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March 1-7, 2017

## GAME CHANGER



Bernero  
bows  
out, p. 5

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Lansing State Journal





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# Feedback

## Trump, transgender and suicide

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among adolescents between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Suicide rates are highest among sexual minorities. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) studied the effects of legalization of gay marriage on suicide attempts in high school youth. They compared changes in suicide attempts among all public high school students before and after implementation of state policies in 32 states permitting same-sex marriage with changes in suicide attempts among high school students in 15 states without policies permitting same-sex marriage.

The rate of suicide attempts fell 7% for all students in states with same-sex marriage laws compared to states without them. The rate of suicide attempts fell 14% for those who identified as LGBT. Previous suicide attempts are a risk factor for suicide.

My concern about President Trump and Attorney General Sessions reversing the guidelines on transgender use of bathrooms is not about political correctness. It's about saving lives.

— **Abby Schwartz,**  
Lansing

## Do the right thing

The name of the article, "What's in a name?" well I can tell you the answer; nothing and everything because there is so little but so much that comes with it whether it's a name of a person or name a place. The thing that most don't understand though is the fact that we don't have to be named to go to do good why is it that we'll have to be named as such what does that show? That show, in my opinion that we are no better than anyone else. Why do we need to name ourselves, why can we just do what is right? We were born from foreigners, we were created because of how we were being treated yet we won't do

that for other people that truly need it, that is what I call unjust. If you need to call yourself a "sanctuary city" fine but do something to help those in need because if no one helps then why are we called the beacon of hope? There are problems with becoming one but that's not our fault it the president that thinks keeping out those that we need and making them feel like they are not wanted here because we belittle them in

what way does that help? I think we should just help those that need it because it's the right thing to do.

— **Sabrina Costilla,**  
Lansing

## Pros and cons on sanctuary city

"what's in a name?" Just because Lansing police refuse to act as immigration officers, does not mean we need to put a title onto the city. We as a culture feel we need to put a name to something to give it meaning. A sanctuary is a safe place, so by naming it we are telling illegal immigrants that Lansing is a safe place for them to live. We give groups of people names because it is easier to say a whole select group of people did something than just a few people. So the same could go for how the government sections off the nation. If they deem Lansing a sanctuary city it could also benefit our economy, or it could destroy it. If they take away the possibility of getting 6.5 million dollars in funding, and actually do it, than our economy could be effected drastically. On the other hand we could have more immigrants moving into the area, putting money and possibly businesses into our economy.

— **Rachel Cortes,**  
Portland

## Look at what's beneath racism

The article "Finding Hope" by Eve Kucharski that was published last week in the Lansing City Pulse, narrowed down the issue of the unfair hand African Americans get handed when dealing with the law. They are stereotyped to always be in the wrong, they are always at fault, always putting up a fight, and always given the brutal outcome, ending in injustice. Therefore, we relate back to MLK's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" paragraph 11, first sentence, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." When will the justice system be fair? When will we look at the color of people's blood, not the color of their skin. We all bleed red, not black or white. Non-violent protests don't help, violent protests don't help, so what's the next step? Who's to say when enough is enough? Imagine a world with peace. Imagine everybody hand in hand, looking past the "shell" of color we show. You can only push on a bubble before it pops, so no wonder why so many African Americans lash out, they are tired of being pushed to the ground, but what if racism wasn't a thing, would the violent outbreaks be a thing either? You have to look at the bigger picture, the cause and effect, and find a solution to the bigger lying issues.

— **Kaleigh Schavey,**  
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

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

### 2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

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**ART**

Courtesy Photo

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**THIS MODERN WORLD**

**by TOM TOMORROW**

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# PULSE NEWS & OPINION

## The Bernero legacy

### While other cities collapsed, Lansing progressed despite Great Recession

In January 2006, newly sworn-in Mayor Virg Bernero was unpacking boxes in his new ninth floor office overlooking the Capitol. It was still the New Year's holiday, but he was ready to get to work.

Eleven years and two months later, Bernero is figuratively starting to pack those boxes. He announced on Monday he will not seek a fourth term, paving the way for an open primary to replace him.

Bernero's administration has been filled with ups and downs, twists and turns and continuous action. He's created a public persona — The Angriest Mayor in America — that has served as a two-edged sword, and he's led the city through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. And under his leadership he has remade the skyline of the city.

His legacy will be development projects many thought could never happen and piloting a ship through perilous economic times and budget deficits, but also of a complicated and tumultuous history of battles with city elected officials, officials from other jurisdictions and even with citizens.

"His legacy should be that he moved this city through a very, very dark time, and we came out better for it," said 2nd Ward Councilwoman Tina Houghton.

When Bernero first took office, he inherited an \$11 million budget shortfall that required serious cuts. That was two years before the rest of the country was seized by the Great Recession, but Michigan was already feeling its pressure as the foreclosure crisis spiraled. Property values were beginning to sag, and the state was cutting revenue sharing. It forced Bernero, his administration and the City Council to find cost-saving solutions while keeping the city's essential services in place and functional.

"We can't turn the ship of city government around single-handedly. We'll need the entire staff of 1,150, from top to bottom," he said during his transition in 2005.

The result of those austerity measures shrank the city work force, to 851 budgeted positions this fiscal year. Those cuts were achieved by privatizing the city's information technology work as well as much of the parks department. City-county partnerships negotiated by Bernero moved Potter Park Zoo and the 9-1-1 Center employees to Ingham

County government.

"His work steered the city through an era of austerity after the Great Recession," said James McClurken, a candidate for the 4th Ward City Council seat and a Bernero appointee to the Parks Board. "He did an admirable job of keeping up services even when there was no money, and he should be proud of that."

While the city was navigating the economic crisis and trying to prevent an ava-

lanche of financial woes from crushing it, Bernero also sought out new investments in Lansing.

### Local leaders grade Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero

	<b>B+/A-</b> <b>Tim Daman</b> <i>President and CEO, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce</i>		<b>B+</b> <b>Peter Spadafore</b> <i>Lansing School Board Member and City Council Candidate</i>		<b>C</b> <b>James McClurken</b> <i>Lansing Parks Board and City Council Candidate</i>
	<b>C</b> <b>Carol Wood</b> <i>Lansing City Councilwoman</i>		<b>D</b> <b>Elaine Womboldt</b> <i>Rejuvenating South Lansing</i>		<b>B+</b> <b>Tina Houghton</b> <i>Lansing City Councilwoman</i>
	<b>D</b> <b>Rick Jones</b> <i>Michigan Senator (R-Grand Ledge)</i>		<b>P</b> <b>Judi Brown Clarke</b> <i>Lansing City Councilwoman</i>		<b>C</b> <b>Penny Gardner</b> <i>Walnut Neighborhood Resident</i>

lanche of financial woes from crushing it, Bernero also sought out new investments in Lansing.

When Bernero came into office, the space across from the baseball stadium was a parking lot — the multi-story building that had sat there torn down years before by a zealous reformer, Mayor Terry McKane. The hulking Ottawa Power Station on Grand Avenue, reduced to housing water cooling equipment, cast a forlorn shadow alongside the Grand River. The downtown district was struggling; the former Knapp's Department Store stood unused.

The redevelopment of the Ottawa Power Station as the headquarters of the Accident Fund Insurance Co. was the "pinnacle" that broke through a stagnant development landscape, said Bob Trezise, CEO and president of Lansing Economic Area Partnership. In 2006, he worked for Bernero heading up the

city's economic development programs. "This was the tough nut to crack," Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said in an interview with City Pulse in 2011. "That was the symbol, either of stagnation or success, and we knew it."

"That project had a profound impact across the city," Trezise said Monday. "It was this project that nobody thought 'little Lansing' could do. But we did. And the psychological impact of that was immeasurable."

Other developments followed. The Stadium District. The Outfield. The Marshall Street Armory. SkyVue. East Town Flats. The Knapp's Center. So much activity in fact, that as the state and country were being battered by the economic crisis, Bernero could proudly boast of "cranes in the air" as he sought reelection in 2009.

"I think the mayor should be especially

proud of his work on projects like the Accident Fund rehabilitation and the proactive work surrounding the lead water line replacements," said Lansing School Board member Peter Spadafore. He is seeking an at-large seat on the City Council this year.

tech center for neighbors to access. That property now stands empty, renovations half done. The former schoolyard is stacked with construction material and some of the windows are covered in plywood. A for sale sign is planted on the property's north-east corner.

But he also leaves a trail of announced projects that went by the wayside.

Twice he has announced specific plans and developers for the School for the Blind property on Pine Street. A 2013 proposal involving the Ingham County Land Bank and The Great Lakes Capital Fund (now Cinnaire) never materialized, despite City Council approval. A new proposal announced last year ran into scheduling and public notice snafus, delaying approval of payment in lieu of taxes deals to subsidize low-income housing in the new development, proposed by Cinnaire and Indiana-based TWG Development. The second proposal is still working

its way through city and state authorities for various abatements and approvals. In addition, Bernero touted the redevelopment of the Holmes Street School on the city's east side by Spartan Internet.

In 2008, Spartan Internet Properties received an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act tax exemption as well as a personal property tax exemption, worth a combined \$449,000, according to the Lansing Economic Development Corp., from the City Council for the Holmes Street School property. They each last 12 years. Five years later, the organization and deal came under scrutiny when it was revealed the property taxes had not been paid on time. The property was going to be redeveloped into a home for the advertising and consulting business run by Spartan Internet, with assurances to the surrounding community it would also offer a

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# Legacy

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signed a purchase agreement for the property in 2014. The purchase agreement would have had the company pay \$5.8 million for the 121-acre parcel, which it would redevelop into a retail and residential area. However, the sale was contingent on rezoning by the township.

The rezoning never happened. The Schostak development signs are gone, replaced by a for sale sign.

With 10 months left in office, Trezise said Bernero has some developments still coming. The biggest is the Red Cedar Renaissance project where the city's Red Cedar Golf Course was on Michigan Avenue. But he also noted, "We are talking to several developers about big hotel projects in downtown" now that the deal Bernero inherited has expired that gave the Radisson exclusivity.

Over on the city's west side, the long-abandoned former GM properties have been left as wind-blown lots. But last year the Racer Trust announced it had found a buyer, Northpoint Developmen, of Missouri, for all of RACER's Lansing-area properties, known as Lansing Plants 2, 3, 5 and 6. The Plants 2 and 3 properties are in Lansing Township, the Plant 5 property is in Delta Township and the Plant 6 property is in the City of Lansing. Together, the properties total 259.6 acres.

Without providing specifics, Trezise said the project would bring manufacturing jobs back to the properties.

"It's a game changer for the city and the

region," he said. "It will be manufacturing back to the properties — with hundreds, if not thousands of jobs."

Not everyone lavishes praise on the developments under Bernero.

"It was good for developers," said neighborhood activist Elaine Womboldt. She is the facilitator of Rejuvenating South Lansing, a community activist group but spoke as an individual. "But neighborhoods were left behind."

Penny Gardner, a resident of the Walnut Neighborhood, was a supporter of Bernero until Niowave, a high tech business he helped lure to the city, built a giant pole barn on its property. It blocked out sun for nearby properties and did not fit into the neighborhood. Neighbors were up in arms, but Bernero and his team defended the company and the pole barn. Eventually, the fight went to City Council. The Council tried to rescind tax abatements given to the company, only to be told there is no provision in state law to allow that to happen.

The neighborhood, Gardner said, was left feeling abandoned by the mayor.

Those developments are also criticized by so-called dark money groups, which do political education using untraceable funds. They've attacked the tax abatements given out under Bernero as sweetheart deals to developers that leave Lansing taxpayers holding the bag. Trezise notes that the developments bring jobs, and in many instances new residents, and that increases the city's income tax rolls. He noted in the last two years, the city has posted small gains in population, reversing a trend of nearly 40 years.

"I do question his philosophy," said Ryan

Smith, president of Cherry Neighborhood Association. "I think the philosophy is more of a get-the-tail-to-wag-the-dog mentality where we bring in all these developers, we fund it on the backs of taxpayers, and I question really how much the residents and the little people of Lansing benefit from it."

All of Bernero's successes with the developments and budgets were also fraught with his penchant for running his mouth. A form of verbal Ebola, if you will. His straight-talking mantra morphed over time into the persona of America's Angriest Mayor, and for most interviewed that persona was a double-edged sword. He could lavish praise on those in his good graces, and he could fill voicemail messages with profanity-laced missives. He was not above calling Lansing Township North Korea, saying 1st Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington was just her predecessor, Eric Hewitt, in drag, or calling former Council President Brian Jeffries a "piece of shit."

"He's proud of that title" of angriest mayor, said Councilwoman Carol Wood who ran against him in 2009. "There are times where that title has worked and there are times where that title has not."

It did in 2008, when he caught the attention of the national media for his spirited advocacy of the auto industry bailout during its darkest time.

Houghton said that personality trait was what helped get the city through the Great Recession. "Without that I am not sure if wouldn't be like Flint or Detroit," she said.

But Bernero's mouth also troubled some in the community.

"He's very divisive. He's a 'my way or the highway' kind of guy," said Cherry Hill's Smith. "I think that was sexy to people when it first started. Unfortunately the negative and divisive tactics have really weighed hard on people over time."

Bernero rode into office in 2005 as a progressive reformer, ousting Mayor Tony Benavides. Part of Bernero's appeal was to the LGBTQ community. He often told the story of his brother dying of complications

of HIV infection and told the community he stood with them. He pushed, along with City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, for the adoption of a comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance that would include the LG-BTQ community. That was adopted in 2006, a decade after the city rejected a similar law.

