strict interpretation of the astrological omens, I'd advise you to PARTY HARDY AND ROWDY AND STRONG AND OFTEN! I'd suggest that you attend a raging bash or convivial festivity once every day. And if that were logistically impossible, I'd advise you to stage your own daily celebrations, hopefully stocked with the most vivacious and stimulating people you can find. But I recognize that this counsel may be too extreme for you to honor. So I will simply invite you to PARTY HARDY AND ROWDY AND STRONG at least twice a week for the next four weeks. It's the medicine you need.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You are on the verge of achieving a sly victory over the part of you that is unduly meek and passive. I believe that in the coming weeks you will rise up like a resourceful hero and at least half-conquer a chronic fear. A rumbling streak of warrior luck will flow through you, enabling you to kill off any temptation you might have to take the easy way out. Congratulations in advance, my fellow Cancerian! I have rarely seen our tribe have so much power to triumph over our unconscious attraction to the victim role.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo journal entry, Thursday: Am too settled and stale and entrenched. Feeling urges to get cheeky and tousled. Friday: So what if I slept a little longer and arrived late? Who cares if the dishes are piling up in the sink? I hereby refuse law and order. Saturday: I'm fantasizing about doing dirty deeds. I'm thinking about breaking the taboos. Sunday: Found the strangest freshness in a place I didn't expect to. Sometimes chaos is kind of cute and friendly. Monday: The nagging voice of the taskmaster in my head is gone. Ding-dong. Let freedom ring!

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): William Boyd writes novels, which require him to do copious research about the real-world milieu he wants his fictional characters to inhabit. For example, to ensure the authenticity of his book *Waiting for Sunrise*, he found out what it was like to live in Vienna in 1913. He compares his process of searching for juicy facts to the feeding habits of a blue whale: engorging huge amounts of seawater to strain out the plankton that are good to eat. Ninety percent of the information he wades through is irrelevant, but the rest is tasty and nourishing. I suspect you'll thrive on a similar approach in the coming weeks, Virgo. Be patient as you search for what's useful.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here's a new word for you: enantiodromia. It's what happens when something turns into its opposite. It's nature's attempt to create equilibrium where there has been imbalance. Too much NO becomes YES, for example. A superabundance of yin mutates into yang, or an overemphasis on control generates chaos. Flip-flops like these tend to be messy if we resist them, but interesting if we cooperate. I figure

that's your choice right now. Which will it be? The latter, I hope. P.S.: The reversals that you consciously co-create may not be perfect. But even if they are baffling, I bet they will also be amusing and magnificent.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When I was 24, I lived in rural North Carolina and had a job washing dishes in a city four miles away. I was too poor to own a bicycle, let alone a car. To get to work I had to trudge down backroads where hostile dogs and drunk men in pick-up trucks roamed freely. Luckily, I discovered the art of psychic protection. At first I simply envisioned a golden force field surrounding me. Later I added visualizations of guardian animals to accompany me: two friendly lions and two sheltering wolves. Maybe it was just the placebo effect, but the experiment worked. My allies made me brave and kept me safe. You're welcome to borrow them, Scorpio, or conjure up your own version of spirit protectors. You're not in physical danger, but I suspect you need an extra layer of protection against other people's bad moods, manipulative ploys, and unconscious agendas.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I'm not suggesting you should listen to your heart with rapt attention every waking minute for the next four weeks. I don't expect you to neglect the insights your mind has to offer. But I would love to see you boost your attunement to the intelligent organ at the center of your chest. You're going to need its specific type of guidance more than ever in the coming months. And at this particular moment, it is beginning to overflow with wisdom that's so rich and raw that it could unleash a series of spiritual orgasms.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The empty space at the end of this sentence has intentionally been left blank. The serene hiatus you just glided through comes to you courtesy of Healing Silence, an ancient form of do-it-yourself therapy. Healing Silence is based on the under-appreciated truth that now and then it's restorative to just SHUT UP and abstain from activity for a while. (As you know, the world is crammed with so much noise and frenzy that it can be hard to hear yourself think -- or even feel.) With Healing Silence, you bask in a sanctuary of sweet nothingness for as long as you need to. Please try it sometime soon. Wrap yourself in the luxurious void of Healing Silence.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I hope you won't feel the need to say any of these things: 1. "I'm sorry I gave you everything I had without making sure you wanted it." 2. "Will you please just stop asking me to be so real." 3. "I long for the part of you that you'll never give me." Now here are things I hope you will say sometime soon: 1. "I thrived because the fire inside me burned brighter than the fire around me." (This declaration is lifted from novelist Joshua Graham.) 2. "I'm having fun, even though it's not the same kind of fun everyone else is having." (Borrowed from author C.S. Lewis.) 3. "I'm not searching for who I am. I'm searching for the person I aspire to be." (Stolen from author Robert Brault.)

