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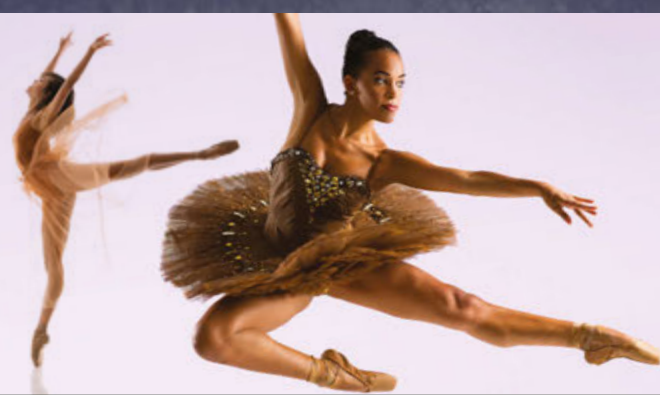
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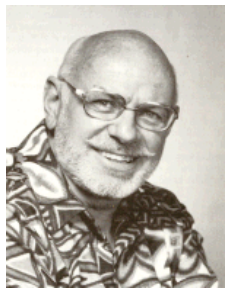
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City seeks to preserve Cooley Haze House



**PAGE
7**

A closer look at City Hall



**PAGE
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The artwork of Ingrid Blixt



**Cover
Art**

By Jonathan Griffith

B/18/048 BOARD UP SERVICES REBID as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM local time in effect on May 8, 2018** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-095

B/18/074 PARKING STRUCTURE REPAIRS 2018 as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM local time in effect on May 15, 2018** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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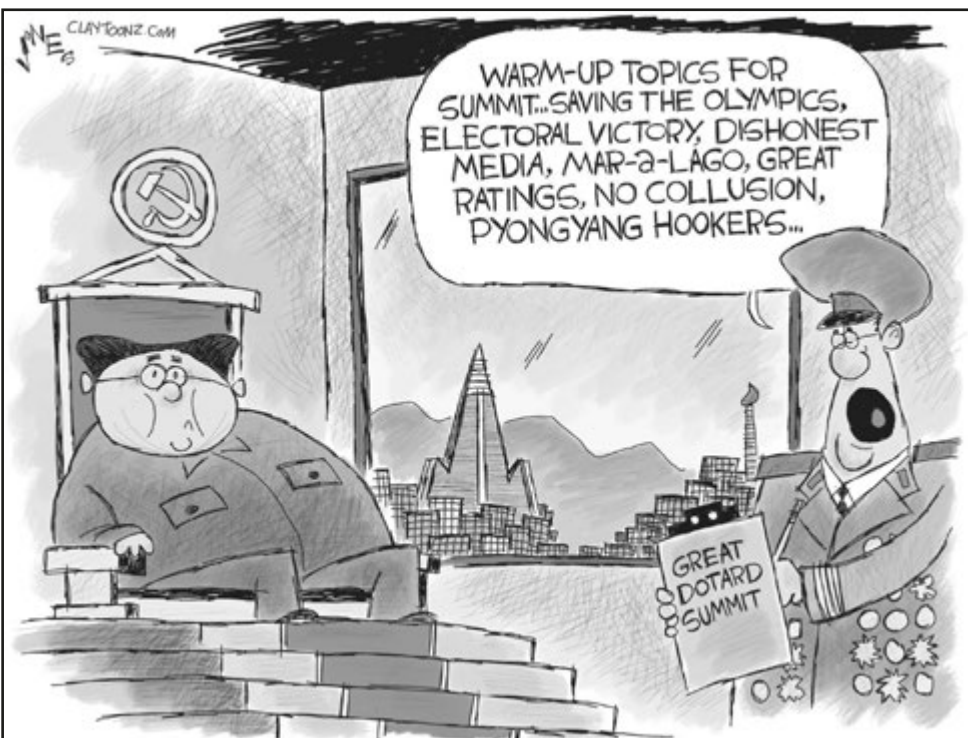


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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

YOU THERE, IN YOUR LIBERAL NEWS BUBBLE! YOU MAY THINK THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO TRUMP ARE ABOUT CORRUPTION AND CRIMINALITY... There were NO Hush Money payoffs! There was NO Collusion! There is NO obstruction of Justice! And there is NO PEE TAPE!!!

And everything I say is NOT the opposite of the truth!

...BUT HIS SUPPORTERS KNOW THAT IT'S ALL FAKE NEWS!

MICHAEL COHEN IS JUST AN ORDINARY, HARDWORKING LAWYER WITH MANY CLIENTS, INCLUDING SEAN HANNITY AND, UM, THAT OTHER GUY!

THE RAID WAS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, ON WHICH I AM AN EXPERT AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF GOOGLING!

AND WHILE YOU MAY THINK TRUMP IS WEIRDLY OBSEQUIOUS TOWARD VLADIMIR PUTIN... RUSSIA BETTER WATCH OUT OR WE'LL ANNOUNCE MORE SANCTIONS WE WON'T IMPLEMENT!

SSSSST PRESIDENT PUTIN, SIR--IF YOU'RE WATCHING, PLEASE DON'T RELEASE THE EE-PAY APE-TAY! THIS IS ALL JUST FOR SNOW!

SIR YOU CAN'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD. I WAS JOKING!

...BUT HIS SUPPORTERS SEE A BRILLIANT STATESMAN AND DEALMAKER! WOULD YOU RATHER HE STARTED A WAR WITH RUSSIA, AS HILLARY CLINTON CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE DONE?

UNLESS HE DOES START A WAR WITH RUSSIA, IN WHICH CASE IT'S ALL PART OF HIS MASTER PLAN!

AND OF COURSE YOU, THE OUT-OF-TOUCH ELITIST LIBERAL, MAY SEE TRUMP AS A CONNING, ADULTEROUS SOCIOPATH...

DON'T WORRY, LADIES! MY WIFE WILL NEVER KNOW! SHE'S STUCK AT HOME--APPARENTLY WE JUST HAD A BABY OR SOMETHING!

NOW LET'S PARTY!

...BUT HIS SUPPORTERS SEE-- WELL, IT'S HARD TO SAY, REALLY... IT'S ALL LIES! DONALD TRUMP IS A MORAL, CHRISTIAN MAN!

AND ALSO ALPHA ENOUGH TO TAKE ANY WOMAN HE WANTS!

WE...MIGHT NEED TO WORK ON THIS ONE.

TOM TOMORROW © 2018

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Last mansion standing

City looks for transformative proposal for historic home

When Eugene Cooley ordered the construction of the three-story Colonial Revival home here in Lansing, the city was booming. The home, now called the Cooley Haze House, was for his son, and sat among rows of palatial estates on Main Street in a neighborhood that was home to the city's wealthiest and most elite addresses.

Cooley Haze has survived because the city of Lansing acquired and maintained it. But with approval of city voters last year, the city is moving forward with plans to sell the historic home and the postage stamp-sized lot on which it stands. It is accepting proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of that property until 2 p.m. Thursday.

The catch? Whoever buys the property will have an historic covenant restriction on the deed. That will prevent the owner or future owners from changing the outside of structure, such as the roofline, for at least 30 years, for at least 30 years.

The Cooley Haze House is on a different path than its former neighbor, the Scott House. Built in 1918, the Scott House was also owned by the city, but it was torn down last year to make room for the Central Substation being built by the Lansing Board of Water & Light.

That leaves a 115-year-old Cooley Haze House nestled between the deed-restrict-

ed Cooley Gardens to the west and south, Scott Park to the east and Malcolm X Street (formerly known as Main Street) to the north.

"Very selfishly, I'd love to see it be a dining or event space, for my own enjoyment and for the enjoyment of the community,"



Luke Anthony Photography

The City of Lansing, with voter approval, has put the 1903 Cooley-Haze House on the market in an effort to preserve the last home left standing in a grand neighborhood largely destroyed by the construction of I-496.

said Veronica Gracia-Wing, who chairs the Parks Board. "I love the concept of the Whitney in Detroit, and think that model would suit the space and community well."

The Whitney mansion, on Woodward Avenue, is the former home of lumber baron David Whitney Jr. that has been turned into an attraction and restaurant. It's also about four times the size of the Cooley Haze House, which is 4,188 square feet.

Echo of history

It's hard not to imagine the home in its heyday, a quartet playing in the grand front room, as guests sat in the sunroom watching and listening. The city was booming in 1903 when the home was built, said Bill Castanier, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

Industrialization was taking off and the city was reaping the economic boom that came with it. The auto industry, then in its

infancy, was beginning to hum along and the city had become a key stop for Wild West shows and circuses.

Some of those shows would have set up in the large flat space where the GM Cadillac plant sits today, just across the street from Cooley Gardens and the Cooley Haze House. Castanier said the shows and circuses would arrive in town and parade down Washington Avenue, and the residents would rush out to see them.