But he also defended the Lansing Police Department when it released the HIV-positive status of a man arrested in a gay sex sting operation in Fenner Nature Center in 2009. He ultimately sought guidance from former Attorney General Mike Cox, who ruled the city had the right to release it under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. In 2013, Councilwoman Washington raised concerns about a waive of anti-LGBTQ violence sweeping through Russia and particularly St. Petersburg. Her concern? The city had a sister city's relationship with the city. She wanted to end that, but Bernero challenged her, saying the city should work with counterparts in St. Petersburg "diplomatically."

McClurken, who is gay, said that he thinks Bernero's commitment to LGBTQ issues was "very personal," but in the instances above, "They weren't just as important to him."

On the campaign trail in 2005, Bernero hammered at Benavides when it was announced many of his top deputies were leaving the city with what Bernero, and others, criticized as "golden parachutes." He promised to prevent such things from happening under his leadership.

Yet there have been the \$650,000 settlement with former BWL General Manager Peter Lark and the \$160,000 settlement with former Lansing City Attorney Janene McIntyre.

Despite his work righting the finances of the city, it remains in significant peril with a looming \$600 million in legacy debt owed to former employees. Bernero was able to negotiate tough deals and concessions from the city's bargaining units and unions, creating a tough love/hate relationship with organized labor, which had originally backed him.

One solution to the long-term debt concern recommended by Bernero's financial health team was selling BWL. He originally resisted that call. But in 2015 — concerned that a bankruptcy judge would force Lansing to sell the BWL — he said he was "open" to studying it and tasked the Financial Health Team to do so. His decision not to seek reelection frees him to call for such a sale, although getting it through the Council so it can be placed on the ballot is a steep challenge, given that four incumbents face reelection this year and that public sentiment undoubtedly runs strongly against it.

Much of the Bernero legacy is written on the Lansing skyline and the history of the city's budget during economic crisis — but he has 10 months left, and he has promised he's not stopping his work for the city until his term is over. What his final legacy might be has yet to be inked.

— Todd Heywood



## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

On February 22, 2017, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road  
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court  
Hope Bobas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road  
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street  
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road  
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.  
and the Township Web Site [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#17-045

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting bid proposals for **Comprehensive Residential Energy Audit Services** at various properties. The RFP# Energy-03-2017 is available March 1, 2017, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids are due at the Land Bank office by 2pm, on March 16, 2017. Bid Review will begin March 16, 2017 at 2pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#17-040

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is soliciting bid proposals for Residential Stake Surveys at various properties. The RFP # Survey-03-2017 is available on March 1, 2017, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids will be due at the Land Bank office by 2:30pm on March 16, 2017. Bid Review will begin March 16, 2017, at 2:30pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#17-041

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a mortgage given by Harold Jay Leeman, Jr. to Diane K. Abbott, Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr., dated July 21, 2015, and recorded August 12, 2015, in Ingham County records at 2015-031073, is being foreclosed on by The Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr. The property subject to this foreclosure is described as: Lots 358 and 359 Foster Farm, City of Lansing, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 39, Ingham County records. Commonly known as 529 North Francis Street, Lansing, MI, Parcel Number 33-01-01-14-126-351. There is currently due and owing on the mortgage \$25,310.40 exclusive of taxes, costs and attorney fees, bearing interest at a default interest rate of 6.0%. The period within which the premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale. The foreclosure sale of this property will take place on March 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ingham County Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan.

In the event this property is sold at foreclosure sale, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damages sustained by the property during the redemption period.

Thomas E. Woods  
Cummins Woods  
421 West Ionia Street  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 487-0800  
Dated: February 2, 2017  
ICLN 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 2017  
CP#17-033

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FILE NO. 17-249-GA

In the matter of Laurinda Lee.  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:  
**TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on March 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI before Judge G. Economy for the following purpose: Guardianship hearing for incapacitated adult.

2/27/2017  
DeAnn Moreno  
5303 S. Cedar St.  
Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 887-9664

CP#17-048



## While he's ahead

'Family first' rings true as Bernero calls it quits

What a difference 10 days make.

Two Fridays ago, Virg Bernero appeared to be off and running for a fourth term as mayor of Lansing.

Then, Monday, the Lansing political world shifted. Bernero pulled out, citing family reasons.

Here's what I've learned from numerous sources, mostly not for attribution:

— He really did pull out for family reasons.

— Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke will undoubtedly run, with an announcement expected as soon as today. (She will be the guest on this week's edition of "City Pulse Newsmakers" on My18 TV at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. It will also be available at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).)

— Lansing Clerk Chris Swope is mulling whether to run for mayor.

The timing of Bernero's announcement caught even close associates off guard, but not the decision itself. They knew he was torn about seeking an unprecedented fourth term. Indeed, you didn't need to be close to him to have heard rumors.

But his odd press release 10 days ago seemed to settle the matter. I say odd, because it offhandedly said, "I am prepared reapply (sic) for my job." You'd think such an announcement would not be done in a sloppy press release issued late on a Friday, the worst news cycle as people launch their weekends. Strange timing for



BERL SCHWARTZ

a pro like Bernero.

The thrust of the press release was classic Virg, though: It attacked state Rep. Andy Schor, who was a few days away from formally announcing his candidacy. Bernero went after Schor for bringing onboard PR guy TJ Bucholz as his spokesman, because Bucholz also represents a dark-money group opposed to Bernero. "This news is especially disheartening after the nasty, hate-filled presidential campaign that has divided our country," Bernero declared.

The attack dripped with hypocrisy, given Bernero's personal association with Capitol Region Progress, itself a dark money group whose attacks on opponents brought local politics to a new low.

But it also signaled the kind of campaign Bernero thought he'd have to run — and that may have been what finally pushed him to decide against running.

If getting elected again was going to be a cakewalk for Bernero, I think he would have run. But it promised to be anything but. His opponents were prepared to spread outlandish innuendo about Bernero, none of which I'm going to give credence to by repeating here.

Bernero decided against putting his family, particularly his wife, Teri Bernero, through it.

One source close to Bernero told me that Teri Bernero made it clear that she did not want another campaign that would be a major distraction from her career. An accomplished educator, she is the director of the Pathway Promise and HOPE/Promise Scholar programs for the Lansing School District. She has ambitious plans for those programs.

"It's her turn," my source told me.

On top of that, the Berneros are caring for his 91-year-old father, who has serious

health issues. I know from personal knowledge that the mayor is determined to keep his widowed father at home as long as possible, an ever-increasing challenge. Bernero is a hard-working mayor whose load was incompatible with bearing his share of that responsibility.

Gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer — who sat out a race for attorney general for family reasons — summed it up for me: "The city of Lansing will not be at Virg's side when he is on his death bed. His family will."

Bernero's decision leaves the mayor's race as Schor's to lose. The establishment is free now to fall in behind Schor — and most will, despite concern by some that he is too pro-labor. He's the odds-on favorite to be the next mayor, and the smart money will go to him, especially given his sterling reputation as honest, personable and industrious.

That doesn't mean he is home free. Brown Clarke, as an African American woman, has appeal. But her negatives are strong: a late start in the fundraising game, a thin public record as a one-term Councilwoman and very possibly a thin skin, evidenced by the fit she threw over a harmless illustration of her in this newspaper that she and her husband, Judge Hugh Clarke, saw as making her look like a "Sambo." That overreaction was a wakeup call for many people who do not want another mercurial personality running the city.

Moreover, Brown Clarke could have a Bill Clinton problem. There's a perception that Judge Clarke aspires to be co-mayor. The Clarks will try to paint that view as sexist, but those familiar with Judge Clarke find the co-mayor scenario as entirely plausible, given that he hardly hides his show-biz-mother ambitions for his wife. Judge Clarke obviously has his support-

ers — they put him on the school board and elected him judge after former Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed him to fill an open seat. He can be charming. But he can also be overbearing, which could make him a liability if the co-mayor label sticks.

Her biggest problem, though, may be her dismissal from MSU as the women's athletic coach two decades ago in the wake of an NCAA probe. Rumors were rampant that Bernero planned to use that against her. Whether Schor will is a good question.

As for Swope, he's a plausible candidate: He's got nearly 12 years of experience in City Hall as clerk, compared to zero for Schor and three-plus as a part-timer for Brown Clarke. He has strong name recognition and lots of friends who would help him raise funds. But he can't run for both clerk and mayor, and he's a realist — witness his decision not to run for Ingham County clerk when former state Rep. Barb Byrum, a stronger candidate, jumped in. Moreover, being mayor is heavy lifting, and this may not be the right time for him, given his part-time role in his husband's expanding business, Bradley's Home and Garden. At 49, he has time — and if Schor wins, Swope could run to replace him in the state House of Representatives, with an eye on the Senate down the road.

A final thought on Bernero's exit: He gave interviews to everyone in town except City Pulse, despite endorsing him four times for mayor and once for governor (one of two newspapers to do so). His gripe, I'm told, is he thinks reporter Todd Heywood is unfair to him. That's been going on for two years, even though in all that time, he and his spokesman, Randy Hannan, have yet to present a serious case that Heywood's reporting is inaccurate. They just don't like his questions.

## Efficiency deficiency

South Lansing businesses targeted in door-to-door energy-saving drive

A grass roots drive in a South Lansing neighborhood is starting with old-fashioned knocks on doors, but the modest investment in shoe leather could change the city's energy future.

Energy efficiency isn't as glamorous as shiny solar arrays or vast wind farms, but this month's targeted push has the potential to expand throughout Lansing, taking pressure off the city's energy load and affecting strategic decisions on whether to build more power plants.

Lansing Councilman Adam Hussein, one of the door knockers, has visited over 20 businesses so far, coaxing them to agree to free energy audits and take advantage of incentives from Consumers Energy and the Lansing Board of Water & Light.

"I'm having a blast," Hussein said. "I've lived in southwest Lansing my whole life, 35 years, and there are businesses I didn't even

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Guillermo Diaz (right), director of Consumers Energy's Healthy Neighbors program, talks about the new South Lansing energy efficiency drive with Theresa Lark, director of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, and Lansing City Councilman Adam Hussain at a meeting last week. The team will visit every business in the project pilot area by the end of March and will begin visiting residences in April.

know were there."

Despite the best intentions, years of touting free LED bulbs, rebates on appliances and other energy efficiency incentives haven't penetrated to busy residents and business owners.

That's the conclusion reached last fall by Board of Water & Light Commissioner Dennis Louney and a coalition of civic, environ-



mental and community leaders.

It's a shame, Louney said, because energy efficiency is one of the easiest, cheapest and most effective ways to reduce energy demand.

Taking a military, building-by-building approach, a self-styled "SWAT team" (for "stronger when acting together") has started visiting every business in a section of South

Lansing bounded by Holmes Road to the north, Wainwright Avenue to the west, Mary Street to the south and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the east by the end of March.

The team includes the city of Lansing, the Board of Water & Light, Consumers Energy and the community group Rejuvenating South Lansing.

In April, the team will begin visiting private homes in the pilot area.

Lynette Wilkes was a bit flabbergasted to see a City Councilman march into Munchies, her 25-year-old fast-food chicken and fish restaurant at 4100 S. MLK.

"It was nice to see somebody willing to help," she said. "You've got these big, multi-million-dollar companies that get all the tax breaks in the world, and you've got Mom & Pop — me — who the city does nothing to help."

At Hussain's urging, Wilkes agreed to an energy audit and is reaping the fruit already. Last month, BWL staffers put in long-lasting, energy efficient LED bulbs free of charge. "I've got 32 bulbs just up here in the



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for **Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) Building Survey Services** at various properties. The RFP #ACM-03-2017 is available on March 1, 2017, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids will be due at the Land Bank office by 1pm on March 16, 2017. Bid Review will begin March 16, 2017, at 1pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#17-038

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting bid proposals for the **Lead Based Paint Hazard Risk Assessment and Clearance Services**. The RFP # LBP-03-2017 is available on March 1, 2017, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids are due at the Land Bank office by 1:30pm, on March 16, 2017. Bid Review will begin March 16, 2017, at 1:30pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#17-039

### 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, March 22, 2017** in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1397, an application request from Agree Limited Partnership to rezone the property at 2447 East Lake Lansing Road from B4, Restricted Office Business District to B2, Retail Sales Business District. The property is 7.10 acres in size.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1401, a request from Jerich Properties to rezone the property at 421 West Lake Lansing Road from RA, Residential Agricultural to B4, Restricted Office Business. The property is .69 acres in size.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 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#17-043

### CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared applications requesting State of Michigan ("State") financial assistance for Fiscal Year 2018 from the State Comprehensive Transportation Fund under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal transit assistance ("FTA") under federal laws, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	\$12,112,500
FTA/State (20%) Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	\$ 7,980,193
State Specialized Services	\$ 50,000
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	\$ 308,258
FTA/State (20%) Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	\$ 841,963
FTA/State (20%) Service Development and New Technology	\$ 1,000,000
FTA/State (20%) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	\$ 825,154
FTA/State (20% capital) Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	\$ 425,296
TOTAL	\$23,543,364

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include: Purchase large and small buses; purchase paratransit vehicles for transporting customers; purchase of support vehicles; preventive maintenance; technology systems; planning; maintenance equipment; bus replacement parts; safety and security system; customer enhancement; and facility improvements.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint please contact our Deputy CEO at the address given below.

Additional details on the proposed applications are on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (February 26, 2017 – March 27, 2017), Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Written comments on the proposed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2017. CATA will hold a public hearing on the proposed grant applications on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the CATA Board Room located at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2018 Grant Application, Attn: Grants Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

CP#17-044

## Efficiency

from page 7

lobby," she said. The day we talked, Wilkes was heading to Battle Creek to shop for a badly needed food warmer, spurred by the prospect of a \$200 rebate from BWL.