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Are you fantasizing more about what you don't have and can't do than what you do have and can do? If so, please raise the "do have" and "can do" up to at least 51 percent. (Eighty percent would be better.) Have you been harshly critiquing yourself more than you have been gently taking care of yourself? If so, get your self-care level up to at least 51 percent. (Eight-five percent is better.) Are you flirting with a backward type of courage that makes you nervous about what everyone thinks of you and expects from you? If so, I invite you to cultivate a different kind of courage at least 51 percent of the time: courage to do what's right for you no matter what anyone thinks or expects. (Ninety percent is better.)

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

# Out on the town

from page 22

Theatre. 8 p.m. \$20 /\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**Askew Askance a Squirrel!** An evening of absurd comedies penned by Lisa Konoplisky. 8-10 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

**Auditions for Geeked.** Six short plays featuring geeky themes. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

**Auditions for She Kills Monsters.** Heartfelt geek comedy. 1- 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

**1984.** Dystopian novel adapted for the stage. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

## EVENTS

**Save a Life Soiree.** Fundraiser for animal shelter. 6-11 p.m. \$60. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison St., East Lansing. icasfund.org/events.

**Introduction to the Art of Pysanky.** Create a Ukrainian egg using the wax batik method. Call to register. 10:30 a.m.-noon FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

**Marble Maze.** Ages 5 and up make a maze. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

**Meet & Greet Aurelia Cisneros.** Meet future MMA pro and support Oak Park YMCA. 1-5 p.m. FREE. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. cisnerospromotions.com.

**Minecraft Free Play.** All levels of players are welcome. For grades 3 and up. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

**Science Saturday: Tech Petting Zoo.** Ages 5-10 explore selection of tech toys. 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

## Sunday, March 26

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

## MUSIC

**Michigan Global Roots Music Festival.** from the Middle East, West Africa, Japan and the Celtic nations. 2 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## THEATER

**The Marriage of Figaro.** With MSU Opera Theatre. 3 p.m. \$20 /\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**17 Border Crossings.** A trip around the world via storytelling. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets from \$34.50. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

**Askew Askance a Squirrel!** An evening of absurd comedies penned by Lisa Konoplisky. 8-10 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

**1984.** Dystopian novel adapted for the stage. 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

## EVENTS

**Atheists & Humanists Meeting.** Lecture on Trump and the China-Taiwan Controversy. 5-9:30 p.m. Buffet \$10.99 plus tax. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 914-2278, atheists.meetup.com/453.

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

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

**Timbuktu: Film + Discussion.** Film about religious fundamentalists in Mali. 3:30 p.m. \$8/\$7 students. Studio C!, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. (413) 362-9335, aflansing.org/activities/filmseries.

## ARTS

**Buck Naked.** Exhibit of art and photos by Amanda Grieshop, Teresa Petersen and Joy Baldwin. Noon-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt Hope Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/EWFF309Ylqp.

## Monday, March 27

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Digital Collections With Omeka.** Learn to build and organize digital collections. 12:30-2 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/azwO308C8nC.

**A Course in Love.** Weekly group dedicated to

See Out on the Town, Page 24

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26>>> AUX PETIT SOINS PRESENTS CARNAVAL CELEBRATION

French cultural center Aux Petite Soins brings another French tradition to Lansing with its first-ever Carnaval Celebration. “I was surprised that so few people in Michigan were aware of Carnaval,” said Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, founder of Aux Petits Soins. This Carnaval Celebration includes French beignets, non-alcoholic cider, an all-ages music class and a craft station for kids. The traditional celebration of Carnaval includes elaborate costumes, and children are encouraged to dress up in old Halloween costumes or other festive attire for Sunday’s celebration. 3 p.m. \$15/\$12 adv./children under 2 FREE. Hannah’s Koney Island, 4790 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apscarnavalcelebration.bpt.me



# Out on the town

from page 23

the study of the spiritual psychology. 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

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

**Sharper Focus Wider Lens: Transforming the World and the Power of Imagination.** Panel of MSU faculty discuss poetry, protests, films, art and more. 7- to 8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Union Ballroom, 49 Abbott Road, East Lansing.