They probably had never seen exotic



Monument to tragedy 123 N. Hayford Ave., Lansing

The gray house with weathered plywood skirting its lower floor looms over Hayford Street. Three evergreens, overgrown and distorted, shroud the front of the former home at 123 N. Hayford on Lansing's east side. The former home stands a testament to a tragic fire Nov. 4, 2013. That fire ravaged the downstairs, where the property's owner James Leach, 65, was bedridden. He and his puppy, Trumpet, died in the fire. And while family tried to repair the home and sell it, city officials reported in a Dec. 6, 2017, meeting of the Lansing City Council Committee on Public Safety that they had given up and "walked away" from the house. It requires over \$123,000 in repairs. The city has been authorized to tear the home down sometime this spring. It will leave an empty lot that city officials believe will eventually end up in the hands of the Ingham County Land Bank. Neighbors have expressed concerns to the city that the home was attracting animals and the backyard had become a hangout for local teens.

TODD HEYWOOD



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



Luke Anthony Photography

The grand staircase in the historic Cooley Haze House. This beautiful staircase stretches from the former grand foyer on the west side of the home up to the second story.

See Mansion, Page 6

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 608, Section 608.04 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, restricting sale and consumption of alcohol on public property by allowing sale and consumption of alcohol at the South Washington Office Complex (SWOC), subject to restrictions on sale and consumption of alcohol in parks, modifying the provisions related to Fenner Nature Center, and deleting the Scott House as a permitted location.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
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Mansion

from page 5

others have built in shelving units.

To access those former bedrooms, you walk up a beautiful wooden staircase that empties into an area just above what would likely have been the front door.

A walk through on Saturday revealed some water damage in the north end of the building, but otherwise revealed a fairly sound building,

Brett Kaschinske, director of Lansing parks and recreation, is overseeing the sale process for the house.

He pointed out Saturday that the wood clapboard sidings are covered in lead paint. That's part of the reason the city, in consultation with historic preservationist, recommended the sale of the home. The cost to address the lead contamination was put in the neighborhood of \$100,000, he said.

And while he is overseeing the sale of

the building, he said he really does not have a grand vision for the former home.

"We really want to see what other people have, what they are bringing to the table," he said.

Dale Schrader, president of Preservation Lansing, said he believes the building will likely become the home of a law firm or insurance business.

"Whoever buys it will garner a lot of good will," said Schrader, whose group fought unsuccessfully to save the Scott House.

Kaschinske talks about how perfectly well set the home is, between Cooley Gardens and the Scott Garden. Just beyond Scott Garden to the east, construction is under way on the Lansing Board of Water & Light's Central Substation.

Schrader, for his part, notes that this is an important move to save a vestige of Lansing history.

"It really is the last mansion standing," he said. "It's important to save it."

— TODD HEYWOOD



Luke Anthony Photography

This rustic stone mantel surrounds the fireplace in the third floor of the historic Cooley Haze House. The room in which it is located has been converted into a space for duct work, but two sets of large historic windows, a bay window on the west side of the home and a large square window on the north side, are currently covered up with insulation.



Luke Anthony Photography

One of the several rooms in the historic Cooley Haze House.

TALES FROM THE DRIPPING SLAB

THE HIDDEN HORRORS OF LANSING'S CITY HALL

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

It's not Carlsbad Caverns, but it's bad enough.

Stalactites of calcified minerals ooze down the walls and columns of the parking structure underneath Lansing City Hall. Plywood coffins float overhead, bolted to the ceiling to keep slabs of concrete from crushing cars.

Age is catching up with the glassy slab of mid-century modernism at the corner of Michigan and Capitol avenues.

City Hall was a sleek, forward-looking architectural gem when it was built in 1958, but now it's the subject of a question whispered about a lot of Baby Boomers these days — what are we going to do with Grandpa?

The city wants to offload the aging equipment, drafty walls, crumbling plaza and other headaches and sell City Hall to a private developer with pockets deep enough to give the building a new life, perhaps as a hotel and restaurant overlooking the state Capitol.

If the plan works out, the mayor and other officials would leave their prime views for Lansing's guests and tourists to enjoy, like good hosts, and move City Hall into a new spot, downsized to fit smaller payrolls of the 21st century, with centralized services and public parking.

Abstract and concrete

Lansing property manager Martin Riel is a building geek. He loves his job so much he tours other buildings while on vacation.

A few years ago, he met his counterpart at the Empire State Building.

"I wouldn't want his job," Riel said.

Riel and his team have their hands full patching, caulking and duct taping City Hall together.

"This is a very unique building, and we're trying hard to take care of it," Riel said.

Last week, Riel, public service director Andy Kilpatrick and building services supervisor Laurie Stocker walked through the building, from basement to roof, to survey its condition.

Mayor Andy Schor joined us in the parking structure under the Michigan Avenue plaza, where a chunk of concrete recently fell onto a van. City Hall's leaky plaza and the cavernous garage below are the most dramatic front in an accelerating war with entropy.

"The building has got some sizeable needs," Schor said. "We were told when we came in that it needs a comprehensive \$55 million worth of work, and that doesn't even include the lockup, which also has significant issues." He was referring to the city's jail, housed with

the Police Department in the limestone-fronted portion of City Hall on the east side of the plaza.

Workers continuously caulk the plaza above the garage in what Riel called "a perpetual battle."

"Water comes in here, makes its way down and things are starting to fall apart above and below," Kilpatrick said.

The plaza itself is one of many bold features in architect Kenneth Black's dramatic design for City Hall.

Glassy grids of modernist urbanity were immortalized in the credit sequence to Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 film "North by Northwest," a riff on the geometry of Manhattan's 650 Madison Ave. — a ringer for the south face of Black's city hall in Lansing.

Susan Bandes, an art historian at MSU and expert on mid-century modern architecture, has championed saving City Hall in many writings and talks, including an August 2017 City Pulse column.

"Lansing City Hall was built in a modern style using the latest glass and steel construction because then-Mayor Ralph W. Crego wanted to project an image of the future, of the forward thinking city government," Bandes wrote.

By comparison, the old City Hall looked like a medieval castle, with turrets and crenellations for pouring boiling oil on enemies.

Black's design was a deliberate nod to famous International-style buildings in New York such as Lever House and the United Nations.

"For the time it was built, it was state of the art, more advanced than any other building in Lansing at the time," Riel said.

The blue panels on the north face of the building are made of a fiberglass-wood composite that was cutting edge in the 1950s. Riel compared them to the fiberglass panels on a vintage Corvette. A lifetime later, they are faded and worn in blotches that compromise their clean geometry.

The windows don't open because in the 1950s, the newly forged gods of HVAC were expected to attend to all human comforts. But they have screens anyway — hundreds of them. Each tinted screen slides in and out of place so windows can be cleaned without leaving streaks. The screens also help to break up direct sunlight.

The system was innovative for its time, but Riel said they cause "big time" problems with maintenance. Look harder and you begin to see screens that are off-center and others that



Photo by Thresa Rosado

Water leaks from the plaza in front of Lansing City Hall and wreaks havoc with the parking structure below.

don't match.

"They haven't made this style in 20 years, and they're very hard to find," he said.

Because the windows don't open, workers have to hang from scaffolds suspended from cable-anchored roof supports — or they used to. Nowadays, no structural engineer will certify the rails as safe because of the age of the building, according to Kilpatrick. Booms and baskets are used now, but they are expensive. Repairs often wait until enough work is need-

City Hall

from page 7

ed to fill a day or more.

Stairway to nowhere

Screens or no, City Hall's entire window system would never pass muster now.

"You talk about an Energy Star building — we're nowhere near it," Schor said. "This building is very inefficient."

It was that way when former Mayor David Hollister, now City Hall's namesake, was in office in the early 2000s.

"Those windows are so flimsy, it's so poorly insulated, I'd be sitting there as mayor with a heater under my desk to keep

warm," Hollister said.

The windows on the adjoining police building, perpendicular to City Hall, have a different feature-slash-bug. Unlike the City Hall windows, they open, but they swivel from the center, to aid in cleaning and what Riel called "quick egress."

And it's a caulking nightmare.

"Every time rain comes out of the west, it leaks really bad," Riel said.

"And that's where it comes from most of the time," Kilpatrick added.

The counterpart to City Hall's outdoor plaza is its grand indoor lobby, an impressive space graced with red marble columns, Indiana limestone and terrazzo floor.

But the original design has been badly compromised. In 1958, a grand double staircase overlooking a fountain and an

equally grand escalator, to the right of the staircase, ushered visitors up to the Ingham County Circuit Court, visible through a glass wall.

Construction of the state legislative offices next door, to the north, cut this space off like a giant meat cleaver.

Now the stairway leads to a blank white wall and a closed-off platform that houses old Christmas decorations. The long-dry fountain is capped by a plywood platform and the escalator is a dusty, inert anaconda of rubber and metal sequestered by white partitions because it would cost \$80,000 to remove it.

Stocker pointed to the blank wall. The space between the city and state offices is still an odd little DMZ with fuzzy jurisdiction. A city-owned vault, now containing court records, is buried under the state's side of the line.

"That's our stuff, and that's their stuff, and you sort of have this void in between," Riel said.

"We still can't turn off one bank of lights because the switch is on the other side," Stocker said.

What do you do?

"We leave them on."

Until they burn out? Then what?

"Change the bulb."

Towering inferno

Above City Hall's ninth floor rests a vintage set of bulbous elevator cable housings, original to the building, where cables spin at high speeds.

Parts for the elevator guts, including the housings, haven't been fabricated in decades.

"We're cannibalizing them from other people that are replacing theirs," Riel said. "It's to the point where we're going to have to start shutting down elevators because we can't get parts for them anymore."