"That's a nice piece of money for a small business," she said. She also plans to switch to LED lighting in the parking lot.

Her restaurant needs a new outside sign, a purchase she has been dreading. The SWAT team tipped her off to rebates and zero-interest financing over 24 months, and she has more energy-audit-inspired plans.

"This may be the deciding factor on me replacing my HVAC system," she said. "If I can pay for it over two years instead of paying \$11,000 up front, that's a big difference."

Knocking on doors usually ends in a certain amount of rejection, Hussain said, but so far, he hasn't met a single business owner who wasn't interested.

"I had no idea these programs existed," Wilkes said. "The city councilman is the one who came in and told me, and I can't thank him enough."

Elaine Womboldt, of the community group Rejuvenating South Lansing, has also knocked on a lot of doors.

"We didn't know what to expect, but we are surprised at the enthusiasm of many of the businesses when we walked in," Womboldt said.

At a SWAT meeting last week, Guillermo Diaz, director of Consumers Energy's Healthy Neighbors program, said the SWAT project was "refreshing" and "well organized." He called the project "a force multiplier to help build credibility."

"People aren't too fond of utilities," Diaz said. "They are extremely skeptical of these kinds of programs — 'Is there going to be a fee on my bill? This can't be free.'"

The SWAT team has set a goal of persuading 90 percent of the businesses and residents in the pilot area to at least agree to

a free energy audit.

After the audit, program participants get a laundry list of programs and upgrades that might save energy for them.

The SWAT team will capture data on participation and energy savings over the next three years, and that's where it gets interesting.

Hard data on energy efficiency savings is hard to come by. Near-perfect participation in a limited geographic area will help turn guesswork into science.

"We can show that we've lowered our [energy] load at the Board of Water & Light, with the actual data to prove it," Louney said.

In time, the data could affect strategic decision making at BWL, Louney said.

"We were the first city to eliminate lead pipes," Louney said. "Maybe we'll be the first to say we've knocked on each door and become energy efficient."

The utility plans to retire its aging, coal-fired Eckert power plant by 2020 and the coal-fired Erickson plant by 2030. The debate over what comes next is about to go into full swing.

"The numbers right now support building two new plants," Louney said. The SWAT team wants to push the numbers down. "I think we can, and this is one way to do that," Louney said.

Louney said the utility is studying the feasibility of building small co-generation units for new developments as part of the city's future energy mix.

"Instead of building one big power plant, maybe we build some smaller units," he said.

Energy efficiency is a yawner to some folks, but the possibility of building one new plant instead of two is worth knocking on a few doors.

"If you can't get jazzed up about that, I don't know what you're going to get excited about," Hussain said.

— Lawrence Cosentino



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF BIENNIAL PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The Local Officials Compensation Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing for the purpose of soliciting information from members of the public and any elected official related to the topic of setting the salaries of elected officials (Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk, Trustees, Park Commissioners) of Meridian Township. This public hearing will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, phone (517) 853-4000. Written communications may be sent to Local Officials Compensation Commission, c/o Human Resources Director, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198. For copies of previous recommendations, members of the public may contact the Clerk's Office at 853-4300.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Township Clerk

CP#17-046

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting qualifications for the **Post Construction and Bi-Monthly Cleaning** of properties. The RFP # Cleaning-03-2017 is available on March 1, 2017, at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Qualifications are due at the Land Bank offices by 3pm on March 16, 2017. A Qualification Review will begin March 16, 2017, at 3pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#17-042



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## CANVAS BELOW, SKY ABOVE

Traditional Irish 'skin boats'  
take shape in Lake Lansing barn

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Rain drummed on the roof of a workshop near Lake Lansing Thursday where two boat-shaped, basket-like frames lay up-turned on worktables.

Later, there would be beer. But first, it was time to see how the currachs were coming along.

Lansing attorney Jim Neal and his friend Walt Peebles, former head of the wood shop at MSU's Kresge Art Museum, are building two currachs — wood-framed fishing boats stretched with animal skins that date, in one form or another, to the first century and maybe earlier.

"An experienced builder can build one in two weeks," Neal said. "We've been at this for four months."

Neal and Peebles will display the currachs and carry on their work in full view at MSU's annual spring extravaganza of non-motorized aquatic transportation, the Quiet Water Symposium.

They both like to talk, though, so progress may be limited.

The symposium is the gentle, unplugged version of a spring-fever RV and boat show,

### Quiet Water Symposium

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday,  
March 4

\$10/\$5 students/children,  
Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and  
MSU Outdoor Club members  
FREE

MSU Pavilion  
4301 Farm Lane, Lansing  
quietwatersociety.org

with displays of kayaks, canoes, quiet gear, quiet films and quiet books about quiet trips to quiet places.

Caitlín Doherty, curator of the Broad Art Museum and a native of Ireland, joined the group

at Neal's barn Thursday to ogle the boats.

"Nothing better than the smell of wood in a workshop," Doherty said.

Doherty admired the builders' craftsmanship and "understanding of the material," but Neal was resistant to the idea that the boats themselves are art.

"I wouldn't take that too far," Neal said. "Currachs are work boats."

Jack Cahill, an Irish history buff, was the last admirer to arrive. Cahill, retired from the Michigan attorney general's office, raced currachs in Ireland in the 1980s.

"I never imagined I'd see a currach in Lansing," Cahill said.

Peebles' currach has a "cocked up" or sharply angled bow designed to ride out angry North Atlantic waves.

Until early in the 20th century, currachs were the only way of getting people, supplies and even livestock from transport steamers to places like the rugged Aran Islands. Peebles told the story of a horse falling out of a currach and the owner somehow getting it back into the boat.

In heavy seas, the rider rows parallel to the swells, turns the boat into a wave, leaps over it and repeats the process.

"They were designed to handle rough water," Peebles said. "They can turn easily

gently bent them into shape, fitting them into holes carefully cut into the gunnel.

A 1930s book by James Hornell was a crucial resource, but currach plans are in short supply.

"Plans? You duplicate the boat you're replacing," one practical-minded builder told Neal.

Last week, Neal and Peebles spent a whole day placing about 100 rivets and another day bending stringers into place so the boats could be transported to the MSU Pavilion Saturday. Instead of using the ox hides and pitch of olden days, they will cover the currachs with 15-ounce canvas and paint.

In the 1970s, British historian Tim Severin sailed across the Atlantic in a hide-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Former MSU wood shop director Walt Peebles points at one of two Irish currachs or "skin boats" he is building with Lansing attorney Jim Neal (far left). Looking on is Caitlín Doherty, curator of the Broad Art Museum (far right) and boat enthusiast Jack Cahill. The currachs will be on display at MSU's Quiet Water Symposium Saturday.

and ride pretty high, because they're so light."

As they near the shore, they can be "swiftly snatched from the frothing sea," as Mike Smylie writes in "Traditional Fishing Boats of England & Ireland."

Over the centuries, each seaside county of Ireland developed its own design. Neal's is a Donegal paddling currach, the smallest variation, and Peebles' is modeled after the Sheephaven type ("renowned for its seaworthiness, though weren't they all?" Smylie writes).

Resting high and dry in Neal's workshop, the hulls bristled with clamps holding the long wooden slats, or stringers, to the ribs.

Neal and Peebles started work in November by building a pine gunnel frame, the sturdy rim of the boat — and the part you hang on to for dear life. They cut the ribs out of salvage lumber, then soaked, steamed and

wrapped currach to re-create the sixth century voyage of St. Brendan. Unlike Severin, Neal and Peebles aren't restricting themselves to period tools in building their craft.

"We're not crazy," Neal said.

Let the jury decide, counselor. Peebles started his "skin boat" obsession by building coracles, small Welsh boats a fisherman could strap on his back, haul upstream and launch.

"Then we decided to go from Wales to Ireland," Neal said.

Doherty perked up.

"You went from Wales to Ireland?"

"No, I've never been anywhere," Neal said. He meant it figuratively.

Doherty shares Neal's interest in getting past cultural stereotypes that dominate American celebrations of St. Patrick's Day. A basement exhibit curated by Doherty at the

Broad, "The Wearing of the Green," delves into portrayals of Irish-Americans from the 19th century.

While browsing through Neal's reference books, Doherty spotted a photo of a village in County Waterford.

"We spend all our summer here," she said, pointing to the photo. "My family lives around that bend."

She even recognized a man working a fishing net in the photo, even though he was seen from the backside.

"The most tiny village you can imagine — very bizarre that it's in a book I see for the first time in Michigan," Doherty said.

Meanwhile, in back of the workshop, Neal and Peebles had another artifact to show off: a genuine Irish working currach, cobbled together with spikes and roofing nails, with almost every rib broken but still seaworthy.

An auctioneer told Peebles that the currach was on display at a Lansing-area Irish-themed restaurant that went out of business years ago. Peebles figures he saved it from ending up as a planter.

Peebles and Neal patched it up with tar and took it onto Lake Lansing recently.

"He looked a little worried," Peebles said of Neal. Neal still looked a little worried. "As long as you can keep up with the leaks, you're in decent shape."

The pair have amassed a fascinating collection of "skin boats" at Neal's barn, a few of which they will bring to Saturday's symposium.

There's a gorgeous 1928 Carleton canoe with cedar ribs and planking, kayaks made by the Chicago's Mead Glider Co., a stubby, 10-foot fold-flat boat made of plywood and canvas and a 13-foot-long, cozy-looking heavy canvas boat with spring steel ribs probably made in the 1930s by the Folding Boat Co. of Kalamazoo.

It's hard not to smile at the shortest boat ever made by ChrisCraft, a handsome kit boat assembled by Neal Charles Blackman, an education professor at MSU, in 1952.

Thereby hangs a tale, and Neal was happy to tell it in his deadpan manner.

Blackman took the boat onto Muskegon Lake for a maiden voyage, determined to impress a woman he was sweet on. He immediately ran it onto a rock and never used it again. (The woman married him anyway.) The boat sat in the rafters of Blackman's home on Dobie Road for 50 years until Neal bought it, fixed the hole and put it back into service.

Clearly, there was no foreseeable end to the boat stories locked in this workshop, which bodes ill for hopes of any progress on the currachs Saturday.

Before we could finish looking at the tiny ChrisCraft, Neal was in the back of the barn, opening up a case of beer.



# Underwater railroad

Photography exhibit explores use of subway cars as artificial barrier reefs

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Stephen Mallon's latest exhibition of photographs features decommissioned subway cars being unceremoniously dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. But this isn't large-scale littering. The sunken subway cars will serve as artificial barrier reefs, intended to provide a habitat for ocean life along the East Coast.

"I am always looking for infrastructure-related projects, unique recycling, energy systems and projects that relate to the ocean," Mallon said. "My focus for the past 10 years has been on the industrial landscape."

"Next Stop Atlantic," on display at the MSU Museum, features photos of the subway car project taken between 2008 and 2011. Mallon's work has appeared in National Geographic, Forbes and The Wall Street Journal, and he has hosted solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Mallon, 43, comes to the MSU Museum Thursday to discuss his work.

"Next Stop Atlantic" follows the New

## "Next Stop Atlantic"

Stephen Mallon photography exhibition  
Through September  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday;  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1  
p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday  
\$5 suggested donation  
Ground Floor Gallery, MSU  
Museum  
409 W. Circle Drive, East  
Lansing  
(517) 355-2370 museum.  
msu.edu

## Photographer Talk with Stephen Mallon

12:15-1:30 p.m. Thursday,  
March 2  
FREE  
MSU Museum Auditorium  
409 W. Circle Drive, East  
Lansing  
(517) 355-2370 museum.  
msu.edu

York City Transit Authority's efforts to create habitats for fish and crustaceans by dumping retired subway cars into the ocean. The pictures capture every moment of the process, from the suspenseful lifting of the train cars to the explosive collision of metal and water. Images of the spray are punctuated with detailed photographs of the skeletal frames

of the cars themselves. The project takes a look at recycling on a scale far beyond dropping plastic bottles in the proper bin. Mallon hopes that audiences realize "this is a positive move to repopulate the ocean."

According to a 2015 CNN article on the same topic, over 2,500 train cars have been dumped into the ocean, creating "400 times as much food per square foot for fish to eat." Beyond this, the multi-ton cars provide ample shelter for



Courtesy Photo

Stephen Mallon's "Next Stop Atlantic," a photography exhibition on display at the MSU Museum, documents the New York City Transit Authority's attempts to create artificial barrier reefs by dropping retired subway cars into the Atlantic Ocean.

fish looking to escape predators.

The project began in 2000, but Mallon heard about it a few years later.

"I discovered it in The New York Times in 2007 — I had just started my long-term project on the recycling industry in America," Mallon said. "I shot it over the span of three years. I would love to shoot more, but unfortunately, it is finished."

Mallon said that though his photographs have become the topic of much environmental discussion, his involvement in that discussion "formed after."

"I didn't realize how much these images were going to resonate with so many aspects of society," Mallon said.

Mallon offers this pearl of wisdom to anyone taking any nautically-oriented photos:

"Don't edit the photos on the back of a boat," he said.

This and other pieces of advice will be part of Mallon's hour-long photographer talk at the MSU Museum's Auditorium. Visitors will get the opportunity to hear

about Mallon's experiences and ask questions about his work.