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

**Painting Basics, Session 3: Mixed Media.** For ages 14 and up. 6:45 p.m. \$40. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**BabyTime.** Stories and activities for babies. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Celebrate 20 Years of Harry Potter – Charms.** Make a charm from upcycled books. 6-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**ELHS/ELPL Book Club.** FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Graphic Novel Writing Club.** For ages 12 and up. 4-6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Out of This World Book Club.** "Lest Darkness Fall" by L. Sprague De Camp. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

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

## THEATER

**Auditions: Witness for the Prosecution.** Courtroom drama by Agatha Christie. 6-8 p.m. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte. (517) 303-4576, andromedaplayers.org.

## EVENTS

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

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

**French Club.** Practice speaking, hearing French. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Game Night at UrbanBeat.** Bring your own, or play provided games. 5-8 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Maker Monday.** Ages 11 and up drop in to use crafting supplies, robots, computers and more. 3:30-6 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

**Monday Movie Matinee.** "Deepwater Horizon" Rated PG-13. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

## THURSDAY, MARCH 30 >>> THE HOT SARDINES AT THE WHARTON CENTER

The Hot Sardines warms up the Wharton Center stage once again next week. Dubbed by Forbes Magazine as “one of the best jazz bands in New York today,” the Hot Sardines recreate the hot jazz and sultry sounds of the ‘20s, ‘30s and ‘40s mixed with dashes of 1940s Paris flavor. The band, which sold out its 2015 visit to the Wharton Center, has since release its second album, “French Fries & Champagne.” 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$20.50/\$18 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

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

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

## Tuesday, March 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Gardening with Native Plants.** Design a garden with Michigan plants. Registration required. 7-9 p.m. \$15. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

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

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**ToddlerTime.** Pre-reading skills for toddlers. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

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

**The Scratch Pilots Present: Turntable Tuesdays Old School Hip Hop.** Featuring DJ's McCoy, Mr. Neddles, Duke, and Bizzy B. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## EVENTS

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

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

**Budget Policy: What Do We Value?** Talk reviewing federal budgets and citizen values. 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Dental Health Storytime.** Ages 6 and under learn good dental habits. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

**Drop-in LEGO Club.** Ages 4 and up play with LEGO. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

**Early Literacy Playtime.** Ages up to 4 stories and activities to prepare kids for reading. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

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

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

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

**Minecraft Game Night.** Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 6-7:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

**Storytime for Big Kids.** For those graduated from preschool storytime. 12-12:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

**TED Talk Tuesdays.** Watch a TED Talk and then discuss the subject, facilitated by library staff. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

## ARTS

**50 Years On: Conversations Around the Collection.** Talk on Detroit and art. 2 p.m. FREE.

Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## Wednesday, March 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

**Know Your Numbers: Using Financial Statements to Better Manage Business.** Call to register. 8 a.m.-noon. \$10. Small Business Development Center, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/KFTW3088shH.

## EVENTS

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

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

**Captive Audience Storytime.** Ages 7 and up read aloud to a judgment-free group. 4:30-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

**Preschool Storytime.** Ages 3-6 build early literacy skills. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

**Teen Movie.** "Finding Dory" Rated PG, 103 minutes. 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**MFA Public Talks.** Graduate students speak. 6 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

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

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

## ARTS

**Kresge Life Drawing Open Studio.** Open studio drop-in life drawing sessions with nude models. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/students FREE. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

**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.

**Painted Pallet Program.** Make a painted wood sign to be auctioned off. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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## GLAZED AND CONFUSED / TIMEOUT PLAY CAFÉ / SWEETIE-LICIOUS BAKERY CAFÉ

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

TimeOut Play Café is a new business model combining an activity space for preschool-age children and a social hub for parents. It is scheduled to open early next month in East Lansing.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

When Pete Counseller signed the lease recently on a second location for his downtown Lansing bakery, **Glazed and Confused**, he was presented with a distinct restriction: He couldn't do lunch. The new store, located in the shopping plaza on the southwest corner of Coolidge and Lake Lansing roads in northwest East Lansing, would be too close to a new **Jimmy John's** shop, so the building's owner built a no-compete clause into the agreement. Counseller, a resourceful entrepreneur, took it in stride.