Stepping onto the roof, Schor and the party gawked at the Capitol dome, as one must, and then bent over to scrutinize the rubber membrane and loose stones that channel water on top of City Hall.

Kilpatrick declared the membrane "shot."

Several hulking hand-me-downs service City Hall, including a galvanized metal rooftop cooling tower moved in 1997 from the Ingham County jail, when the jail got a new one. (The previous one was made of wood.) In the electrical room sits a heavy 1950s-era generator cadged from Fire

Station No. 1 when the fire station got an upgrade.

All of these units are reaching the end of their useful life.

In the service floor on top of the building, thin piping for pneumatic HVAC controls — fascinating to look at but antiquated — forms a web going in all directions. (Modern controls are electronic.)

Nearby, a bank of steampunk-ish levers — modulating valves, or "mod motors" — control the flow of heated air and connect to thermostats in the offices. A water pump oozes calcifying water between layers of duct tape.

We ducked back into the ninth floor to



Photo by Theresa Rosado

An escalator decommissioned in 2002 sits idle in the lobby, partitioned off from the public.

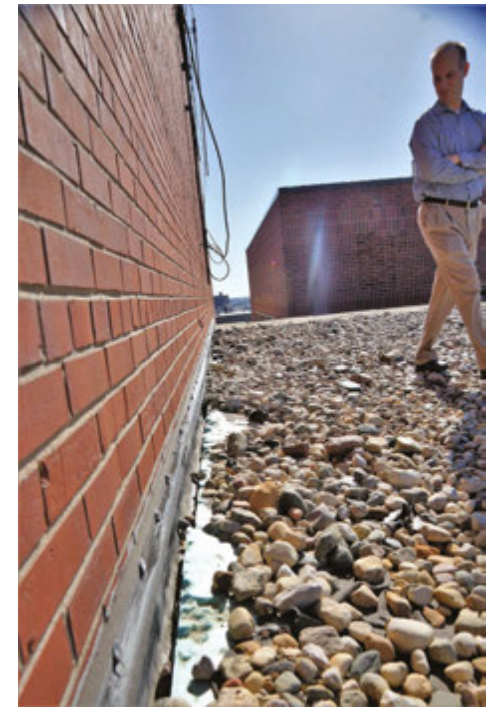


Photo by Theresa Rosado

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor examines the protective membrane atop City Hall, described as "shot" by public service director Andy Kilpatrick.

witness the consequences of these slow failures as they creep into Council chambers and meeting room.

Riel and his crew have been fighting leaks here for years.

"We've tried several ways of doing it without replacing the entire roof," Riel said.

In the hallways, horrid purple and pink 1970s-vintage wallpaper hides dry wall,

See City Hall, Page 9

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City Hall

from page 8

which in turn hides the building's original plaster. The plaster blistered several years ago from humidity and had to be covered up because "nobody fixes horsehair plaster anymore," Riel said.

A small gray door in a restroom on the

ninth floor opens, like Alice's looking glass, into to another world — a giant vertical shaft running all the way up the building. The air duct in this shaft is wide enough for a horse to plummet freely. Huge pipe chases, or housings for all kinds of pipes, run up and down the walls.

We looked down through a series of gratings all the way down to the second floor.

Two floors below, we could see an empty

pack of cigarettes that must have been left on top of a utility box years ago, in pre-smoke-free times.

Today's tall buildings include masonry walls, door seals, dampers and other barriers to seal floors off from each other if a fire breaks out. This shaft does not include such safeguards. A shaft like this, Riel said, acts as a chimney in the event of fire.

"It's called the towering inferno effect, and we don't want that," he said.

Moving the pieces

Schor, Kilpatrick and other city officials are eager to leave all these headaches to a private developer and turn City Hall into a money-making, tax-generating hotel complex.

"We're getting there," Schor said. "We need to move the pieces on the chessboard."

In November, former Mayor Virg Bernero announced that the city had chosen a spiffy redesign by Beitler Real Estate of Chicago. The redesign would save City Hall by paying homage to Black's design while bringing the building into the 21st century with LEED Silver certification and a green roof.

Schor likes the plan, but in March, he put a hold on any deal until space is found for the city lockup, where people are held for one to three days between arrest and arraignment, and 54A District Court offices.

"When we figure out these two pieces, then we can figure out where our departments are going to go, get out of the building and get it to a developer to make some money and get our people into a more workable environment," Schor said.

Hollister is a big supporter of the plan to sell, even though his name is on the building.

"The value of that building as a high-end, remodeled hotel, convention center, far exceeds what a patched-up City Hall would be," Hollister said.

Both Hollister and Bernero have called the building "ugly," but Schor is not that kind of a hater.

It's not the debate over the aesthetics of mid-century modern design, and whether they are worth saving, that raises Schor's

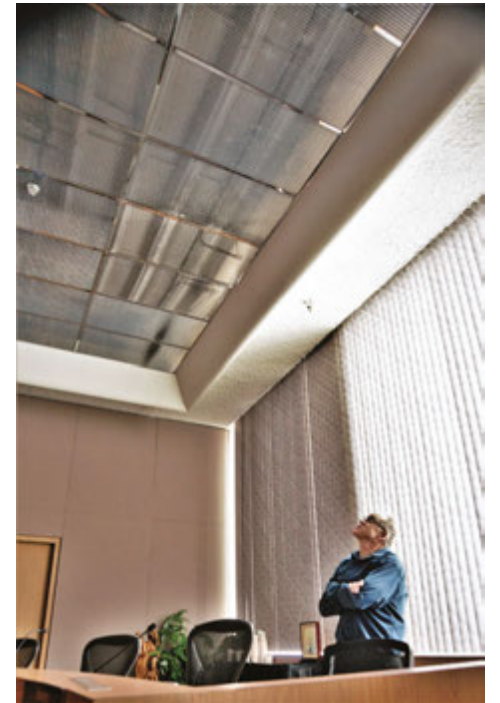


Photo by Theresa Rosado

Property manager Martin Riel fights a never-ending battle with the leaking ceiling of the City Council meeting room.

temperature.

"We have people who park on the street and get a parking ticket because they are coming to a meeting with the mayor," Schor said, visibly irritated. "People are trying to pay debts, take care of the issues they have with the justice system, and they're getting parking tickets."

To Schor, taking care of the parking problem, and setting up a one-stop payment center for city services, would send a more practical, powerful message that City Hall belongs to the citizens than planting a grand glass tower on a concrete plaza. That's the kind of thing hotel moguls do better, and those guys pay taxes (or they should, anyway).

"If we spend \$50-55 million to rehab this City Hall — we can make that happen," Schor said. "Or we can spend that money — hopefully less — elsewhere, and use this place for economic growth. That's the plan, but you have to move the chess pieces."



Photo by Theresa Rosado

City Hall is run largely by original 1950s' equipment like this duct-taped water pump.



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By Jennifer Maisel



ARTS & CULTURE

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Sacred aesthetic: the journey of Romanian-born artist Ingrid Blixt

Contemporary work that calls upon esoteric influences

By SKYLER ASHLEY

What continues to draw Romanian-born Lansing artist Ingrid Blixt back to the bygone era of Byzantine art?

“It takes the visible and passes it through to the invisible. It takes your prayers, petitions and thoughts from this world and takes them to God — the invisible world we don’t see,” she explained. “All art has a certain function, even if it’s just aesthetic, but this is a vehicle for your emotions and prayers.”

Byzantine artwork is the chief artistic product of the Eastern Roman Empire and is recognizable for its heavy use of silver and gold leaf. The crushed metal made the works highly reflective, adorning them with an especially stoic appearance — certainly helping with the godly impression the artists intended to leave.

Blixt’s creations take on a daunting task of adapting an ancient aesthetic— dating back several centuries before her birth.

But for her, it doesn’t register as a fool’s errand to attempt to push the elder art form’s boundaries another step beyond.

“I’m trying to show with my art that the same sacredness that manifested itself in those early times is still happening now — we just perceive it differently,” Blixt said. “It’s my life’s work to continue its tradition.”

In her youthful days in Baia Mare, a Romanian city in Transylvania, Ingrid

Blixt spent her time exploring the local churches. Blixt came of age under Romania’s Communist regime, a secular government that heavily suppressed the Eastern European Orthodox Catholic Church.

“During Communism, everything was covered up. When I was baptized, it was done secretly. It wasn’t at the church, it was at the priest’s house. You couldn’t really express your faith,” Blixt said. “You’d hear about people disappearing. I didn’t know what was happening.”

Blixt had the pleasure of experiencing Transylvania’s breathtaking Gothic architecture firsthand.

The stringent political climate couldn’t prevent Blixt’s enchantment with the archaic Byzantine art she found within the various empty church halls.

The silver and gold-leaf-encrusted pieces were adorned with handwritten inscriptions calling on God to help the writer and their loved ones.

Though the writing was technically vandalism, the heartfelt anonymous messages left behind had a lasting impact on the young artist. For Blixt, it only added to the power of the art, rather than detracting from it.

“While the monasteries were abolished, anybody still had access. Under the beautiful murals there’d be messages that said ‘help me God, save my life, save my marriage,’” Blixt said. “It was interesting that through their faith and petitions they were ruining the art, but it wasn’t done with bad intentions.”