Mallon's exhibition is part of the campus-wide Water Moves MSU Initiative, which brings a wide variety of water-focused events to MSU's campus, including guest speakers, musicians, visual art, film screenings and policy discussions. "Next Stop Atlantic" is the first of two exhibitions presented by the museum as part of the initiative. In March, the MSU Museum hosts an exhibition of photography by Native American artist Camille Seaman, who documented the Dakota Access Pipeline protests. The two photography exhibitions are curated by Howard Bossen, professor of photography and visual communications at MSU's School of Journalism.

Bossen, in an article for MSU Today, praised Mallon's work.

"Stephen Mallon's 'Next Stop Atlantic' series raises questions about the oceans as an integral part of our ecosystem and imaginative ways to ameliorate damage done to it by humankind," he said.



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Courtesy Photo

This detail from "Beams of Light," by local photographer Zach Trost, was digitally edited in Adobe Lightroom, a photo enhancement application.

## Meet the artist

### Photographer Zach Trost witnesses media transition

By ALLISON HAMMERLY

Zach Trost got his start in photography as a child, working with analogue equipment. The local photographer, now 48, has witnessed the transformation of his craft over four decades.

"I've always enjoyed photography," Trost said. "I worked with film in the beginning, but about three or four years ago, I got back into photography and learned about digital." Trost



Trost was introduced to photography and film by his father, Fred Trost, who owned a media production company and produced films for the State of Michigan in the 1970s.

"One of the bonuses for me was that I got to play around with the equipment," Trost said. "He had some extra film and showed me how to do an animation, just clicking

#### Arts Night Out

5 p.m. Friday, March 3  
FREE  
Old Town, Lansing  
(See website for participating venues)  
(517) 372-4636,  
myartsnightout.com

off one frame at a time on some 16-millimeter Canon film. We shot it in the kitchen, and I had some aliens coming out of the table."

When Trost was around 12 years old, his father let him take a Nikon camera away to summer camp. He dabbled in landscape photography, shooting at northern Michigan's Pictured Rocks. When the photos were developed back home, Trost's father was impressed.

"He was like, 'Hey, you're actually pretty good!'" Trost recalled.

Trost graduated from East Lansing High School and set off for college in Florida. When he returned, he worked for the family business, doing video production for fishing

and hunting television programs "Michigan Outdoors," and "Practical Sportsman," which his father hosted for many years.

Over the years, the digital revolution took hold in his workplace and eventually spilled over into his hobby.

"We converted the whole equipment setup from linear editing into digital, using Adobe Premiere," said Trost of his video production work. "That sparked my passion to continue on in photography."

He studied up on every book he could find at the library and got to work practicing digital photo editing, specifically using Adobe Lightroom.

"There are people out there who say you can't duplicate film," Trost said. "But I sure enjoy the stuff I am able to do with digital. I have the unlimited opportunity to take as many photos as I can."

Thanks to a new job, Trost plans to travel in the near future, allowing him to shoot in diverse locations. He was recently hired by the National Center for Pavement Preservation, but he plans to continue working with Great Lake Artworks, a gallery in Old Town. The gallery also plays host to his next photography show Friday as part of Arts Night Out, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing's bimonthly pop-up arts fair.

For Friday's exhibition, Trost's work is on display alongside the rustic oil paintings of Harlan Kerr. Trost plans to offer free tips and tricks on digital editing to any photographers who stop in. Visitors can bring a digital image on a USB drive or email the file via smartphone, and Trost will demonstrate ways to improve the image in Lightroom.

As a photographer of landscapes and the occasional abstract scene, Trost's prevailing philosophy is that images should be pleasing to look at.

"I'm always looking for the sun peeking out, lighting up the roof of a building," he said. "Photography is really more of controlling light and shadows. Without any contrast, an image is nothing."

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By Christy Hall

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# Culinary connection

## MSU student's food app not just for foodies

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Like many life-changing journeys, David Welsh's latest venture began with a low point. In September 2015, the Michigan State University student was in Chicago and began to feel ill. It got so bad that Welsh began to assess what truly mattered to him.

"In a half-delirious state from dehydration, I was like, 'You know? I really hate the job that I'm at right now. Maybe I'll start a company,'" Welsh said.

For many, such a resolution would be as fleeting as the bout of illness that took hold of him that night, but Welsh stuck with it. He realized that food was his passion, and the idea for Food Design HQ was born. But it took an encounter with a stranger on MSU's campus to push his new business closer to



Welsh

becoming a reality.

"I just told the guy, 'I'm trying to get the word out about a food industry consulting firm that I'm trying to set up,'" Welsh said. "And this guy's like, 'Do you know you're literally sitting right outside the Hatch?'"

Indeed, Welsh was unknowingly sitting outside of the MSU Hatch, a program designed to help Spartan entrepreneurs make their business plans a reality. He connected with the program and was able to travel to South by Southwest to connect with others in the food industry. At the conference, he met with restaurateurs Tim Love and José Andrés. It was then that inspiration hit.

"I was actually having a conversation with José Andrés when I was coming up with the idea," Welsh said.

The idea became a smartphone app called MyPalate, a social platform for people interested in food and uninterested in snobbery.

"The idea behind MyPalate is to enable people to connect with the restaurant industry, as well as their friends, family, etc.," Welsh said. "I hate the term foodie, because it pretty much excludes 95 percent of people. When you think food culture, the first thing that comes to a lot of peoples' minds, unfortunately, is either a hipster from Brooklyn or a screaming chef. My goal with the MyPalate project is to help people connect with

chefs and food industry experts."

Walsh said the app, which is slated for release later this year, will allow users to share recipes and discuss food trends with industry professionals.

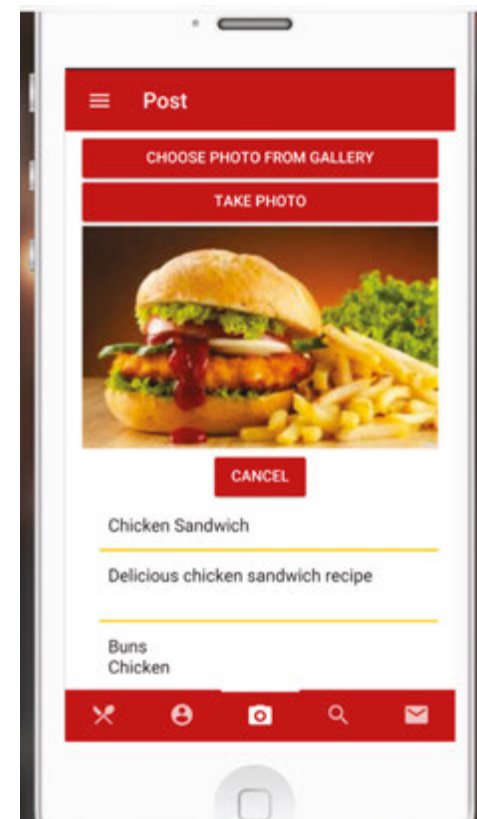
"Say you were trying to figure out the Paleo Diet, if it is actually worth your time," Welsh said. "We'd like to get some nutritionists featured on the app, as well as food scientists."

But ultimately, the app is about building community and being fun. Welsh is even planning a built-in game feature.

"I'm not going to talk about it until after we have it launched, but the app is designed around game theory," Welsh said. "It's designed to be fun for people to use, and it's designed for people to post better and better recipes and better and better pictures so that they can get a better score in the game."

In a move that could be described as full circle for the 22-year-old Welsh, he and his Food Design HQ team will officially debut the app March 12 at South by Southwest 2017. People who are interested in the app's development can sign up for updates at [mypalateonline.com](http://mypalateonline.com).

Welsh said that the app is far from its completed state, and it will remain a work in progress even after its debut. During development, he's changed the targeted user base from college students to young professionals looking to get into cooking or looking for restaura-



Courtesy Photo

MyPalate, an upcoming food app designed by MSU student David Welsh, will allow users to share recipes and restaurant reviews.

rants in a city they travel to for business. There are also some features Welsh is holding out on until the app reaches a "critical mass."

"We wouldn't be implementing anything even resembling a paid feature until we hit 50,000 users in a city the size of Chicago or 10,000 in a city the size of Lansing," Welsh said. "That would just be so that we could go to potential clients and say, 'We've got 50,000 people in Chicago who would be willing to pay for special service.'"

While there are still kinks to work out, Welsh is confident that he'll have a quality product to roll out on March 12.

"It's at a point right now where we're finally confident in saying it's running smoothly," he said.

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# Hibernation's over

## Lansing Symphony unleashes three generations of Russian bears

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Saturday's Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert is a deep dive through three generations of epic Russian music, culminating in the most powerful of all 20th century symphonies, Dmitri Shostakovich's twisting, tortured Fifth.

The interconnections among the three composers featured in the concert and the violin soloist, MSU Professor Dmitri

### Masterworks 5: Music of Russia

Lansing Symphony Orchestra with Dmitri Berlinsky, violin  
8 p.m. Saturday, March 4  
\$20-50  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
(517) 487-5001,  
lansingsymphony.org

Berlinsky, turn the screws even tighter. Berlinsky will play one of his favorite pieces of music, a gorgeous 1904 violin concerto by Russian romantic Alexander Glazunov. From 1905 to 1928, Glazunov was the director of the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music, where Berlinsky studied while growing up in Russia.

Glazunov was also Shostakovich's composition teacher.

The bear-ish concert jelled last year, when Lansing Symphony Music Director Timothy Muffitt decided to feature Berlinsky.

"We have one of the greatest violinists walking the face of the earth today, who just happens to live here in East Lansing," Muffitt said.

As is his custom, Muffitt asked Berlinsky what he wanted to play.

"Secretly, I wanted him to play Glazunov," Muffitt confessed. "It's his best piece and a spectacular concerto."

"I remember that conversation," Berlinsky said. "I was really surprised he had it in mind as well. But I was really happy, because I haven't done it here."

Berlinsky has played the concerto in New York, Russia, and several times in Latin America, but not yet in Lansing.

"It presents all beauty of the instrument, all the singing quality, all the virtuosic elements, everything you can imagine," Berlinsky said.

Like the classics of Russian literature, the concerto has quirks that almost push it outside the genre.

"It goes with no breaks — more like a concert piece, in one breath," Berlinsky said.

And Glazunov's love of ballet jumps out. "It's very visual," Berlinsky said. "You can almost see different scenes and characters."

Instead of ping-ponging themes back and forth, Berlinsky and the orchestra play together most of the time, a troika ride that Berlinsky called "a consistent line." The harp plays a prominent role, adding to the



Courtesy Photo

MSU violin Professor Dmitri Berlinsky, a native of St. Petersburg, joins the Lansing Symphony Saturday for an evening of music by Russian composers.

music's fairy-tale atmosphere.

"To me, it's a magical piece," Berlinsky said.

When Shostakovich was a student at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in the 1920s, war and revolution raged through the city. They bundled up in four or five coats to keep warm, and Shostakovich smuggled booze in for Glazunov.

In a region ravaged by pogroms and anti-Semitism, Berlinsky credits Glazunov with creating a "unique atmosphere" at the conservatory where Jewish violinists could be accepted into master violinist Leopold Auer's classes.

"At that time, in the Russian empire, Jewish people weren't really allowed to live in a major city," Berlinsky said. "Without Glazunov's protection, they wouldn't have been allowed to study with Auer in St. Petersburg."

Glazunov got special permission from high circles for brilliant Jewish violinists such as Jascha Heifetz, Misha Elman, Nathan Milstein and others to study with Auer, who premiered the Glazunov concerto in 1904.

After the Russian Revolution, many of these great Jewish violinists moved to the United States.

Two years ago, Berlinsky visited the conservatory and found that the current director still sits in Glazunov's chair.

"The conservatory has an incredible legacy," he said.

Even as the 21st century marches on, nobody looms larger in St. Petersburg music history than Dmitri Shostakovich, whose music got him in and out of trouble with the murderous regime of dictator Joseph Stalin.

"I grew up with Shostakovich's music," Berlinsky said. "I was very young when he passed away, but I was in St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall once when he was there, and his symphonies were performed a lot there."

In 1937, Shostakovich was in deep trouble with the authorities for writing music they didn't like, especially an erotic opera damned as "porno-phony" by an official critic. He was so sure he was heading for a labor camp that he had his bags packed and ready.

At the height of Stalin's purges, Shosta-

kovich came back with a mysterious, emotion-wracked hurricane of a symphony that everyone, from the commissars to audiences around the world, agreed was a masterpiece.

Today, the Fifth Symphony, like much of Shostakovich's music, is more popular and frequently programmed than ever.

"It's something everybody gets excited about hearing," Muffitt said. "It's great music, and it's enigmatic."

Since Shostakovich's death in 1975, a debate has raged over whether the ending is triumphant, as the authorities required, or deeply tragic.

Muffitt answered without hesitation. "It's tragic," he said. "The clue to me is the bass drum at the end."

Muffitt had to pause and compose himself as he talked about it. The Fifth rips out strings you didn't even know you had, deep where the promise and joy of life meet brutal necessity.

"It just builds," Muffitt said. "You think you know where it's going. And then, instead of just finishing with the timpani — the ringing, triumphant *brilliant* of the timpani — he brings in the bass drum. Bam, bam, bam." He mimed the blows slowly, hitting the wall of the coffee shop where we talked.

"If that doesn't tell us what piece is about!"

Somehow, Shostakovich managed to cry out in defiance using the melodic, ac-

cessible musical language the authorities wanted from him. He lived to write many more Janus-like masterpieces, musical cages where raw emotion paces behind bars of irony.

"I get really upset when I read people questioning Shostakovich, saying that he was a sellout," Muffitt said. "That makes me crazy."

To complete the generation-spanning program, Muffitt programmed an overture by a St. Petersburg composer widely seen as the heir to Shostakovich, Alfred Schnittke.