"So we're doing breakfast instead," he said. "It actually worked out great, because there's a real need for a made-from-scratch breakfast restaurant in town. I don't think people know what they've been missing."

The new location, due to open April 3, will feature a menu loaded with breakfast staples such as biscuits and gravy, eggs benedict and French toast, albeit prepared with Glazed and Confused's signature flair. The French toast will be done in the bananas Foster style and served with a house-made butter rum syrup. Counseller worked with a local butcher to create a special sausage blend that's used in his sausage gravy. And all of the biscuits and English muffins will be made fresh when people order the dish.

"They only take three minutes to bake, so we'll still be able to get everything out in under five minutes," Counseller said. "At breakfast, you don't want to be sitting around waiting for your meal. You just want to eat."

Of course, all of Glazed and Confused's regular pastries will make the move, including cake and yeast doughnuts, sticky buns, scones, muffins and cookies. The new location will also feature coffee from Old Town's **Bloom Coffee Roasters**, as well as French press loose-leaf tea.

Another novelty will be the new drive-thru lane. For at least the first six months, an actual human being

will stand outside, taking orders and processing payments remotely. This, Counseller said, should improve the flow.

"Those menu boards are so impersonal, and it's hard to make up your mind when you have so many choices," Counseller said. "And in time, I want the drive-thru to be as personable as if you'd just walked in, with the staff able to know what your order is and greeting you by name. Service is incredibly important to me."

### Hitting play

When Christine Burke moved to Michigan from Southern California five years ago, she switched career gears from corporate sales into stay-at-home mom mode. She made the decision without qualms, but soon found herself missing the company of, you know, other grownups.

"When you're new in town, you usually meet other people at work, but I wasn't leaving the house," Burke said. "And my son wasn't in daycare, so I wasn't meeting other moms either. So purely out of frustration, I came up with this idea of a café that had a play area so that moms could get a time out from being a parent all day."

That idea, which Burke mostly developed during a second pregnancy, will come to entrepreneurial life early next month when she opens **TimeOut Play Café**. It's a new business model geared to foster the psychological wellbeing of both full-time parents and their children.

"Even the most loving, attentive parent in the world just needs a break every now and then to have a real adult conversation," Burke said. "And it's useful beyond just mental health. Sometimes you're looking for a good pediatrician recommendation or a dance class for your daughter or just some advice. The goal is to make TimeOut into a central location for parents to meet and exchange that kind of information."

Access to play area is \$9 for the first child, \$7 for each additional child. There's a walled off area for crawlers for \$4; no children over 6 are allowed in the 1,200-square-foot play area. Burke wants to avoid any kind of membership system, but might be open to some sort of rewards program somewhere down the line. She said she's waiting to see how business goes, but based on the interest in Facebook mom groups and curious passerby, that doesn't seem to be a problem.

"I've got friends in California who have heard about this, waiting for me to do all the hard work to see how it turns out," Burke said. "But yeah, if it works out, this might be the beginning of a new (franchise)."

The 1,200-square-foot café will feature coffee from Haslett-based **Lucky Duck Premium Coffee**, and pastries will be brought in fresh daily from **Chapelure** in East Lansing's Hannah Plaza. There will also be an in-house masseuse performing neck and back massages twice a month. Both the play area and the café are shoe-free zones, and the wall-mounted hand sanitizers are there to keep germs from spreading.

TimeOut will be open weekdays only but available for birthday parties and other rental purposes on Saturdays. Burke hasn't picked an opening date yet, but said it should be early next month.

"I can't believe there's not already something like this," Burke said. "I'm just glad no one stole my idea all that time I was joking about how a place like this was needed."

### Sweet expansion

After expanding into Grand Rapids in 2014, DeWitt's **Sweetie-Licious Bakery Café** is opening another location a little closer to home. Later this year, Linda Hundt will bring her famous pies to an as-yet undisclosed location in Old Town. The announcement was teased on the business' Facebook page earlier this week, but Hundt did not return a call by press time. More details to come.