After the fall of the Communist regime during Romania’s revolution, Blixt’s passion for the Byzantine era was able to grow freely. She enrolled in art school,



“I am the Way,” by Ingrid Blixt.

Courtesy photo

setting off on a path to become a jack of all visual trades.

“The revolution came when I was a child, in ’89,” Blixt said. “It was scary, but we were protected. Our parents kept us calm, I felt safe even though the situation was not safe at all. There were tanks and armed people in the streets, but we felt OK.”

College was a diverse and enjoyable experience for Blixt. It offered her an opportunity to visit the United States via a class trip to Traverse City.

Blixt was taken aback by what she saw as a seemingly universal carefree attitude among the people she met — compared to the more subdued and serious attitude of her fellow Eastern Europeans.

“It was nothing like Europe. I didn’t realize everybody was on vacation. Everybody was happy, I was like ‘oh, my gosh! What is happening here? Why is everybody so happy?’” Blixt said. “The one that thing really surprised me is everybody’s sense of humor. Everybody seemed to be funny.”

The decision to move to the United States permanently was difficult. Blixt received mixed feelings from her peers from a cultural animosity against America in general.

“I understand how people feel in Europe. They kind of have a bad view of the United States. There was a building hatred. You get blamed for leaving your country, they say you should stick it out with everybody else,” Blixt said.

The culture shock initially had Blixt creating work that seemed to emphasize the clash between the two worlds in

which she had lived.

But after spending more than a decade stateside, Blixt said her work began drawing attention to what makes people similar, rather than different.

In her work Blixt seems to effortlessly channel her memories of the old Romanian churches. Her pieces call upon the classical tenets of what defines a work of Byzantine art, primarily through the heavy use of silver and gold leaf. The effect gives her paintings an ornate look, as if they belong to a church of Blixt’s own creation.

A strong sample of Blixt’s work is viewable in her latest gallery at East Arbor Architecture, “Open Journey.” Blixt uses a stark and extensive color combination of black, white, blue and gray. But the work curated in “Open Journey” was not created with a specific theme in mind, rather the works were collected later by Blixt.

“When I was working, I didn’t think about how the exhibit was going to look like as a whole. I picked the colors based on what speaks to me,” Blixt explained. “It was nothing really planned.”

“Open Journey” also touches upon the larger theological themes that tie Blixt’s body of work together with the Byzantine artists of the past.

“We are all on a dynamic journey. Even established faiths are not stagnant,” Blixt said. “We cannot be stuck in our ways, our beliefs, everything always changes. The journey means constant change. We have to remember that.”



“Immaculate Heart of Mary,” by Ingrid Blixt.

Courtesy photo

Arts Advocacy Day ends hiatus

Rallying the troops as budget deadline approaches

By SKYLER ASHLEY

After a legislative victory recouped \$1.15 million in funding for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Michigan's creative sector advocacy group Creative Many revived its annual Arts Advocacy Day last week from a decade-long slumber.

"It seemed like the right time to bring it back. We've gotten to a unique milestone moment in our work across the state." Creative Many's president, Jennifer Goulet, said. "We're bringing to the table the research and data points that are making the compelling argument that it's critically important to advance this agenda in Michigan."

Goulet and her team at Creative Many argue that the arts make a significant enough economic impact to justify providing a larger portion of the state budget to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Their numbers make a convincing argument. Research touted by Goulet's organization shows that the arts industry contributed \$764 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015, including \$5 billion in wages here in Michigan.

"There's a bunch of different things that received one-time appropriations last year that the governor is not recommending this year — everything except for arts and culture," Sarah Gonzalez Triplett of Creative Many said. "There's a deepening understanding of the importance of funding the Michigan Council

for Arts and Cultural Affairs."

Creative Many and its bipartisan Michigan Legislative Creative Caucus — founded in 2014 — have the simple, but important, task of lobbying for arts funding. The Creative Caucus boasts an impressive combined membership of 32 — including five senators and 27 representatives from various districts across the state — a handful of whom spoke at the Capitol.

"They are working tirelessly to engage their colleagues to sign onto to be a part of this agenda," Goulet said. "They are trying to really position the creative industry as a competitive strategy within Michigan's economic development plans and priorities."

The rallying of the troops seen Wednesday was no coincidence. The movement behind Creative Many was galvanized upon the Trump Administration's initial budget draft, which saw a significant slash into arts endowments — money lost that would have a crippling trickle down effect for Michigan's various artistic industries.

According to Triplett, after a national outcry from countless arts organizations, much of the money slated to be removed from the federal budget was reinstated.

Michigan has seen somewhat of a turnaround in arts funding. The state appropriated an additional total of almost \$10 million from its budget



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Creative Many President Jennifer Goulet spoke at the Capitol Wednesday.

since 2011. Today's Michigan Council For the Arts works with a sum of \$11.15 million, which is still a far cry from the \$30.8 million it had back in 1995.

Local artists that support Creative Many and participated in Arts Advocacy Day argue that the recent in-

crease in funding still isn't enough.

"Any you cut it, we're not getting enough money," said Lansing-based artist Kimberly Lavon. "I've had people ask 'are we paying you too much money?' I don't think any other profession is treated that way."

Who is Tim the Music Man?

Lansing musician's own brand of 'edutainment'

By ALLISON CONTRERAS

Imagine you're a performer about to take the stage. Your guitar is ready in hand as you warm up your vocals and prepare to sing original songs for a wild crowd. Fans chant your name, anxiously awaiting the performance of a lifetime.

One Lansing resident plays for a wild crowd weekly — just not that kind. Tim Marzorati sings, plays guitar and writes original songs. When he takes the stage, he's looking over a crowd of children.

"I like to think of it as 'edutainment,'" said Marzorati, who performs as Tim the Music Man weekly. "I try to educate through an interactive musical experience by writing and performing original and classic children's music with a bit of a twist."

Marzorati, 50, graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in social science in 1991. When he became a father in 2004, he began writing songs for and about his two children.

"I try to come up with songs and stories that would be relevant to children," he said. "I work hard to make my performances engaging to everyone that I play for. It's so nice to see children respond to the various rhythms and tempos."

He performs at the annual Children's Concert Series hosted at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing.

"The Children's Concerts are a month-long series of concerts in the middle of winter," said Heather Surface, a steward-

ship and community events specialist with the Hannah Community Center. "It gives parents and caretakers something fun and free to do in the middle of winter when kids are starting to get antsy about not being able to go outside in the cold."

Marzorati has also encountered many rewarding moments.

"I will never forget the day that I brought a cello to school to play it for a student that I had never heard utter a single word," Marzorati said. "The moment he saw me and the cello, he exclaimed 'what's that?' It may not sound like much, but it was a gateway for this student."

"The Green Caterpillar,' 'Get Movin,' 'The Itty Bitty Kitty' and 'I Want Underpants' are just some of the titles that Tim the Music Man has in his arsenal of songs to perform for the children.

"One of my favorite songs to play is called Next Big Something," he said. "It's all about possibilities that everyone has the potential to be amazing."

Marzorati says his favorite part of a performance is watching the children's interactions and their genuine appreciation for the songs he performs for them.

"It's safe to say that this is my career. I hope to inspire future musicians or at least music enthusiasts," he said. "I don't do this job because of the income, it's the outcome. It's the way a child blossoms though the power of music."



Marzorati


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CURTAIN CALL

Comic absurdism in 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike'

By TOM HELMA

Spring has arrived and along with it, the latest Owosso Community Players big musical, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," written by famous Russian novelist Anton Chekov

Review

Wait. This is not a musical, nor is it written by Chekov? It's a serio-comic drama written by the absurdist Christopher Durang?

"Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike"

Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m.
\$11.50 children, \$16.50 senior,
\$18.50 adult
Owosso Community Players
114 E. Main St., Owosso
www.owossoplayers.com

Yep. Owosso is surprising its core audience with a poignant reflective tale about aging and the roads not traveled.

Doak Bloss, as Vanya, opens up the play

shuffling on to the stage out to an enclosed veranda overlooking a large pond. He is clutching a coffee cup in two hands, seemingly enjoying the silence of a quiet morning. He is soon joined by Anna Owens in the role of his sister Sonia, carrying a second cup of coffee she has made especially for

Vanya.

We quickly discover that this is not going to be an "On Golden Pond" moment. As reverie turns to conflict, Sonia is seriously disturbed that Vanya has violated the ritual of who makes the morning coffee. Escalation ensues as Vanya analyzes the tastes of two different cups of coffee, and Sonia responds by hurling both cups across the room. Who are these people?

Thus the play unfolds with Sonia bemoaning lives not lived, paths not taken and the twilight of their years. She and Vanya have spent much of their adult lifetimes attending to their aging parents, both of whom were afflicted with dementia. The siblings perceive themselves as not so beautiful losers.

The plot thickens as we discover there is a third sibling. The much younger Masha is a world traveling actress of stage and screen, and pays the mortgage on the ancestral home in which Vanya and Sonia live for free, albeit in a state of bored existential despair.

She arrives on the scene with a chirpy theatrical flair and narcissistic aplomb, her young lover Spike in tow. Ruppert glides effortlessly across the stage pontificating on the joyful life of theater while Vanya and



The cast of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike."

Courtesy photo

Sonia take turns standing and sitting and demonstrating the sluggish aspects of their seemingly pathetic lives.