Born in 1934, Schnittke was a forerunner of iTunes-era eclecticism, mixing baroque forms, electric guitar, harpsichords, improvisation, whistling and Shostakovich-like drollery into crazy quilts like his "Dead Souls Register" suite.

"He's totally poly-stylistic, and that's one of the most interesting things about him," Muffitt said. "One of my greatest memories as a musician was to do his concerto grosso for two violins and harpsichord. I'd never really folded back the layers of his music before."

Muffitt senses that post-modern audiences are ripe to discover him.

"I feel he's going to emerge as one of the giants of the late 20th century, when there was a lot of music that make you think, 'Oh, this is a great idea,' but then the audience is totally lost," Muffitt said. "Schnittke has figured out how to really make an impact."

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# CURTAIN CALL

## Amazing, indeed

Owosso Community Players  
tackles tale of biblical proportions

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The singing, orchestra, choreography and sets were all rather amazing. And the coat? Well, that was pretty amazing, too.

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Owosso Community Players’ latest production, was a musical on a grand scale. The nearly 50 performers, directed admirably by Lyn Freeman, cavorted on elaborate sets to music expertly played while executing clever unison dance moves and

### “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

Owosso Community Players  
8 p.m. Friday, March 3;  
3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday,  
March 4; 3 p.m. Sunday,  
March 5  
\$21.50/\$19.50 students and  
seniors/\$11.50 children  
Lebowsky Center  
122 E. Main St., Owosso  
(989) 723-4003,  
owossoplayers.com

distinctive costumes designed by Freeman, Ann Hall and Joanne Morovitz. The myriad ensemble characters wore hats, robes or gowns that were majestic. Everyone on stage changed costumes

wearing splendid clothing.

The dreamcoat was not the only amazing costume to grace the Lebowsky Center stage. Most outfits were complex, detailed and suited for a Technicolor show. All 11 of Joseph’s distinctive brothers had

multiple times — usually into another magnificent outfit.

The sets also changed regularly. Platforms and stage embellishments — often put in place by the actors — included long tables, a lengthy, multi-colored stairway and a backdrop that lit up. At times, thin side flats were lowered, or huge, church-like frames or jail bars dropped to the stage. Painted backcloths were impressive because of both their artwork and their size. To tell the biblical story of Joseph and his storied past, backdrops were used that were at least two stories high.

Vinnie Lindquist, as Joseph, commanded the lead role. Besides having movie star looks, he had a beautiful voice. His solos deserved the thunderclaps of applause that followed each one. When Lindquist harmonized with Rachael Cupples, who played the narrator, the sounds were especially gorgeous.

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” used non-stop songs to convey its dialogue. A pompadour-ed Quentin Brainerd II, who also played brother Simeon, turned in an impressive Elvis impersonation as Pharaoh.

As the frequent narrator of “Dreamcoat,” Cupples sang dreamily, sometimes hitting notes so high it seemed only dogs in Heaven could hear them.

But some the most heavenly singing in the 100-minute show came from a 19-piece children’s chorus. Sadly, the lack of amplification for the youngsters made their angelic voices sound like they might have come from too high above. The delightful cherubs were often hard to hear.

Alas, that wasn’t the only sound issue with the Owosso production. Too soft or too loud levels, unbalanced microphones and a one-time audible crackle spoiled the near-flawlessness of the production. I never heard a sour note from the stage or the orchestra pit, which was conducted by Jillian Boots. I never saw a significantly out-of-step dancer performing one of Cupples’ masterfully choreographed songs or any actual accidents by actors who accomplished arduous acrobatic acts.

There are plenty of reasons to see the Owosso “Dreamcoat” show — including the aforementioned coat. Joseph’s coat/cape was truly remarkable. In addition to its intricate pleats, ornamentations and stitching, the garment had more colors than any rainbow. In fact, the titular coat had so many hues, it took two verses of a song to list them.



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# Three decades of rallying

## A Rally of Writers starts its 30th chapter

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Lansing has numerous hidden gems, many of them hidden in plain sight. A Rally of Writers, an annual gathering of authors, is certainly one of them.

Each spring, the rally helps writers pull away from the clutches of winter with an array of programs and discussions on the creative art of writing and the practical art of getting published.

### Rally Warm-Up: "Storypaloosa"

7 p.m. Friday, April 7  
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### A Rally of Writers

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday,  
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Conference Center  
5708 Cornerstone Drive,  
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arallyofwriters.com

nonfiction stories to editors

Over the three-decade span of the rally, hundreds of award-winning and best-selling authors have graced the podium, bringing both inspiring messages and practical tips for writers.

Michigan native Lori Nelson Spielman, a participant in an early rally, returns to a Rally of Writers this year as keynote speaker. Spielman brings with her a long list of accolades, including being the author of two No. 1 international best-sellers, "The Life List" and "Sweet Forgiveness." "The Life List" alone has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide and has been optioned for a movie.

Spielman is just one of hundreds of writers who have been inspired by the day-long summit. A Rally of Writers co-founder



Courtesy Photo

Lori Nelson Spielman, author of best-sellers "The Life List" and "Sweet Forgiveness," will deliver the keynote address at this year's A Rally of Writers.

Linda Peckham was a writing instructor at Lansing Community College when she decided that the Lansing area needed a venue where writers, published and unpublished, could meet and hone their craft. Linda has stepped back from the rally this year because of the recent death of her husband, Robert Morris, a well-known Lansing historian and builder.

Each year, the rally selects authors, agents and others in the industry to pass on their knowledge. A few years ago, thriller writer Karen Dionne, who had written several modestly successful environmental thrillers, talked about the need for meticulous research and sticking to something that you love. Now thriller fans are eagerly awaiting her new book, "The Marsh King's Daughter," for which the U.S. publishing rights sold at auction for over \$1 million. The book, which is set in Michigan, involves a young mother who was fathered by her own mother's kidnapper. Years after she helped put him in prison, she must face him again after he stages a dramatic escape.

The presenters at the annual conference are no slackers, and the lineup routinely includes award-winning writers, including many Michigan Notable Book Award winners. Not to be missed this year are Beverly Jenkins and Julie Lawson Timmer. A Detroit native, Jenkins is the nation's premier writer of African Ameri-

can historical romance. She has written 35 books and was recently featured on "CBS This Morning" talking about the cultural impact of romance novels. Timmer, an Ann Arbor lawyer, is the author of "Five Days Left," an emotional look at decisions that affect life and death.

Landis Lain, a local writer and Michigan administrative law judge, will talk about her debut young adult novel, "Daddy's Baby," and how to write in the voice of a teenager when you haven't been one for many years.

Registration for this year's rally is available at arallyofwriters.com. The registration fee is \$100 at the door, but early birds can reserve an advance registration for \$85. Students can reserve a spot for \$35 in advance or \$45 at the door. An optional lunch is available for an extra \$15.

While the meat of the rallies takes place on Saturdays, a relatively recent addition is a free Friday Rally Warm-Up event hosted by Schuler Books in partnership with WKAR. Longtime rally participant and nonfiction writer Andrea King Collier is especially excited about the theme of this year's warm up, which focuses on storytelling. "Storypaloosa" features several local storytellers who will explore the nexus between writing and storytelling.

Collier compares "Storypaloosa" to NPR's "The Moth Radio Hour" and hopes that it will "get people jazzed up about storytelling."

In her Saturday session on writing non-

fiction, Collier will explore the nuts and bolts of submission, as well as the challenges of telling real-life stories.

"A lot of people want to do autobiographical essays, but they have to remember that their mother or daughter or sister or friend might read it," she said. "Even though you might write a particularly revealing essay for an obscure publication, your mother's going to see it in the beauty shop, so be prepared."

Collier, who has stepped in for Peckham this year as the public face of the rally, said the event also fills an important social function "where writers can meet other writers and become friends."

"Writing is so solitary," she said. "The rally is an important outlet for writers."

Collier recalls an early rally — she's only missed two — where she volunteered to drive Beverly Jenkins to her hotel and ended up spending several hours talking about writing. That one-on-one time, she said, was priceless.

## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

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Thursday, March 2 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location

Meet poet and playwright (and Lansing native) Stephen Mack Jones, author of the highly anticipated Detroit-set thriller *August Snow!* *August Snow* has earned Stephen comparison to Raymond Chandler, Robert B. Parker and George Pelecanos, and Kirkus Reviews declared we are at the "beginning of an excellent new series." Stephen will be joined by Aaron Foley, author of the popular, tongue-in-cheek guidebook, *How To Live In Detroit Without Being A Jackass.*

Girls' Night Out presents Award-winning Romance Author **BEVERLY JENKINS**

Thursday, March 9 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

We are very excited to welcome back award-winning, USA Today bestselling romance author Beverly Jenkins to the store for a talk and signing! Beverly is touring to promote the release of *Breathless*, the second book in her sizzling series set in the Old West. *Breathless* earned starred reviews in both Kirkus Reviews and Publishers Weekly, which called *Breathless* "exquisitely written." We'll have goodies and giveaways to round out the night, so save the date!

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Mon-Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5

the.archivesbookshop@gmail.com

DOWN

ACROSS

- If you can't find it, \_\_\_\_\_.
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- The largest used book store in Mid-Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_.
- To see what we have, stop \_\_\_\_\_.
- To go into a store you have to park your \_\_\_\_\_.
- What Curious will do to help pay your parking.
- Archives has 1,000's of vintage post \_\_\_\_\_.

- The store that has books from the 18th century.
- You'll find lots of SF at Curious including Cpt. James T. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Singular of what you'll find lots of at both locations.
- Stop in so we can say \_\_\_\_\_.
- What parking is at Archives.
- The U.S. is located in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Singular of 12 across.
- We're "Where it's \_\_\_\_\_!"

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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 1

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

### EVENTS

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

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

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

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

**Women's History Month Display.** Come in to add the name of the woman you most admire. 1-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

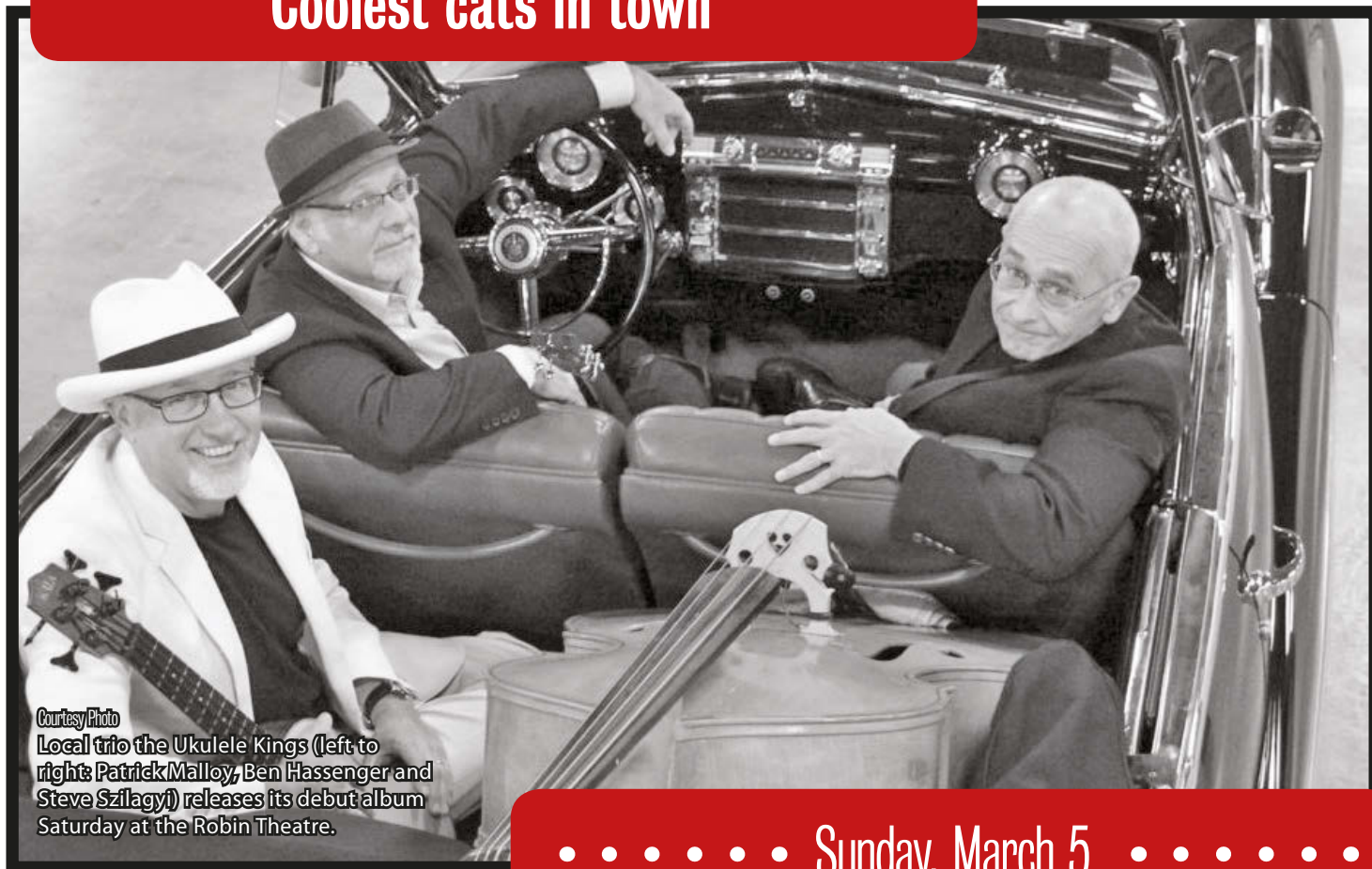
**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

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

**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.**

See Out on the Town, Page 17

## Cooler cats in town



Courtesy Photo

Local trio the Ukulele Kings (left to right: Patrick Malloy, Ben Hassenger and Steve Szilagyi) releases its debut album Saturday at the Robin Theatre.