### Glazed and Confused (tentatively opens April 3)

**1595 W. Lake Lansing Road Suite 100, East Lansing**  
**6 a.m.-8 p.m. daily**  
**(517) 253-7194, glazedandconfusedbakery.net**

### TimeOut Play Café (opens early April)

**2650 E. Grand River Ave. Unit A, East Lansing**  
**10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday;**  
**closed Saturday-Sunday (available Saturdays for private parties)**  
**(517) 253-7194, timeoutplaycafe.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](mailto:allan@lansingcitypulse.com).*

# TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

*Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to [facebook.com/lansingapp](https://facebook.com/lansingapp) or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.*

*Bon appétit!*

## TOP 5 BAKERIES

### #1 BAKE N' CAKES

"Butter makes it better" at this bakery, known for its cupcakes and specialty desserts  
3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
(517) 337-2253  
[bakencakes.com](http://bakencakes.com)  
6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #2 ROMA BAKERY

City Pulse readers love its baked goods, especially the cannolis  
428 N. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 485-9466  
[romabakerydeli.com](http://romabakerydeli.com)  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #3 GLAZED & CONFUSED

Specializing in donuts, this bakery offers unique flavors.  
(517) 253-7147  
[glazedandconfusedbakery.net](http://glazedandconfusedbakery.net)  
107 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #4 SWEETIE-LICIOUS BAKERY CAFE

This bakery, which specializes in pies, encourages patrons to "eat pie, love life."  
108 N. Bridge Street, Dewitt  
(517) 669-9300  
[sweetie-licious.com](http://sweetie-licious.com)  
7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #5 GROOVY DONUTS

This bakery bills itself as an old-school and retro donut and coffee shop.  
313 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston.  
(517) 996-6300  
Closed Monday; 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday



# Steeped in tradition

**MSU grad Raji Singh brings luxury tea brand to East Lansing**

By MEGAN WESTERS

"When I left the U.S., I thought of Lipton when I thought of tea," said Raji Singh.

But a lot has changed since then. Singh, 25, is the North American business development director for luxury tea brand Newby Teas. While her taste in tea has evolved with her new job, her original statement isn't too far off from what many Americans might think when they hear the word tea.

Tea, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., is the most consumed beverage in the world, second only to water. The beverage is less popular in the U.S., where coffee is king, but the demand for tea in the U.S. is growing. According to the Tea Association of the U.S.A., specialty teas alone saw an 8 to 10 percent growth in market sales between 2010 and 2015, supported mainly by baby boomers and millennials.

While East Lansing isn't necessarily a hub for the baby boomers, the college town is no stranger to millennials. With the rising popularity of tea, and good tea at that, Newby seems to have arrived in Greater Lansing at the perfect time.

An Okemos native, Singh graduated

from Michigan State University with a degree in international relations in 2014. In 2015, she moved to London to live with family, where she was introduced to the Newby brand and Nirmal Sethia, owner and founder of Newby Teas. After intensive tea training and education, she returned to East Lansing in August 2016 to launch Newby Teas' first North American office.



Singh

I met up with Singh to taste some of the Newby teas for myself. Like any luxury brand, the experience is a main component of the product, and after stepping into Newby's tasting room and seeing an ornate silver tea set at one end of the bar and three clear glass pots with perfectly steeped tea on the other end, I could tell that going for a tasting at Newby Teas wasn't simply about tasting — it was the entire experience.

Singh started the tasting by explaining how teas are made. All teas start with the same plant, and that it's how they're processed that determines the tea profile. We also talked about Sethia, who died in 2010. In memory of her, Sethia built the world's largest tea set collection, acquiring close to 1,600 pieces.

After the explanation, Singh took a tiny, clear, bowl-shaped glass and poured



Courtesy Photo

Newby Tea's East Lansing office, the first North American office for the luxury tea brand, includes a tasting room and education center.

me some jasmine green tea. Its flavors were soft, pleasantly floral and not as hot as I expected it to be. Steeping green tea in boiling water, I learned, can cause bitterness. Second, I tried a masala chai. This chai wasn't made with milk, which I've grown accustomed to in a chai. It was hotter than expected, so the first taste was a wash. By the second and third tastes, however, the sweet flavors came through, as well as a little spice. It was very aromatic and warmed my throat. The third wasn't actually a tea at all. It was a strawberry mango tisane; a tea-like drink that's not made with tea but instead uses natural flavors like spices, fruits or herbs. Chamomile, for example, is a tisane. This tisane tasted like straw-

berries and mangos — no surprise there — but it wasn't sugary because there are no added sweeteners. While it was good warm, I would have preferred it over ice.