Each of these three siblings are portrayed distinctly by the three actors; Bloss, in particular, brings a subtly nuanced observational quality to his role as Vanya, who takes it all in, absorbing events in a long-suffering manner. Vanya has aged beyond his chronological years. Encountering the lithe, slender and insufferable Spike, Vanya finds himself longing for a past in which he was young and gay and proud.

Masha is invited to a costume party, in which she will attend as Snow White. She directs her siblings to be two of the seven dwarfs. Sonia rebels, surprises everyone, showing up, looking like Cinderella in a dazingly elegant sequined gown, effecting an English accent.

Sonia is transformed, resulting in a phone call and a subsequent dinner date. Her long

years of emptiness appear to be over.

Vanya, meanwhile, decides to mentor the young neighbor Nina who aspires to be an actress. This prompts him to drag out a long-forgotten script, in which Nina gets to be ...a molecule. Spike ignores this play-acting scene, fooling with his phone, giving Bloss, as Vanya, the opportunity to engage in the longest rant soliloquy in the history of theater.

It would be remiss not to comment on the featured comic role of Cassandra, who comes and goes on stage as the gypsy psychic housecleaner, whose stage movements and dramatic persona are worthy of a spin-off play entirely about her.

One wonders if Durang was imagining in this play, his own post-theatrical descent into an empty and meaningless life. Vanya et al, alerts us all to attend to ourselves as well as others, to embrace and celebrate life, one day at a time. Carpe Diem.

Pure charm: 'Bud, Not Buddy' successfully adapted for stage

By TOM HELMA

What is most unique about Riverwalk Theatre's current production of "Bud, Not Buddy" is that the back story is as good as the story of the play itself.

Director Tom Ferris is more of an impresario than a director, having been nudged by Riverwalk's Sandy Norton to check out the script. He then embarked on a year-long journey of finding a cast of young people and

"Bud, Not Buddy"

Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 29, 2 p.m.
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Dr., Lansing
Tickets start at \$12
www.riverwalktheatre.com

adults to pull it off. Along the way, he bumped into Christopher Paul Curtis, the writer of the novel. Ferris managed to talk him into a book-signing and talk back experience.

He then developed a collaboration with the Lansing School District's Reading is Fundamental program and arranged a free performance for 250 Lansing school students.

Meanwhile on opening night, Norton pulled together a cadre of volunteers for a pre-performance feast of appetizers and desserts. Kudos to all on the concept of collaboration.

The story itself is set in Michigan, late

1936, in the African-American community, reminiscent of the Depression era that immediately preceded the 30s. Those of us old enough to have heard firsthand from parents and grandparents of that time of abject poverty, can easily imagine how much more difficult it must have been for African-Americans experiencing it.

"Bud, Not Buddy" is the story of just one child, the aforementioned Bud, who has been recently orphaned. Bud is played convincingly by Kavares Luckett-Brown. He brings swagger and conviction, and an entirely appropriate high-pitched squeaky pre-adolescent voice to the role.

He is occasionally joined on stage by an elder-Bud, Chance Boyd, the narrator who, by contrast, adds gravitas to the story line with a basso profundo resonant voice.

In an early scene, young Bud arrives to live at an orphanage and encounters a scattered smattering of other orphans of indeterminate age and with wary hostility.

Fight scenes ensue, and while dialogue is sparse and the children are effective in their roles.

Costume designer Ashley Hampton has taken great care to create authentic Depression era clothing for these children, suspenders and knickers-like pants with paperboy caps for their heads. Bud quickly sizes up the situation and decides he wants nothing to do with it.

He leaves the orphanage, a small suitcase in hand, a single blanket inside for when he sleeps outside in the cold. He is on an existential journey, a search for a biological father. He overnights in Owosso and Grand Rapids, eventually

making his way to Chicago.

Along the way, there are ghost-encounters with a deceased bio-mother, who comes and goes, imbuing him with rules for life — e.g. "Rule number 67, live in the moment because forever is composed of nows."

Bud's conversations to the audience are filled with these rules, some of which are lessons learned along the way.

Whereas Act One begins with the orphaned children, Act Two belongs primarily to the adults in the cast, specifically the jazz band players—one of whom Bud suspects is his bio-father. This is the meatiest portion of the play where several male actors shine. Guy Thomas is Herman E. Calloway, the suspected father figure who wants nothing to do with Bud. Thomas is outstanding. His interactions with Luckett-Brown are crisp and finely tuned.

Eric Smith, another band member, is Steady Eddie, who mentors and protects Bud from the overt hostility of Calloway. Smith is a natural in this role, fatherly and gentle, making up for Calloway's brusqueness.

All the band members contribute much to the solidity of the script. Janell Hall, as the jazz singer Ms. Thomas, holds the group together with fine stagecraft movement.

A plot twist resolves Bud's search for a father. The play ends with Bud being presented with a saxophone. This is a coming-of-age moment, a window of opportunity into a whole new world of meaning and purpose.

Audiences love talk-backs, especially with authors, and in this instance Christopher Paul Curtis charmed everyone.



Kavares Luckett-Brown excels in the titular role of "Bud, Not Buddy."

Courtesy photo

Unboxing memories: intimate letters from World War era soldiers

Local authors share communications from enlisted family members

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Letters often provide an intimate window into a person's thoughts, personalities and quirks — especially if they were not sent to you in the first place.

That window opened for Lille Foster of Holt when she finally decided to read her father's World War II era letters. Foster's father, Theodore Pattengill Foster, had sent hundreds of letters home — mostly to his mother and father — detailing his activities at numerous postings across the United States.

In the letters, he tells his family and friends about military life, social events and the tedium of training while the war rages on across the ocean.

Pattengill Foster, after being drafted at 28 years old in 1941, spent much of the war stateside. Foster's role saw him training and preparing soldiers in the areas of quartermaster duties and transportation and logistics.

In 1943, Foster, before being shipped overseas to Australia and New Guinea, married an Army nurse, Joyce Rosalind Capper.

Following the war, Foster returned to his hometown of Lansing to work for the Liquor Control Commission. He was then called upon in 1948 for another war percolating in Korea.

He spent the next 16 years in the military hopscotching to bases across the world. Along the way, he would ultimately be promoted to the rank of major. Lille, along with her two sisters, were Army brats until his retirement in 1963.

Circuitously, the letters would end up in possession of local archivists and historians, Geneva and George Wiskeman. The pair put the letters away until the time was right to pass them onto family members.

Foster said she and her father were never close and she took little interest in reading the letters.

It wasn't until she read the book of a good friend of hers, Mary Jane Wilson, which detailed her own husband's experience in World War I, did Foster become interested in her father's letters. Wilson's book, "In His Own Words: the Freeman McClintock Story," details her husband's work as an automobile mechanic during WW I.

Reading her father's letters for the first time, Lille's opinions about him changed.

The letters revealed to Foster that he was perfectly suited for Army life and that he flourished there.

"Army was his life and he reveled in it," she said.

His letters clearly represented his drive and ambition. "He was always the first to be chosen for something," she said.

Lille is a librarian, but she has always been interested in history and genealogy. This interest can be traced to her great-grandfather, Henry R. Pattengill, who was Michigan's first superintendent of public education and publisher of textbooks and educational material. In 2014, Foster helped spearhead an effort to erect a state history marker in Ithaca to recognize her great grandfather.

Now, she has published a compilation of her father's letters in a new book, "U.S. Army Life 1941-1945: In the Letters of Theodore Pattengill Foster."

The book offers more than 200 letters and postcards which contain Pattengill-Foster's observations of Army life. The letters are well written and are both funny and serious as the soldier goes about

his training and ultimately becoming an expert in training other soldiers.

"I was surprised by his descriptive passages," she said.

The first thing she discovered about her father was that he couldn't spell.

"My father never learned the spelling rule, 'i before e except after c,' and wrote 'receive' hundreds of times in his letters."

In addition to indicating the correct spelling, Foster also used more than 280 footnotes to provide more context for readers. So if there is a popular culture reference pertaining to the '40s, it is detailed in a footnote. For example, when Pattengill

Foster mentions the movie "Star Spangled Rhythm," she details the 1942 morale boosting movie.

One particular inside ball-game reference that readers wouldn't have understood was Pattengill-Foster's writing about a Zippity Zooker. Zookers were resorters who summered at Roaring Brook, an exclusive resort at Little Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan founded in the late 1800s by Lansing residents.

The resorters would cry "Zippity Zook Zippity Zook! We're the gang from Roaring Brook." Foster would later marry a fellow Zooker, Win Stebbins. The Stebbins cottage was next to Foster cottage at the resort.

Early in the book, a letter home details how Pattengill Foster found himself in the "doghouse" after writing the secretary of war complaining that there was no flag to fly on the base.

Like every GI, his letters are peppered with references to food, both good and bad, KP and getting passes for leave.



Theodore Pattengill Foster

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Tom Wolfe, Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill led the New Journalism movement in New York in the 1960s and '70s. Their counterpart, Joan Didion, set the standard on the West Coast with her slim 1968 volume, "Slouching Towards Bethlehem." Members of the City Pulse Book Club, which is open to all, will tackle it at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at Schuler Books & Music in the Meridian Mall. The club, which meets monthly, is spending the entire year reading books about 1968 or published that year. This book is available at Schuler.