## Sunday, March 5

After a trip to Hawaii in 2009, Ben Hassenger was inspired to form a ukulele band in Lansing. Almost eight years later, the band he put together is preparing to release its debut album.

The Ukulele Kings — Ben Hassenger, Patrick Malloy and Steve Szilagyi — are hosting a concert Saturday at the Robin Theatre to celebrate the release of “Three Cool Cats.”

“We just decided to focus on the ukulele,” Hassenger said. “It’s a super popular instrument now, and there wasn’t really anything quite like that locally or in Michigan.”

The album is named after a tune originally recorded by the Coasters, which appears on the album. Hassenger and company thought “Three Cool Cats” was an apt description of the group.

The members of the Ukulele Kings are veterans of the local music scene. Hassenger and Malloy were both members of legendary Lansing band Mystic Shake, and Szilagyi was bassist for local alt-country outfit the Weepers.

The trio has planned on releasing an album since it formed four years ago but finally got serious last year and recorded it in the fall at Lansing’s Troubadour Recording Studios. When it came to

producing the album, the band wanted the CD to sound like a live show. Overdubs and studio effects were kept to a minimum.

“We wanted a fairly accurate studio representation of what we are live,” Hassenger said. “We kept it simple, did it ourselves and we’re pretty pleased with the way it turned out.”

Hassenger, who describes himself as “Michigan’s ukulele ambassador,” teaches and performs with the instrument all over the state. He loves the unique vibe of the tiny instrument and the joy it brings people as they learn to play.

“The ukulele, to me, is like one of the most folk of folk instruments because it brings folks together,” he said.

The songs on “Three Cool Cats” cover several genres, including folk, jazz and rock ‘n’ roll. The 10-song disc is mostly original tunes, with covers of “Spanish Flea” and the aforementioned “Three Cool Cats” thrown in.

“It’s a mix of stuff, which is what we’re all about. We never just stick to one thing. Hassenger said. “I’d like to even broaden that more, get a little more wacky with the second album, maybe.”

The band hopes to play more

music festivals and live shows this year to promote the album. According to Hassenger, most ukulele albums are entirely composed of covers, making “Three Cool Cats” stand out within the genre. But he still enjoys the occasional cover tune.

“We’re not going to Beyoncé,” Hassenger joked, “We’re just glad to be the Ukulele Kings and just get out play in front of more people of more people, show them that original music can be done on the ukulele.”

Hassenger said it’s easy to get obsessed with trying to make something perfect or wondering if the album needs one more track.

“Anybody that has put together an album — it’s a pain in the butt,” he said. “You’ve got to know when to quit. Like, ‘Hey, this is pretty good. Time to put it to bed, and we can go on to the next project.’ We feel really good. We’re so happy to get a CD done and finally give the people something.”

— DIAMOND HENRY

### The Ukulele Kings CD Release Concert

With the Springtails  
7p.m. Sunday, March 5  
\$12/\$10 adv.  
The Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington  
Ave., Lansing  
[therobintheatre.com](http://therobintheatre.com)



# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

## IRISH DUO TIM O'SHEA & PHILIP CRICKARD AT THE ROBIN THEATER



SAT. MARCH 4TH

Tim O'Shea & Philip Crickard

**Saturday, March 4 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, 6:30 p.m.**

The Irish duo of Tim O'Shea (guitar/vocals) and Philip Crickard (fiddle/mandolin) performs Saturday at the Robin Theatre in REO Town. The pair, now on tour across the United States in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, performs both traditional and contemporary Celtic songs. O'Shea, of Killarney, Ireland, performs a repertoire that echoes Irish and Scottish performers like Jimmy MacCarthy, Paul Brady and Dick Gaughan. O'Shea has been touring the globe for 26 years, including stops in India, Australia, New Zealand and most of Europe, especially Germany. He has six albums in his catalog, beginning with 1995's "Monks of the Screw" LP, and a new disc is due out this year. Crickard, a Carrickfergus native, is known across the southwest of Ireland for his fiery fiddle style.

## BUBBA SPARXXX AT THE LOFT



FRI. MARCH 3RD

Bubba Sparxxx

**Friday, March 3 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$20/\$16 adv., 8 p.m.**

Warren Mathis, aka Bubba Sparxxx, is known for chart-topping southern-rap hits like "Deliverance," "Ugly" and "Ms. New Booty." Friday, the Georgia native headlines the Loft on the Overdose Awareness Tour. Opening the show are Bobble, Jenna Nichole, Joe Nester, Gambo, Strizzo and Slumerican. The latest Sparxxx full-length album, 2014's "Made on McCosh Mill Road," is his fifth LP and features guest spots from Danny Boone and Denum Jones. In 2016, he dropped "The Bubba Mathis EP," a five-track collection featuring the single "Ghost." In a review of the EP, HipHopDX said, "Bubba's country roots are well watered on this succinct project." As a teen, Sparxxx was introduced to hip hop through the music of N.W.A., Too Short and OutKast. In 2001, Sparxxx achieved international fame with the "Dark Days, Bright Nights" LP, made with help from legendary producer Timbaland.

## FLUX CAPACITOR PERFORMS FREE CONCERT AT THE AVENUE CAFE



THU. MARCH 9TH

Flux Capacitor

**Thursday, March 9 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.**

Philadelphia-based jam band Flux Capacitor performs a free show March 9 at The Avenue Café. The high-energy neo-psychedelic rock group's live performances include scorching guitar improvisations over buoyant, synth-driven electronica sounds and syncopated drum beats. Flux Capacitor's fan base has steadily grown since the band's genesis in 2007. Following the release of the band's debut record, 2009's "They Know We Know," the group has continued to record and tour the United States, Canada and Europe. Along the way, the group has warmed up stages for the likes of Umphrey's McGee, Rusted Root and Ozomatli. In 2011, the band recorded its sophomore release, "Monolith," in Seattle with notable engineer Jack Endino – best known for his work on Nirvana's "Bleach" LP. Flux's latest full-length, "Cycle 9," is available on most digital music outlets.

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.		A Lovecraftian Dance Party, 9 p.m. (FREE)	Little Lebowski Fest, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistair, 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			John Persico, 9p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Chris Laskos, 9 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dale Wicks, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd			Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Scott Seth, 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.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	DJ Fudgie, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.	Lunch and Learn, Noon	
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			The Tenants, 5:30 p.m.	
La Senorita, 2706 Lake Lansing Road				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,			Bubba Sparxxx, 8 p.m.	Vibestreet, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.				Less Is More, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Drive All Night, 9 p.m.	Hooties, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road				
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 7:30 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Life Support, 7 p.m.	Life Support, 7 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.		Kevin Schaeffer, 6 p.m.	Showdown, 8 p.m.	Showdown, 8 p.m.
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.		HomeSpun, 4 p.m.	Summer Son, 4 p.m.	Summer Son, 4 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Untamed, 9 p.m.	Untamed, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Alex Mendenall, 8 p.m.		



# Out on the town

from page 17

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

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

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

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

## ARTS

**Walk-In Wednesdays.** Art activities for all

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

## Thursday, March 2

### 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.

**Basic Watercolors.** Class for adults. Call to register. 1-3 p.m. \$60. Michigan Lighthouse Art Gallery, 107 S. Putnam St., #215, Williamston. (517) 256-8335, michiganlighthouseartgallery.com.

**Celebrate Recovery.** For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing),

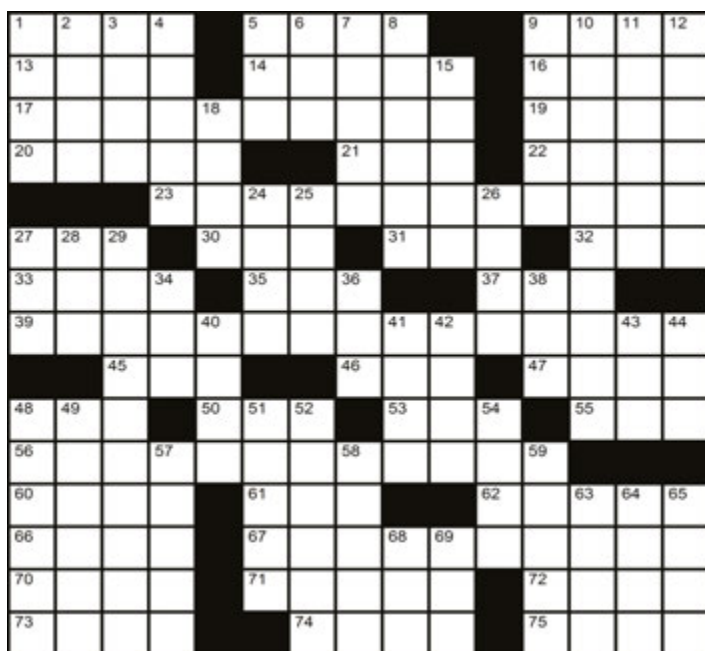
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Just Average"  
—if two don't fit...  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Lend a hand
- 5 "I got it!" reactions
- 9 "... like \_\_\_ out of hell"
- 13 "\_\_\_ F" (hit instrumental of 1985)
- 14 Like the sound of French vowels
- 16 Attack with the tongue
- 17 Picture that absolutely has to be seen?
- 19 See 41-Down
- 20 Make amends (for)
- 21 12 of 12, briefly
- 22 Spicy coffee shop order
- 23 Denims kept clean during auction time?
- 27 Be in another form?
- 30 Dave Grohl band
- 31 Concert purchase
- 32 "The Addams Family" cousin
- 33 Actor Diggs
- 35 Firm ending?
- 37 Actor James Van \_\_\_
- Beek
- 39 What part of each theme answer has to do to fit
- 45 Six-pack unit
- 46 Glass on NPR
- 47 Schooner steerer
- 48 "Do you even lift, p?"
- 50 Cobra \_\_\_ ("The Karate Kid" dojo)
- 53 Bother
- 55 "Sure thing"
- 56 Author of "A Series of Unfortunate Kravitzes"?
- 60 "The Thin Man" canine
- 61 English actor McKel-



- len
- 62 Engine buildup
- 66 Reminder of an old wound
- 67 Long stories about hosting audio-visual dance parties?
- 70 Plastic surgery procedure
- 71 Itching to get started
- 72 Casino freebie
- 73 Theater backdrops
- 74 "Hello \_\_\_" (cellphone ad catchphrase)
- 75 Land bordering the Persian Gulf

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ Nagila"
- 2 Cinema sign
- 3 "Dallas Buyers Club" Oscar winner Jared
- 4 Backup operation
- 5 "Fuel" performer
- DiFranco
- 6 Cuban sandwich ingredient

- 7 Carne \_\_\_ (burrito filler)
- 8 Most wise
- 9 Ralph's wife on "The Honeymooners"
- 10 Reason to wear a hat, maybe
- 11 Tilted
- 12 Believer in a deity
- 15 Dulce de \_\_\_
- 18 1970s heartthrob
- Garrett
- 24 "\_\_\_ Time" (Sublime song)
- 25 Refuses to
- 26 "Star Wars: The Last \_\_\_"
- 27 Cash cache, for short
- 28 Singer Corinne Bailey \_\_\_
- 29 It's good to keep during an interview
- 34 Vowel for Plato
- 36 It's represented by X
- 38 Mag. employees
- 40 Blue Pac-Man ghost
- 41 With 19-Across, "Spamalot" creator
- 42 "Superstore" actor
- McKinney
- 43 It's not a freaking "alternative fact"
- 44 Ernie of the PGA Tour
- 48 Criticizes loudly
- 49 Save from disaster
- 51 "\_\_\_ said many times ..."
- 52 Surrounded by standstill traffic
- 54 Beer barrels
- 57 Stoolies, in Sussex
- 58 Montoya who sought the six-fingered man
- 59 Bingham of "Bay-watch"
- 63 "Frankenstein" helper
- 64 Bear whose porridge was too cold
- 65 "30 for 30" cable channel
- 68 Tightrope walker's protection
- 69 Miracle-\_\_\_ (garden brand)

## THURSDAY, MARCH 2 >> POETS RESIST

A trio of Michigan poets hosts a night of resistance-themed poetry at Strange Matter Coffee Co. Thursday. Poets Santino DallaVecchia, Lisa Folkmire and Jacob Hammer, all graduates or students of the Vermont College of Fine Arts, present an evening of readings in response to President Trump's "aggressively populist, xenophobic, racist, climate-change denying, anti-LGBTQIA+, anti-free speech and anti-art regime." Collected donations from the evening benefit the Refugee Development Center and Black Lives Matter Lansing. Free Chemex-brewed coffee is available. 8:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Strange Matter Coffee Co., 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## FRIDAY, MAR. 3 >> ARTS NIGHT OUT

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing's pop-up art event returns to Old Town Friday. Arts Night Out, now a bimonthly event, brings local music, visual art and other performances to several Old Town locations. March's installment of Arts Night Out includes over 15 locations, including tours at Craig Mitchell Smith's glass studio, live music at Elderly instruments and an exhibition of Elisa Schmidt's art at Sweet Custom Jewelry. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Old Town, Lansing (call or see website for participating locations and artists). (517) 372-4636, myartsnightout.com.

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.