This decade has seen a decline in fast and overly-processed foods in America, while quality and healthiness seem to be trumping convenience in many aspects of consumer life. According to Singh, tea is more proof that this is true. She compared it to coffee, where slower methods like pour-over are replacing traditional Mr. Coffee-style brews. Similarly, the act of brewing loose-leaf tea is no quick process. Patience is a virtue, they say, and as Newby expands in America, Singh is hoping that Americans will embrace the virtues of well-made teas.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority is seeking vendors for lawn maintenance at its For Sale properties. Insurance required. Qualification Packet is available on or after March 22, 2017 at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due March 29, 2017 at 1 pm and will be opened March 29, 2017 at 1 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFQ #: 2017-0329-SALE

CP#17-077

### CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE

**LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION IS MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017  
FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017 SPECIAL ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the **EAST LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT**,  
Counties of INGHAM and CLINTON, State of Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT EAST LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL HOLD AN ELECTION ON MAY 2, 2017.

For the purpose of voting on the following proposal:

#### East Lansing School District Bonding Proposal

**THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE  
MAY 2, 2017 SPECIAL ELECTION, IS MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017.**

To register to vote, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office or your County, City or Township Clerk during regular business hours.

Clerk's offices with qualified electors in East Lansing are at the following locations:

East Lansing City Clerk, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, 48823	517-319-6914
Clinton County Clerk, 100 E. State Street, Ste 2600, St. Johns 48879	989-224-5140
Ingham County Clerk, 341 S. Jefferson, Mason, 48854	517-676-7255
Ingham County Clerk, 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, 48933	517-483-6424

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Marie E. Wicks  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#17-076

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# Olympic Burger — Olympic Broil

When I visit a restaurant, I'm always looking for interesting you-can-only-get-it-here items. On my most recent trip to Olympic Broil, I strayed from my usual order — olive burger and onion rings — to try just such an item: the Olympic Burger. (I still got the onion rings.)

The Olympic Burger takes a quarter-pound beef patty and tops it with



## What's your favorite dish/drink?

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

mayo, lettuce, cheese and Coney sauce. The whole thing is served on a classic sesame seed bun. It's like the best adult sloppy Joe you can imagine. This is not

### Olympic Broil

10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday  
1320 N. Grand Ave., Lansing  
(517) 485-8584,  
[olympicbroil.com](http://olympicbroil.com)

health food, but if you've been to Olympic Broil, you already know this. Almost half of the menu options

visit the deep fryer before they hit your tray.

And speaking of the fryer, I love Olympic Broil's onion rings. The onion rings are all different sizes, unlike the unnerving sameness of restaurant chain onion rings that are somehow all the exact same size. It's not exactly fresh vegetables, but it feels like the real deal, at least.

Olympic Broil probably shouldn't be an everyday stop, but it's OK to give in to grease and mayo once in a while. It's worth spending another hour on the treadmill for.

— Ty Forquer



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# THE PULSIFIEDS

## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Engineering: The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position: Engineering/Physicist Accelerator III (East Lansing, MI) Develop, implement, test electronic data acquisition and controls systems for multiple beam diagnostic systems including rf digital receivers, charge and current monitors, fast cryogenic thermometric sensors, actuated scanning probes, machine protection systems; develop timing and time stamp facility for profile monitors and similar scanning devices based around Galil controllers and FGPDB timing and event receiver modules. Qualified candidates will possess Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering + 5 years exp. as Computer Engineer or related physics computer engineering position. Must have five years exp in control systems for particle accelerator applications, development of EPICS-based software and control systems development, installation and maintenance of low level and high level control systems. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.jobs.msu.edu](http://www.jobs.msu.edu) and search for posting number 5091. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

**The County of Ingham**, on behalf of the Ingham County Treasurer as Foreclosing Government Unit, solicits interested and qualified and licensed title firms to submit proposals for entering into a one-year agreement, with an option to renew for four (4) additional one-year periods, for the purpose of completing title searches on parcels in accordance with the General Property Tax Act 206 of 1893 on tax delinquent property forfeited to the Ingham County Treasurer beginning in March 22, 2017. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link, Pkt 69-17