In one letter to his sister Tina, he writes "Today is probably the most famous day of all to soldiers — pay day."

Other letters reference how the \$21 a month pay doesn't go very far when you factor in having to buy your own uniforms.

At Christmastime 1941, he ends a letter to his parents with the line, "There's something about Northern Michigan that just can't be found anywhere else."

Foster said that after compiling the letters she let Mary Jane Wilson read them.

Her response: "I feel like I know him."

"That's exactly what I hope to accomplish by publishing his letters," Foster said.

"To me, it's very important people are not forgotten," she said.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Ella at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, April 25

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

OPEN STUDIO LIFE DRAWING. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208, Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

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

EVENTS

GAMES AT THE MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER (See Descriptions for Dates and Times). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

MONEY SMART WEEK: SENIOR FINANCIAL WELLNESS WITH MSUFCU. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

TEEN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM. From 2:30 to 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

TEEN JOB INTERVIEW WORKSHOP. From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Thursday, April 26

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

GOOGLE DRIVE - WORKING IN THE CLOUD. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free - to register

See Out on the Town Page 16

The Political Jesus



April 27

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Where would the historical Jesus of Nazareth fit in today's disjointed political climate? A seminar led by Arthur J. Dewey — Xavier University theology professor — and Celene Lillie of the Boulder First United Methodist Church will attempt to answer that question.

"The Political Jesus" is an entry in a series of seminars put together by Oregon's Westar Institute, "The Jesus Seminar on the Road," which has been hosted in Methodist churches nationally for more than a decade.

The two sessions, one taking place Friday evening and the other early Saturday morning, explore the political context of Jesus of Nazareth and the Bible's teachings through the lens of various theological scholars' historical

research.

"This one discusses Jesus in the 1st Century's social, historical and political matrix. It explores the parallels between the 1st and 21st Century church," said the Rev. William C. Bills, East Lansing University United Methodist Church's lead pastor. "Those parallels include living in the most powerful nation on Earth — in the 1st Century the Roman empire and in the 21st Century, America."

Bills said the political nature of the Bible is often overlooked and underestimated. He calls the seminar an opportunity for people to get a "fresh perspective" on the nature of the gospels, which Bills believes could be referred to as "resistance literature from within an empire."

"If you were to locate Jesus and his disciples as poor people within an imperial system that used absentee landlords, militarism and taxation to extract wealth from the majority of the citizens to facilitate lavish wealth styles of the upper 1 or 2 percent, you could begin to see the parallels between the United

States and first century Rome," Bills said.

Bills draws further parallels between the time of Jesus of Nazareth and the modern U.S. through the doctrine of the Pax Romana — a period of relative peace in the Roman's empire history — which Bills calls merely a "lull between wars."

If these ideas come across radical or contrarian to one's own beliefs of the politics of Jesus of Nazareth, Bills attributes that to a cultural removal of the Bible from its historical context.

"It is shocking for people, because they have become so comfortable with the gospels. We take these stories about Jesus and his disciples and kind of domesticate them," Bills said. "We've heard them so many times, they're divorced from their context. We hear them as little stories about morality, when in fact they were addressing people's everyday realities."

Bills doesn't believe it's a partisan issue and that both ends of the political spectrum could be surprised after taking a deeper dive into the history of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Elements of Surprise"--it's all on the table.

- Across**
 1 Field official
 4 Ensembles
 9 Tarzan creator ___ Rice Burroughs
 14 NASDAQ newcomer
 15 "Gone With the Wind" surname
 16 "___ Doone" (1869 historical novel)
 17 Phobic of element #4?
 20 Transition
 21 ___-majestÉ
 22 "Rent" heroine
 23 State trees of North Dakota and Massachusetts
 25 Feel bad
 27 Sign for Daniel Radcliffe and Chris Hemsworth
 28 Giant legend Mel
 30 Shortened aliases
 33 Paddle
 35 "Element #33? That's unlikely!"
 40 "Today" co-anchor Hoda
 41 Kennel noise
 42 Call
 44 The odds that it's element #102?
 49 Genre for the Specials
 50 Currency in Colombia
 51 Hawaiian instrument, for short
 52 "Fear the Walking Dead" network
 55 Joule fraction
 57 "Lucky Jim" author Kingsley
 59 Crucifix symbol
 61 '80s-'90s cars
 64 From Bhutan or Brunei
 67 Element #53 knew what was up?
 70 Concert venue

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67				68					69					
70						71						72		
73						74								75

- 71 Bring together
 72 Barinholtz of "The Mindy Project"
 73 Satchel Paige's real first name
 74 Magnet ends
 75 "On the Road" narrator Paradise
Down
 1 Barbecue specialty
 2 Olympic dueling weapon
 3 Doesn't remember, as with a task
 4 Gary of "Diff'rent Strokes"
 5 Minor league rink org.
 6 Cruise
 7 Answer that won't get you an F?
 8 "The Metamorphosis" character Gregor
 9 One of the main players in "Gauntlet"
 10 School housing
 11 Quest object in a Monty Python movie
 12 "Dragon Ball Z" genre
 13 Part of NPR
 18 Brynner of the original "Westworld"
 19 List appearing once each in a supervocalic
 24 Hit the slopes
 26 Statute
 28 Bourbon barrel wood
 29 1980s Disney film
 31 Smoothie berry
 32 Dessert bar option
 34 Rapper Flo ___
 36 Recedes
 37 "For the life ___ ..."
 38 It may require antibiotics to treat
 39 Break in illegally
 43 Author Harper
 45 ___ out a profit
 46 Fast-food drink size
 47 Civil War side, for short
 48 Tributes
 52 Standard Windows sans serif typeface
 53 He played 007 seven times
 54 Computer programmer
 56 Arise
 58 "... or thereabouts"
 60 "The Flintstones" pet
 62 "That's a shame!"
 63 Garden material
 65 "___ silly question ..."
 66 Christmas song
 68 Dissenting vote
 69 Salt Lake City collegian

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 16**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

April 18 - 24, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) Imagine you're one of four porcupines caught in frigid weather. To keep warm, you all have the urge to huddle together and pool your body heat. But whenever you try to get close, you prick each other with your quills. The only solution to that problem is to move away from each other, even though it means you can't quell your chill as well. This scenario was used by psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud as a parable for the human dilemma. We want to be intimate with each other, Freud said, but we hurt each other when we try. The oft-chosen solution is to be partially intimate: not as close as we would like to be, but only as much as we can bear. Now everything I just said, Aries, is a preface for better news: In the coming weeks, neither your own quills nor those of the people you care about will be as sharp or as long as usual.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) The Simpsons is the longest-running American TV sitcom and animated series. But it had a rough start. In the fall of 1989, when producers staged a private pre-release screening of the first episode, they realized the animation was mediocre. They worked hard to redo it, replacing 70 percent of the original content. After that slow start, the process got easier and the results got better. When the program completes its thirtieth season in 2019, it will have aired 669 episodes. I don't know if your own burgeoning project will ultimately have as enduring a presence, Taurus, but I'm pretty sure that, like The Simpsons, it will eventually become better than it is in the early going. Stick with it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) The coming weeks might be an interesting time to resurrect a frustrated dream you abandoned in a wasteland; or rescue and restore a moldering treasure you stopped taking care of a while back; or revive a faltering commitment you've been ignoring for reasons that aren't very high-minded. Is there a secret joy you've been denying yourself without good cause? Renew your relationship with it. Is there a rough prize you received before you were ready to make smart use of it? Maybe you're finally ready. Are you brave enough to dismantle a bad habit that hampers your self-mastery? I suspect you are.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) The Hollywood film industry relies heavily on recycled ideas. In 2014, for example, only one of the ten top-grossing movies -- Interstellar -- was not a sequel, remake, reboot, or episode in a franchise. In the coming weeks and months, Cancerian, you'll generate maximum health and wisdom for yourself by being more like Interstellar than like The Amazing Spider-Man 2, Transformers: Age of Extinction, X-Men: Days of Future Past, and the six other top-ten rehashes of 2014. Be original!

Leo (July 23-August 22) Long ago, in the land we now call Italy, humans regarded Mars as the divine protector of fields. He was the fertility god who ripened the food crops. Farmers said prayers to him before planting seeds, asking for his blessings. But as the Roman Empire arose, and warriors began to outnumber farmers, the deity who once served as a kind benefactor evolved into a militant champion, even a fierce and belligerent conqueror. In accordance with current astrological omens, Leo, I encourage you to evolve in the opposite direction. Now is an excellent time to transmute aggressiveness and combativeness into fecundity and tenderness.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) You sometimes get superstitious when life is going well. You worry about growing overconfident. You're afraid that if you enjoy yourself too much, you will anger the gods and jinx your good fortune. Is any of that noise clouding your mood these days? I hope not; it shouldn't be. The truth, as I see it, is that your intuition is extra-strong and your decision-making is especially adroit. More luck than usual is flowing in your vicinity, and you have an enhanced knack for capitalizing on it. In my estimation, therefore, the coming weeks will be a favorable time

to build up your hunger for vivid adventures and bring your fantasies at least one step closer to becoming concrete realities. Whisper the following to yourself as you drop off to sleep each night: "I will allow myself to think bigger and bolder than usual."