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

**Preschool Science Explorations: Fun with Fossils.** Hands-on science for preschoolers. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

**Spring Greeting Card Class.** Learn to paint watercolor greeting cards for family and friends. Call to register. 1-3 p.m. \$30. Michigan Lighthouse Art Gallery, 107 S. Putnam St., #215 Williamston. (517) 256-8335, michiganlighthouseartgallery.com.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Poets Resist.** Poetry reading. Email dalla.vecc1sd@gmail.com to participate. 8:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Strange Matter Coffee, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## MUSIC

**Suzuki Strings Recital.** Featuring student musicians. 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome.

MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

## 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.

**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.

**Capital Area Audubon Society.** Presentation: "Birding Spots You've Never Heard Of." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. capitalareaaudubon.org.

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

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

**Teddy Bear Storytime.** Ages up to 9 enjoy

See Out on the Town, Page 19

## SUDOKU

## ADVANCED

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

## TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 20



# Out on the town

from page 18

storytime with their favorite stuffed toys. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

## Friday, March 3 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Picture This.** Painters of all levels learn to recreate favorite photos. 7-9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 for two. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, ow.ly/o7UU308T49F.

**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.

## EVENTS

**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.

**Video Game Night.** Ages 8-18 game together. Call to register. 5-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

**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.

**St. Casimir Church Fish Frys.** 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

**Arts Night Out.** Arts festival in Old Town. See web for specific participating locations. Old Town, Lansing. myartsnightout.com.

**Altered Tour: Flint Voices with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.** Doctor who rang the alarm on Flint Water Crisis speaks. 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## MUSIC

**The Times They Are a Changin' - Celebrating the Songs of Bob Dylan.** With a variety of performers. 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$15 members/\$5 students. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

## Saturday, March 4 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Plant Therapy Workshop.** Reducing stress with plants. Register online. 12:30-2 p.m. \$12. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. ow.ly/RCud3094daS.

**Reiki Level One.** Course on energy healing

## FRIDAY, MAR. 3 >> 'THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'' AT TEN POUND FIDDLE

Ten Pound Fiddle pays tribute to an artist who has influenced popular culture and music for over 50 years with "The Times They Are a Changin': Celebrating the Songs of Bob Dylan." Friday night, several local artists take the stage to honor the influential songwriter. Jen Sygit, Roger Brown, the Dangling Particples and the Springtails are slated to perform, and local folksters Jim Hall and Cindy Morgan serve as hosts for the evening. 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$15 members/ \$5 students. MSU Community School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-7744, tenpoundfiddle.org.

## FRIDAY, MAR. 3 >> ALTERED TOUR AT THE BROAD ART MUSEUM

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, whose research and testing of lead levels in Flint children helped prove that that city's water had become poisonous, visits the Broad Art Museum Friday to discuss one of the museum's latest exhibits. Hanna-Attisha will offer her unique perspective on "Beyond Streaming: A Sound Mural for Flint." Coordinated by Chicago-based artist Jan Tichy, "Beyond Streaming" draws on the work of over 60 high school students in Flint and Lansing who helped document the water crisis through audio interviews. The resulting installation sends excerpts of these interviews through a web of copper pipes. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

techniques. Call or register online. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$55. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

## MUSIC

**An All School Recital.** Featuring student musicians. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

**Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands.** Concert of twelve Michigan community bands. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 349-8548, meridiancommunityband.org.

## EVENTS

**CoderDojo.** Ages 7-17 learn to code websites, apps and more. Call to register. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

**Eastside Neighborhood Organization's Annual Spring Souper.** Eat soups and desserts. 4-6:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 kids/\$18 families. Pattengill Middle School, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. enoonline.org.

**English Country Dance.** All dances taught and prompted. 2-5 p.m. \$10/students \$7. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. people.albion.edu/ram/lecd.

**Minecraft Game Event.** Ages 8-15 game together. Register online. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

**Spartan Young Astronomers Club.** For kids ages 8-12 who love astronomy. 10 a.m.-noon. \$3. Memberships available. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**The Science of Flight.** Ages 6 and up make paper airplanes and more. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

## THEATER

**Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.** Rock musical about Biblical story. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 children. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

## ARTS

**Art Reception: Elaine Dowbrowski and Lily LaFollette.** Michigan artists share landscapes. 1-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

## Sunday, March 5 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, charlotteyoga.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.

**Reiki Level 2.** Second step on path of learning to use Reiki. Registration required. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$95. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

## EVENTS

**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.

## ARTS

**Art Opening for Nia Whittaker Photography and Digital Art.** 3-5 p.m. FREE. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Highway, Lansing. (517) 708-7350, eaglemonkbrewing.com.

**The Bridge: the Artists of Forster Woods Adult Day Center.** Artist reception and grand opening of new art show. 2-4 p.m. Bookend Gallery, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

## MUSIC

**Ukulele Kings CD Release.** With guest Springtails. 6:30 p.m. \$12/\$10 adv. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Square, Lansing. benhassenger.com/music/the-ukulele-kings.

## THEATER

**Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.** Rock musical about Biblical story. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 children. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## SUNDAY, MAR. 5 >> THE BRIDGE ART SHOW AT THE BOOKEND

The Bookend, a used book store located in the Haslett Library, opens a new art exhibit, "The Bridge," Sunday afternoon. The exhibition features the work of artists from Forster Woods Adult Day Center, a professionally supervised day program caring for the elderly and adults with physical and mental impairments. Visitors can meet the artist and learn about what inspires them. Forster Woods Adult Day Center is. 2-4 p.m. FREE. The Bookend Gallery, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. facebook.com/thebookendhaslett.

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## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

March 17

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): I predict that you will have earned the title of Master Composter no later than March 26. Not necessarily because you will have packed your food scraps, wilted flowers, coffee grounds, and shredded newspapers in, say, a deluxe dual-chamber tumbling compost bin. But rather because you will have dealt efficiently with the rotting emotions, tattered habits, decrepit melodramas, and trivial nonsense that has accumulated; you will have worked hard to transform all that crap into metaphorical fertilizer for your future growth. Time to get started!

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): It's a good time for you to wield your emotional intelligence with leadership and flair. The people you care about need more of your sensitive influence. Any posse or tribe you're part of will benefit from your thoughtful intervention. So get out there and build up the group morale, Taurus. Assert your healing ideals with panache. Tamp down the insidious power of peer pressure and fashionable nonsense. You have a mandate to wake up sleepy allies and activate the dormant potential of collective efforts.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): If you were ever in your life going to be awarded an honorary PhD from a top university, it would happen in the next few weeks. If there were even a remote possibility that you would someday be given one of those MacArthur Fellowship "genius" grants, now would be the time. Likewise if you had any hopes of being selected as one of "The World's Sexiest Chameleons" or "The Fastest, Sweetest Talkers on Earth" or "The Planet's Most Virtuoso Vacillators," the moment has arrived. And even if none of those things happen, I'm still pretty sure that your reputation and status will be on the rise.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You're wandering into places you've always thought you should be wary of or skeptical about. Good for you! As long as you protect your innocence, I encourage you to keep exploring. To my delight, you have also been fantasizing about accomplishments that used to be off-limits. Again, I say: Good for you! As long as you don't overreach, I invite you to dream boldly, even brazenly. And since you seem to be in the mood for big thinking, here are other revolutionary activities to consider: dissolving nonessential wishes; transcending shrunken expectations; escaping the boring past; busting irrelevant taboos.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): I did a good job of raising my daughter. She turned out to be a thoughtful, intelligent adult with high integrity and interesting skills. But I'm not sure my parenting would have been as effective if I'd had more kids. I discussed this issue with Nathan, a guy I know. His six offspring are all grown up, too. "How did you do it?" I asked him. "Having just one child was a challenging job for me." "I'll tell you my secret," Nathan told me. "I'm a bad father. I didn't work very hard on raising my kids. And now they never let me forget it." In the coming weeks and months, Leo, I recommend that you pursue my approach in your chosen field, not Nathan's. Aim for high-quality intensity rather than scattershot quantity.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In her poem "Not Anyone Who Says," Virgo writer Mary Oliver looks down on people who declare, "I'm going to be careful and smart in matters of love." She disparages the passion of anyone who asserts, "I'm going to choose slowly." Instead she champions those who are "chosen by something invisible and powerful and uncontrollable and beautiful and possibly even unsuitable." Here's my response: Her preferred formula sounds glamorous and dramatic and romantic — especially the powerful and beautiful part. But in practice it rarely works out well — maybe just ten percent of the time — mostly because of the uncontrollable and unsuitable part. And now is not one of those times for you, Virgo. Be careful and smart in matters of love, and choose slowly.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The poet Rainer Maria

Rilke bemoaned the fact that so many of us "squander our sorrows." Out of self-pity or lazy self-indulgence, we wallow in memories of experiences that didn't turn out the way we wished they would have. We paralyze ourselves with repetitions of depleting thoughts. Here's an alternative to that approach: We could use our sadness and frustrations to transform ourselves. We could treat them as fuel to motivate our escape from what doesn't work, to inspire our determination to rise above what demoralizes and demeans us. I mention this, Libra, because now is an excellent time to do exactly that.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's time for the Bliss Blitz — a new holiday just for you Scorpios. To celebrate it properly, get as buoyant as you dare; be greedy for euphoria; launch a sacred quest for pleasure. Ah, but here's the big question: Can you handle this much relief and release? Are you strong enough to open yourself to massive outbreaks of educational delight and natural highs? Some of you may not be prepared. You may prefer to remain ensconced in your protective sheath of cool cynicism. But if you think you can bear the shock of unprecedented exaltation and jubilation, then go ahead and risk it. Experiment with the unruly happiness of the Bliss Blitz.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In his book "The Horologion," Mark Forsyth gathered "obscure but necessary" words that he dug out of old dictionaries. One of his discoveries is a perfect fit for you right now. It's "snudge," a verb that means to walk around with a pensive look on your face, appearing to be busy or in the midst of productive activity, when in fact you're just goofing off. I recommend it for two reasons: 1. It's important for your mental and physical health that you do a lot of nothing; that you bless yourself with a healing supply of refreshing emptiness. 2. It's important for your mental and physical health that you do this on the sly as much as possible; that you avoid being judged or criticized for it by others.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I wish your breakfast cereal came in boxes decorated with Matisse and Picasso paintings. I wish songbirds would greet you each morning with sweet tunes. I wish you'd see that you have more power than you realize. I wish you knew how uniquely beautiful you are. I wish you'd get intoxicated with the small miracles that are happening all around you. I wish that when you made a bold move to improve your life, everyone greeted it with curiosity and excitement. And I wish you would let your imagination go half-wild with fascinating fantasies during this, the Capricorn wishing season.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "You're a different human being to everybody you meet," says novelist Chuck Palahniuk. Now is an excellent time to contemplate the intricacies and implications of that amazing truth — and start taking better advantage of how much freedom it gives you. Say the following statements out loud and see how they feel: 1. "My identity isn't as narrowly circumscribed as I think it is." 2. "I know at least 200 people, so there must be at least 200 facets to my character." 3. "I am too complicated to be completely comprehended by any one person." 4. "Consistency is overrated."

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Your immediate future is too good to be true. Or at least that's what you, with your famous self-doubt, might be inclined to believe if I told you the truth about the favorable developments that are in the works. Therefore, I have come up with some fake anxieties to keep your worry reflex engaged so it won't sabotage the real goodies. Beware of dirty limericks and invisible ladders and upside-down rainbows and psychic bunny rabbits. Be on guard against accountants wearing boxing gloves and clowns singing Broadway show tunes in runaway shopping carts and celebrities telling you classified secrets in your dreams.

## Out on the town

from page 19

### Monday, March 6

#### 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.

**Pre-marital Workshop I.** Discuss expectations about career, finances, housework, kids, intimacy and more. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$40. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

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

**NAMI Class for Persons in Recovery from Mental Illness.** On coping, diagnosis and more. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3404, namilansing.org.

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

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

#### 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.

#### 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.

**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 7

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All levels

welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

**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.

**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.

**Yawn Patrol Toastmasters.** Hone speaking and leadership skills. See web for details. 7-8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. yawnpatrol.com.

**Acupuncture Detox Session.** Education & wellness treatment. 6:30-8 p.m. Donations suggested. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

#### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Meet Author Shaka Senghor.** Author speaks on overcoming poverty and violence. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300.

#### MUSIC

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

#### 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.

**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.

**Helping Women Period Fundraiser Breakfast.** Benefit for group that provides menstrual hygiene products to those in need. 8:30-10:30 a.m. \$35. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 295-0552, helpingwomenperiod.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,

See Out on the Town, Page 21

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

HELP	AHAS	ABAT					
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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## VACANCIES AND NEW VENTURES

Courtesy Photo

Last week, downtown East Lansing sweet shop Velvet A Candy Store closed after 20 months. It's one of the latest casualties in a recent outbreak of business closings in Metro Lansing.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

Despite a flurry of new businesses flocking to Metro Lansing to take advantage of the rebounding economy and abundance of new urban housing options, there's been a curious burst of bar/restaurant closings that has raised eyebrows around the area. But despite the ever-growing roster of empty eateries, there's still a steady stream of incoming business.

The latest casualty is downtown East Lansing confectionary **Velvet A Candy Store**, 507 E. Grand River Ave. Last week, its owners announced through the business' Facebook page that they had decided to close after a year and a half, but there was a glimmer of hope in that message.

"Thank you everyone for your business and support these past couple years and stay tuned as we will keep you posted on our next location and adventure," the statement said. "(W)e are actively pursuing new locations in the East Lansing area and hope to be open again very soon."