**Ingham County** seeks bids for furnishing rental uniforms, cleaning of such uniforms, rental and cleaning of area protection mats and shop towels for the Road Dept. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link, Pkt 62-17

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 <p><b>Capital Dank</b> 1202 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (517) 657-7885 Hours- 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily</p>	<p><b>Lansing's #1 Premium Medical Provisioning Center.</b> Capital Dank is a medical marijuana dispensary with an enormous selection of high quality strains, concentrates, and infused products. We offer safe, well-appointed environments in which certified patients can get quality medical marijuana.</p>	 <p><b>Capital Wellness</b> 1825 E. Michigan, Lansing (517) 708-7023 Hours: Mon-Thur: 11am-10pm; Fri &amp; Sat: 11am-11pm; Sun: Noon-9pm</p>	<p><b>Visit Capital Wellness for Lansing's largest selection of edibles!</b> We also have a huge selection of flower, concentrates and accessories. Check out our specials on Weedmaps and Leafly. Find us on Instagram at Capital_Wellness.</p>
 <p><b>KOLA</b> 1106 N. Larch St., Lansing (517) 999-0994 Hours- Mon - Sat Noon-7pm Sun Noon-5pm</p>	<p><b>Here at Kola, we have the highest quality, lab tested meds obtainable.</b> We strive to continually raise the bar, bettering the industry and community through excellent quality control, great service and education. You can expect an open, safe facility with professional, knowledgeable and friendly staff - stop by and let us show you what we have to offer.</p>	 <p><b>Nature's Alternative</b> 2521 S. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 253-7290 Hours- Mon-Sat: 11.am. to 8 p.m. Sun: Noon-5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Our mission at Nature's Alternative is to provide access to high quality, medical marijuana in a safe and professional environment.</b> We are committed to helping patients find the most effective relief for their qualifying ailments. A wide variety of lab tested medical marijuana flowers, edibles and extracts are always available.</p>
 <p><b>The Emerald City</b> 2200 S. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 253-0397 Hours- Mon-Sat: 10 AM-11 PM Sun: Noon-7 PM</p>	<p><b>Emerald City is one of Lansing's oldest and fastest growing provision centers!</b> We Strive to provide the most comfortable, professional and cleanest atmosphere to access medical marijuana in the state of Michigan. Our meds are the highest quality at the best possible prices we can provide. "City Pulse" to (313) 349-4700.</p>	 <p><b>Cedar Street MMMP</b> 3205 S. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 708-0577 Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am-11 pm Sat-Sun: 10 am-11 pm</p>	<p><b>Our mission is to ensure the highest standards of client relations,</b> make sure each patient feels comfortable, and informed. Come meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff for recommendations on our wide variety of flower, edibles, CBD products, concentrates, and more! Still need to get certified? Stop in and we'll help!</p>
 <p><b>Got Meds</b> 3405 S. Cedar St, Lansing (517) 253-7468 Hours- Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.-midnight Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-2 a.m. Sun: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Got Meds is a donation-based organization committed to meeting its customers' needs.</b> As a result, a high percentage of our business is from repeat customers and referrals. Our budtenders are knowledgeable and experienced, allowing us to deliver you the best services and products in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.</p>	 <p><b>Star Buds</b> 2012 N. Larch St., Lansing <a href="http://starbuds-mi.com">starbuds-mi.com</a> (517) 977-1085 Hours- Mon-Fri: 10 am-7 p.m.; Sat: 10 a.m.-5 pm Sun: Noon- 5 pm</p>	<p><b>StarBuds combines years of experience serving the Lansing area</b> with an educated staff to bring you an unparalleled selection of quality products and accurate marijuana information. Our mission is to give you high-quality tested medicine with an emphasis on patient education. StarBuds is here to help!</p>
<p>Advertise your <b>DISPENSARY</b> here!</p>		 <p><b>Superior Genetics</b> 1522 Turner St., Lansing Hours- Mon-Sat 10am-8pm Sunday 10am-5pm</p>	<p><b>Conveniently Located in the Old Town District in North Lansing,</b> Just minutes from I496 and I69. We Offer ONLY Top Quality Medical Marijuana Strains, Medibles, and Alternative Medicines that are ALWAYS Lab tested. Check us out on the WEEDMAPS app, or stop in today! "Superior Genetics, A Natural Healing Collective."</p>