Libra (September 23-October 22) The bad news is that 60 percent of Nevada's Lake Mead has dried up. The good news -- at least for historians, tourists, and hikers -- is that the Old West town of St. Thomas has re-emerged. It had sunk beneath the water in 1936, when the government built the dam that created the lake. But as the lake has shrunk in recent years, old buildings and roads have reappeared. I foresee a comparable resurfacing in your life, Libra: the return of a lost resource or vanished possibility or departed influence.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) I hope the next seven weeks will be a time of renaissance for your most engaging alliances. The astrological omens suggest it can be. Would you like to take advantage of this cosmic invitation? If so, try the following strategies. 1. Arrange for you and each of your close companions to relive the time when you first met. Recall and revitalize the dispensation that originally brought you together. 2. Talk about the influences you've had on each other and the ways your relationship has evolved. 3. Fantasize about the inspirations and help you'd like to offer each other in the future. 4. Brainstorm about the benefits your connection has provided and will provide for the rest of the world.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Now is one of the rare times when you should be alert for the potential downsides of blessings that usually sustain you. Even the best things in life could require adjustments. Even your most enlightened attitudes and mature beliefs may have pockets of ignorance. So don't be a prisoner of your own success or a slave of good habits. Your ability to adjust and make corrections will be key to the most interesting kind of progress you can achieve in the coming weeks.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) Capricorn author Simone de Beauvoir was a French feminist and activist. In her book A Transatlantic Love Affair, she made a surprising confession: Thanks to the assistance of a new lover, Nelson Algren, she finally had her first orgasm at age 39. Better late than never, right? I suspect that you, too, are currently a good candidate to be transported to a higher octave of pleasure. Even if you're an old pro at sexual climax, there may be a new level of bliss awaiting you in some other way. Ask for it! Seek it out! Solicit it!

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) Can you afford to hire someone to do your busy work for a while? If so, do it. If not, see if you can avoid the busy work for a while. In my astrological opinion, you need to deepen and refine your skills at lounging around and doing nothing. The cosmic omens strongly and loudly and energetically suggest that you should be soft and quiet and placid. It's time for you to recharge your psychospiritual batteries as you dream up new approaches to making love, making money, and making sweet nonsense. Please say a demure "no, thanks" to the strident demands of the status quo, my dear. Trust the stars in your own eyes.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) I believe it's a favorable time for you to add a new mentor to your entourage. If you don't have a mentor, go exploring until you find one. In the next five weeks, you might even consider mustering a host of fresh teachers, guides, trainers, coaches, and initiators. My reading of the astrological omens suggests that you're primed to learn twice as much and twice as fast about every subject that will be important for you during the next two years. Your future educational needs require your full attention.

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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	3			2				

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 16

Out on the Town

from page 14

call (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

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

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL BOOK GROUP. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

FOUR POETS READ. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. free. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

LOCAL POETS READING EVENT. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

EVENTS

BABY STORYTIME (AGES UP TO 18 MONTHS). From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

LANSING REIKI SHARE. From 6 to 8 p.m. Free or donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

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

MONEY SMART WEEK: TEENS AND MONEY WITH MSUFCU. From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME IN WACOUSTA. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 517.627.7014.

SOLARIZE MERIDIAN PRESENTATION. From 7 to 8 p.m. free. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Rd. Okemos .

ARTS

BALLROOM LESSONS (FOX TROT). From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$42 per couple \$21 individual. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St. Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

KIDS ART WITH IRINA. From 5 to 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East

Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Friday, April 27

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

TRY CURLING. From 9:45 to 11:59 p.m. \$25, all equipment provided. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing.

EVENTS

VERMONTVILLE MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL. Vermontville is the "granddaddy" of them all! We are the home of the original Maple Syrup Festival in Michigan. Our festival starts Friday evening, continues through Saturday and Sunday and is always held during the last full weekend in April. We have something for everyone — Mid-America rides, talent show, arts and crafts, flea market, two parades, petting zoo, princess pageant, various displays, games, free entertainment, a pancake derby, and arm wrestling. Our syrup producers are located throughout the village selling syrup, candies, crème and the ever popular maple syrup cotton candy. Visit <http://www.vermontvillemaplesyrupfestival.org> for more information.

BUILDING FUTURES FUNDRAISER. From 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and includes dinner and one drink ticket. You can pay at the door or purchase on-line at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-futures-fundraiser-tickets-42245890596> . The Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave Lansing. (517) 798-6175.

HOWL AT THE MOON: GUIDED WALK. From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$3/person. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

THRIFT/RUMMAGE SALE. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

ARTS

FUSED JEWELRY. From 6 to 8 p.m. \$45 Each. Delphi Glass, 3380 E Jolly Rd. Lansing. 1-800-248-2048.

Saturday, April 28

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

BRUSH LETTERING & SNAIL MAIL WORKSHOP. From 1 to 3 p.m. \$40. Aviator Jayne, 110 W Main St Owosso. Lean In Lansing. From 9 to 11 a.m. FREE. Grand Traverse Pie, 1403 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (517) 203-3304.

MAKER MANIA: BRUSH BOT WARRIORS. From 7 to 8 p.m. Cost: tinkrLAB Members - \$20.00 Not Yet Members - \$30.00. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W Grand River Okemos. 517-233-1524.

PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR ARTWORK. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Gallery members pay \$10 and non-members pay \$15.. Keys to Creativity, 5746 W. Saginaw Highway Lansing. Putting Your Best Face Forward. From 1 to 2 p.m. Keys to Creativity, 5746 W. Saginaw Highway Lansing.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

BLACKOUT POETRY JOURNALS. From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

KIDS JAZZ CONCERT. From 11 a.m. to noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

CAKE DECORATING FOR BEGINNERS (ADULTS). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

***INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION (ADULTS).** From 10 to 11 a.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

***MEET "BEHOLD THE DREAMERS" AUTHOR IMBOLO MBUE .** From 4 to 6 p.m. FREE. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

3D PRINTING WORKSHOP. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

See Out on the Town Page 18

THURSDAY, APRIL 26 >> MICHIGAN COMEDY CO-OP AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

The Michigan Comedy Co-op is a group of Lansing-based comedians. Thursday's includes Will Green, Aharon Willows, Nick Leydorf and Detroit-comedian Sam Rager, who is described as charmingly dark. Rager has been doing comedy across the Midwest since 2012. The night will also feature Zach Martina, who has performed all across the country, including with Dave Chappelle.

Thursday, April 26, 8 p.m.
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing
\$10, www.facebook.com/michigancomedycoop/

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 >> LCC ROCK BAND CONCERT

LCC presents this concert series which consists of original music written by LCC students and features covers of Pink Floyd, Blue Oyster Cult, Vulfpek, Amy Winehouse and more. Chris Rollins will direct the band in classic and contemporary rock standards.

Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., LansingFree,
www.lcc.edu/cma/events

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 >> BUILDING PEACE THROUGH THE ARTS

A variety of interfaith, intercultural and international viewpoints will be intertwined into a musical performance by two classically trained artists, Karim Wasfi and Alvin Waddles. Wasfi, world famous for his work with the Iraqi National Symphony, knows firsthand the immense power of music. He's performed for children that have been displaced by ISIS and will discuss his experience with "overcoming the ugliness of killings by beauty, music and creativity."

5 p.m., Free, University Club, 3435 Forest Road, East Lansing
www.facebook.com/lansingsis



SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

From Pg. 22

REF	CASTS	EDGAR						
IPO	OHARA	LORNA						
BERYLLIUM	A	FRAID						
SEGUE	LESE	MIMI						
ELMS	AIL	LEO						
OTT	AKAS	OAR						
ARSENIC	YOU	WISH						
KOTB	ARF	DIAL						
NOBELIUM	CHANCE							
SKA	PESO	UKE						
AMC	ERG	AMIS						
ROOD	GEOS	ASIAN						
IODINE	THOUGHT	SO						
ARENA	UNITE	IKE						
LEROY	POLES	SAL						

TURN IT DOWN A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE BY RICH TUPIGA

Fri., April 27

DRINKING MERCURY



GTG band makes rare appearance

Friday, April 27, @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 9 p.m.

Three Michigan bands perform a free show Friday at The Avenue Café—the diverse bill includes sets from Jackpine Snag (a local heavy-blues power trio) and Dirty Deville (a Ypsilanti-based prog band). Drinking Mercury, a sometimes-inactive atmospheric alt-rock outfit with Ionia and Lansing roots, also makes a rare appearance. When Drinking Mercury formed in 2000, the band was simply a duo and comprised guitarist Tommy McCord (of the Plurals) and drummer Kevin Adams. By the spring of 2002, after the addition of guitarist/vocalist Michael Boyes, the group expanded into a trio. With all members sharing songwriting duties, Drinking Mercury debuted in 2004 with “The Virgin” EP and followed that with the “Way” EP. In 2008, Timmy Rodriguez (formerly of the Break-Ups) was added on bass and vocals. In 2011, via GTG Records, the band issued its “Words” EP and the moody “Orcades” LP—its only full-length album.

Fri., April 27

DIANA JONES



Nashville songwriter at ‘The Fiddle’

Friday, April 27, @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. All ages, \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m.