East Lansing eatery **Conrad's Grill**, which recently closed its location at 101 E. Grand River Ave., also announced via social media that it was planning to open a new location in the area "shortly." Since 2008, it held down the corner of Abbot Road and Grand River Avenue and even expanded to two other locations — 1219 E. Grand River Ave. and a store in the Frandor Shopping Center. But the papered windows at its prominent downtown location does leave a noticeable gap in an otherwise bustling college town shopping district.

If and when they do reopen, both sets of owners will have their pick of spaces to

choose from. From Delta Township on the west side of town to Okemos in the east, and from Old Town in the north to Holt in the south, there are nearly three dozen empty retail spaces that were bars or restaurants within the last five years — more than half of which closed in the last 12 months. If you take into account unclaimed slots in recently completed mixed-use developments, the number of potential restaurant locations stands at over 50. Charitably speaking, it's a rentee's market.

One of these vacancies is **Art's Bar**, 809 E. Kalamazoo St., just east of downtown Lansing. Two weeks before the longtime sports bar was shuttered last August, owner Rick Yager waved off claims that it was closing, saying that it was "false information." An anonymous source had said at the time that the business was in a state of receivership, meaning the property had become the subject of a legal dispute and had been placed under the control of an independent party. A search of court records could not confirm this standing, but the building is currently bank-owned, and the city of Lansing's tax assessor website shows an outstanding payment of \$5,527.74 due. Owner Rick Yager did not return multiple calls for comment, and his ex-wife, former Art's Bar co-owner Nancy Yager, declined to speak on the record.

Another recent restaurant closing marks the first victim of Lansing's barbecue boom. **King of the Grill**, 4400 N. Grand River Ave., adjacent to the Capital Region International Airport in northwest Lansing, closed last month with nary a warning. Owner/operator Jeff Mendoza, who opened King of the Grill in 2011 and eventually launched a pub-

lic access cooking show of the same name, did not return a call for comment. Barbecue fans need not fret, however: **Saddleback BBQ** in REO Town recently announced a new location coming soon to Okemos, and **Meat Southern BBQ** and **Carnivore Cuisine** in Old Town has started teasing "something cool coming down the pipes." Stay tuned.

Several empty — in some cases, long-dormant — properties have been promising new concepts, but work has been slow going for each. In May 2015, Bill Bonofiglo announced that he intended to reopen **Mr. Taco**, the Mexican fast-casual restaurant started by his father in 1967, at its original location, 3122 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Bonofiglo started a private Facebook group that, for the last two years, has generated outpourings of both support and frustration from customers who want to know when the restaurant will actually reopen. Bonofiglo has repeatedly said on the Facebook page that funding has taken longer than anticipated. Bonofiglo said he's performing renovation work on the building himself as he simultaneously works to secure funding to reopen. He has also said that last year's lawsuit pertaining to recipes has nothing to do with the restaurant's delay.

For the last five months, a sign in the window of the former Lansing A&W, 4919 W. Saginaw Highway, has promised the opening of **Nu-Wave Fish & Chicken**, a Detroit-based, you-buy-we-fry mini-chain. The owner said that he's been caught up in "the city's approval process" but promises an opening by spring, right around the time of the opening of **the Grid**, 226 E. Grand River Ave. in Old Town. The bar/arcade will breathe new life into one of the city's more iconic properties, built as a bank in the 1920s. Announcements are also expected soon for what will come of the former **Clara's Lansing Station**, 637 E. Michigan Ave. in downtown Lansing. Last year, the **Gillespie Group** development company purchased the historic property. And sometime early this year, the area's first **Golden Corral**, a national buffet chain, will open in the building that formerly housed **Fire Mountain** at 730 Elmwood Road.

Coming soon: **Green Dot Stables**, the third location for a successful Detroit bar and grill, is set to open this year in East Lansing; **Chik Fil-A** will open an Okemos location less than a year after the debut of its west Lansing store; and two new-construction bars: **Arcadia Ales & Smokehouse** in Lansing's Eastside

Neighborhood and **Punk Taco** near Frandor, are showing signs of progress.

So for everyone keeping track at home, here are some of Metro Lansing's notable bar/restaurant vacancies, listed geographically by the name of the most recent business that used the space. Announcements for some of these have been rumored, and we'll be reporting on them as soon as we can. In the meantime, future restaurateurs, here are some possibly spaces to launch your dream:

### Okemos/Meridian Township

- Traveler's Club, 2138 Hamilton Road
- Paul Revere's Tavern, 2703 E. Grand River Ave.

### East Lansing/Lansing Township

- Cosi, 301 E. Grand River Ave.
- Emo's Korean Restaurant, 901 Trowbridge Road
- Tripper's, 350 Frandor Ave.
- Max & Erma's, 2515 Lake Lansing Road
- Tony Sacco's, 2328 Showtime Drive Downtown Lansing/Old Town
- The Temple Club, 502 E. Grand River Ave.
- Bonnie's Place, 415 E. Saginaw St.
- Art's Bar, 809 E. Kalamazoo St.
- The Corner Bar, 505 E. Shiawassee St.
- 621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.
- The Beer Grotto, 500 E. Michigan Ave. #100
- Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave.
- Hot Chicken Kitchen, 123 S. Washington Square
- House of Eden Rock, 205 S. Washington Square
- Black Rose, 206 S. Washington Square
- Henry's on the Square, 229 S. Washington Square
- Crafty Palate, 333 S. Washington Square
- Tini Bikinis, 511 E. Hazel St.

### South Lansing/Holt

- Pizza Hut, 3218 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Colonial Bar & Grill, 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Penn Avenue Diner, 6031 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
- House of Ing, 4113 S. Cedar St.
- Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Chick'n & Fix'ns, 6333 S. Cedar St.
- Famous Dave's, 2457 S. Cedar St.

### West Lansing

- Irish Pub & Grill, 1910 W. Saginaw St.
- King of the Grill, 4400 N. Grand River Ave.
- Old Country Buffet, 5002 W. Saginaw Hwy.

*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).*

## Out on the town

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2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068, oa.org.

### Wednesday, March 8

#### MUSIC

**An Afternoon of Romantic Music.** Isoa Chapman, violin and Matthias Chang, piano. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

#### 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.

**Free Reflexology Intro Sessions.** Find out about Reflexology and its wellness benefits. 9:30-11 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

**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](http://beyondstretching.weebly.com).

#### 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.

**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 N. 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.

**ICAGS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions.

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

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

#### ARTS

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



# Fishing for options

## Exploring wine pairings for Lent

By JUSTIN KING

Let's get this out of the way first: You don't need to apologize for the six-pack of paczki you slammed earlier this week. They're delicious, and anyone who disagrees is probably a fascist.

Paczki — pronounced "poonch-kee" — exist because Polish Catholics needed to use up all the eggs, lard and sugar in the house before Lent began. This tradition takes place on Fat Tuesday, as you probably know. But unlike the Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans, the only beads you'll get from paczki are the beads of sweat on your forehead after crushing three in an hour.

Lent's observance starts this week, and many observers will abstain from red meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays through April 14. Ergo, fish consumption is up during Lent. McDonald's debuted the Filet-O-Fish in time for Lent in 1962, and sales were brisk and impressive.

So what does all this have to do with wine? The good news here is that there's not a word written about abstaining from wine for Lent. So let's line up some tasty bottles for our periodic pescatarians.

If you dig salmon, one of the biggest home runs is pairing it with a good rosé. A current favorite is the 2016 Matthiasson rosé, made from grenache, syrah, mourvedre and counoise grapes. Steve Matthiasson is one of the most critically acclaimed California winemakers of the last decade. His rosé is a lower-alcohol wine — under 12 percent — but fleshy flavors of watermelon, blood orange and ruby red grapefruit abound. At \$25, this is a touch pricier than many rosés.



Justin King/City Pulse

If you're taking a break from red meat for Lent, Matthiasson's 2016 rosé is a great pairing for salmon dinners.

If you want to go for value, look for 2015 rosés from southern France. The 2015 harvest was exceptional, with bountiful fruit and top-notch weather. Many wine distributors will be looking to push out the '15s at a lower price to make room for the '16s coming in. Also, rosés with a year or so on them can be in that perfect drinking window. You can catch them before they fall apart but far after that fresh-from-the-tank taste, which sometimes feels synthetic.

For trout, I dig on riesling — specifically riesling from Alsace, France. The wine regions of Germany make up the lion's share

of riesling plantings in the world, but this aromatic, hardy grape has found success in places like Alsace, Austria, Washington State, Australia and of course, Michigan.

Alsatian rieslings differ in one key way from most of the Germans we see in the Michigan market: They're usually dry. Some houses buck tradition and choose to ferment less of the sugar from the grapes, therefore leaving the wines slightly sweeter and lower in alcohol. Trimbach Estate is not one of those houses. Whatever vintage is available at your trusted wine store, buy it. It should be about \$20, and its tart lemon, ever-so-slightly tropical style might make it the best value dry riesling in the world.

Plenty of Lent observers are game for a good fish fry. This, my friends, calls for sparkling wine. Bubbles + fried food = game changer.

Want to really maximize your good eats? Grab a bottle of J.P. Chenet's Blanc de Blancs Brut. It lands in your shopping cart for around \$12, and its versatility will make your friends, family and guests happy they're drinking with you. This wine depends on two workhorse grapes that espouse no glamour on your average wine label: airen and ugni blanc.

Airen used to be the most planted grape in the world until a few years ago, when cabernet sauvignon kicked it off the top of the pile. Airen is native to Spain, and almost all of it is grown there, where the brandy industry depends on its resistance to drought. Ugni blanc is the main grape that is distilled for Cognac production, but is originally from Italy, where it is known as trebbiano toscano.

These two grapes are widely embraced for, well, their nothingness. Probably 90 percent of the wines I've had from these two grapes are just plain boring. The surprise here is that J.P. Chenet has maximized their strengths: tart, crisp apple/peach profile and brightness in youth. If the price on this wine stays down, it's a real steal.

Do you need a catchall wine for all things seafood? Camina's verdejo can be your hero, baby. (Move over, Enrique Iglesias.) A worthwhile value at around \$15, this wine offers aromas and flavors of peach pit, candied lemon bar, orange pith and chalky minerality.

Many of the best verdejos tend to come from Spain's Rueda region, which lies northwest of Madrid. Camina's playful wine, however, is from Spain's southeast, in La Mancha. But the story is still the same in many ways. Central Spain was new territory for winemakers interested in viticultural technology, mostly because of the price tag. It took a few major players like Marques de Riscal to light the path. Camina came a little later, born of a cooperative of grape farmers. And our taste buds are better off for it.

Justin King is a certified sommelier and owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in DeWitt. Want help finding these wines? Email him at [justinking@gmail.com](mailto:justinking@gmail.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.

Bon appétit!

## TOP 5 VEGETARIAN/ VEGAN/GLUTEN FREE

### #1 SOUP SPOON CAFE

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

### #2 RED HAVEN

Upscale farm-to-table restaurant featuring adventurous cuisine and sleek design 4480 Hagadorn Road, Suite 103 (517) 679-6309, [eatredhaven.com](http://eatredhaven.com) 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 5-10 p.m. Saturday; 5-8:30 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday

### #3 BETTER HEALTH

Grocery store with wide selection of organic and gluten-free products and a cafe. 305 N. Clippert St., Lansing (517) 332-6892, [thebetterhealthstore.com](http://thebetterhealthstore.com) 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

### #4 ALTU'S ETHIOPIAN CUISINE

Low-key, independently owned outpost for traditional Ethiopian fare & combo meals, plus smoothies. 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing (517) 333-6295, [eatataltus.com](http://eatataltus.com) 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 4:30-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, closed Sunday-Monday.

### #5 ALADDIN'S RESTAURANT

City Pulse readers recommend the chicken schwarma and Mediterranean salad 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing (517) 333-8710, [aladdinslansing.com](http://aladdinslansing.com) 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday



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# Small burrito — El Oasis

As the temperatures hovered in the mid-50s Thursday, I couldn't resist the urge to get out of the office and wander down to the El Oasis food truck, purveyors of some of Lansing's finest Mexican treats. Apparently I wasn't the only



**El Oasis**  
8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday  
2501 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
(517) 648-7693, eloasistruck.com

one bitten by the El Oasis bug, as the crew diligently worked to keep up with a line of customers that was often 10 to 12 people deep.

I ordered my small burrito and then settled on a bench to people watch. El Oasis is one of the rare places in Lansing where suit-and-tie types eat lunches next to construction workers and Eastside Neighborhood natives mingle with MSU students brave enough to wander west of I-127. The common denominator, of course, is El Oasis' no-frills, consistently solid Mexican fare.

I love the small burrito for lunch because it's hefty enough to satisfy my ap-

petite but small enough to avoid the dreaded mid-afternoon food coma. This little guy is packed with beans, rice, avocado, pico de gallo, cheese, sour cream and your choice of meat. I generally float between asada (grilled steak) chorizo or desebrada (shredded beef).

### 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!

This food is worth waiting in the snow for, but when you have the chance to enjoy a burrito in the sunshine, you should take it.

— Ty Forquer

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# Appetizers

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# THE PULSIFIEDS

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(517) 580-6702  
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**Capital Dank**  
1202 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
(517) 657-7885  
Hours- 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

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**Capital Wellness**  
1825 E. Michigan, Lansing  
(517) 708-7023  
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**Visit Capital Wellness for Lansing's largest selection of edibles!** 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.



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2200 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
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Mon-Sat: 10 AM-11 PM  
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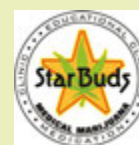
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