Known internationally for her haunting yet strikingly clear voice, singer-songwriter Diana Jones has been praised by the likes of Steve Earle, who hailed her “one of the best songwriters I’ve heard in a long, long time.” Folk icon Janis Ian said Jones’ songwriting and deep vocals are “completely her own—a rarity in this world.” Friday, Jones brings that distinct sound to a Ten Pound Fiddle-hosted show at the MSU Community Music School. The New York and Nashville based troubadour has five albums to her name, including 2006’s “My Remembrance of You,” her breakthrough debut LP. From there, she earned a nomination as “Best Emerging Artist” at the Folk Alliance Awards and has had legends cover her material, including Joan Baez’s take on “Henry Russell’s Last Words.” In 2016, she issued her latest record, “Live in Concert.”

Sat., April 28

MISSY RAINES & THE NEW HIP



Raines returns to East Lansing

Saturday, April 28, at 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. @ Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. \$20 suggested donation.

Accomplished bassist and vocalist Missy Raines, along with her all-acoustic ensemble the New Hip, headline Saturday at the Pump House. Raines, a West Virginia native known for her rootsy hybrid of jazz, folk and bluegrass, has been named “Bass Player of the Year” by the International Bluegrass Music Association seven times over. Her past endeavors include fruitful stints in the Cloud Valley, the Claire Lynch Band, the Brother Boys and time as a smoky-voiced solo artist. The New York Music Daily praised Raines as “not only a superb bassist, but also an excellent singer with a matter-of-fact, low-key delivery that’s sometimes hushed, sometimes seductive, sometimes channeling a simmering unease.” And while her sound remains rooted in old-fashioned bluegrass, Missy Raines and the New Hip delivers the sonic energy of contemporary folk-rock and newgrass outfits like the Avett Brothers and Churchill.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Free GTG Show	Free GTG Show	Free GTG Show
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Double Wide Ride	DJ Carter
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic, 8:30 p.m.	The New Rule	The New Rule
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	ROOT DOCTOR	Cardboard Bullies
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St.				Big Dudee Roo, 8pm
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Spring Forward Comedy Show, 8pm	Ron Jeremy Comedy Show, 8pm	EGL, 9pm	Laugh & Lyrics, 9pm
The Unicorn, 327 Cesar E Chavez Ave.				
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.		Jazz Thursdays with Happenstance, 7pm		
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

Out on the Town

from page 16

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

DROP-IN MINECRAFT FREE PLAY (GRADE 3 & UP). From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

GOING SOLAR PRESENTATION. From 12 to 1 p.m. free. The Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S Harrison Rd East Lansing.

LANSING CHILDREN'S CHOIR FUNDRAISER. From 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$25.00 per person and may be purchased in advance through our website or at the door the night of the event.. Turner Dodge House and Heritage Center, 100 E. North St. Lansing. 517-483-4220.

PETTING FARM (ALL AGES). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St Haslett. (517) 339-2324.



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ARTS

WILLIAMSTON POP UP ART & CRAFTS SHOW. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. Keller's Plaza Upstairs, 107 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-325-3097.

Sunday, April 29

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

DROP IN: SCRIBBLE BOTS. From 12 to 3 p.m. Cost: tinkrLAB Members - \$20.00
Not Yet Members - \$30.00. tinkrLAB, Meridian

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 >> UM-FLINT CHAMBER SINGERS AT LCC

LCC's music program will host the UM-Flint Chamber singers during their West Michigan concert tour. The ensemble consists of a 16-member group of both music and non-music majors conducted by Gabriela Hristova, Daniel Steenson and UM-Flint voice faculty Joshua May

Sunday, April 28, 12 p.m., Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave.
Free, www.lcc.edu/cma/events

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 >> MEN OF STEEL BY QUI NGUYEN

Created at New York City's Vampire Cowboy's Theatre Co., "Men of Steel" comes from the playwright who drafted "She Kills Monsters" and has been described as a "superhero story for adults."

Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m.
LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 1422 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Avenue, Lansing, Donations suggested

THURSDAY, APRIL 26>> JAZZ THURSDAYS WITH HAPPENSTANCE

UrbanBeat Event Center is hosting local jazz trio Happenstance. The group will be accompanied by two special guests, guitarist Nathan Borton and traditional bassist Kazuki Takemura. Food and drinks will be served. Free.

From 7 to 9 p.m., UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing



FRIDAY, APRIL 27>> GUIDED MOON WALK AT FENNER NATURE CENTER

Attendees can enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the Fenner Nature Center's night time woods. Dogs on a non-retractable leash and flashlights are welcome. The group will meet in the parking lot. Be prepared for a three mile long walk.

8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
(517) 349-3866



Mall, 1982 W Grand River Okemos. 517-233-1524.

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

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

67TH MICHIGAN ANTIQUARIAN BOOK & PAPER SHOW. From 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5 admission, kids 13 and under free. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 694-8123.

MUSIC

LANSING SYMPHONY CHAMBER 4: PIANO TRIO. From 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$20; student pricing available. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St. Lansing.

EVENTS

AERIAL SHOWCASE. From 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stiletos-steel-spring-showcase-tickets-43424463740> Or at the door for \$10/person. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5080 Michigan Road Dimondale.

BIRD WATCHING IN OUR PARKS. From 8 to 9 a.m. Free. Hartrick Park, 3685 Hulett Road Okemos. Family Day at The Grid. From 12 to 4 p.m. Free to attend. Kid friendly. The Grid Arcade & Bar, 226 E Grand River Ave Lansing. 517-885-3010.

Monday, April 30

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

Tuesday, May 01

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

PROSTATE HEALTH. From 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Dawe Auditorium, 2720 S. Washington Ave. Lansing.

MUSIC

JAZZ TUESDAYS AT MORIARTY'S. From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

TUESDAY IS BLUES-DAY AT URBANBEAT. From 7 to 10 p.m. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

EVENTS

SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALK. From 8 to 10 a.m. Free. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive Lansing. 5175807364.

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

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Back of house: Zane Vicknair of Street Kitchen

By MEGAN WESTERS

Although he was born in California, chef Zane Vicknair considers Lansing his home and is no stranger to the local food scene. He and his team create unique and exciting options for greater Lansing foodies, with his food truck-turned restaurant called Street Kitchen, inspired by in-season produce and childhood memories.

How did you get into the restaurant business?

I started when I was 13. I needed a job, as all 13 year olds need a job. I showed up at the neighborhood Italian restaurant and I asked the owner if I could work for him and he said, 'get out of here kid, you're too young.' But I was persistent. Within six months I was cooking. It was something that I loved doing, I loved the pace of the kitchen, I liked the intensity, I like taking care of people, I wasn't afraid to work. I've been in the restaurant business ever since.

You aren't new to Lansing's restaurant scene - didn't you used to own Golden Harvest?

I was at Golden Harvest for about 15 years. Best experience of my life.

When I was younger, I worked for Kerry Heffernan in San Francisco. I did an apprenticeship and she sent me to work at fancy restaurants and fancy hotels to develop technique and get a lot of experience. What I loved was that I could take that fine dining experience and bring it to the shelter meals. I liked to pay meticulous attention and detail in creating meals and dishes for people who were without.

It was the same thing at Harvest. I had a lot of farmers who provided us with beautiful produce that was picked that day or picked the day before and we could offer that beautiful produce without charging an arm and a leg because we were in a casual setting. We tried to keep things comfortable and casual and not pretentious. It's a fantastic place, best thing that's ever happened to me. And we've been able to carry over a lot of that casual attitude over here. I mean we're eating at a picnic table in an abandoned office building.

What brought you to Michigan?

I worked in San Francisco from the time I was 18-21. At 21, I left San Francisco. I gave away my possessions and was going to hitchhike to New York, some friends of mine were involved with the housing riots on the lower east side of New York so I was actually going out to do that. And I met my wife, my ex-wife. We ended up being inseparable for 21 years. It was a really good journey with her. Her family is all from out here so we stayed here. We have two children together, this is where they grew up, this is where they were born, so yeah, it's a special place for us. I love Lansing. She still runs Golden Harvest.



Vicknair (back left) and his Street Kitchen crew.

Courtesy photo

When did this project start for you and what are Street Kitchen's plans for the future?

We've only been open as a food truck for about eight months. We opened in August and we tried to predict how busy we would be, we tried to predict how much space we would require. We thought three picnic tables would be fine, but we quickly outgrew that. So right now we are looking at turning this into a full-service restaurant inside. We're working with the planning department on getting approval so that we can go ahead and make plans to do that.

Why the name Street Kitchen?

Street Kitchen's are the most accessible food throughout the world. If you go to Bangkok, there are areas where there are markets and then along the way of the markets, there are all of these vendors. It's a guy with a folding card table and a little hibachi, cooking for you. Same idea here. We're in a truck on the side of the road, but we're not just doing burgers and fries, we have a full commercial kitchen, and we have the skills and the ability to really just make almost anything that you can get inside a restaurant.

It also ties into, in the 60s, on the corner of Cedar Street and Michigan Avenue, there was a restaurant called The People's Kitchen. And I did some research and it was very much the neighborhood diner where you could go in for a couple bucks and get a square meal and a coffee and it wasn't pretentious. It was open for everyone, right in the middle of skid row. It made me recall the very first shelter program that I ever worked with in California in San Luis Obispo, and it was called People's Kitchen. That was something that, as a teenager, stuck with me. So I'm going to

call this part of the project People's Kitchen, the restaurant. And knowing that the food truck was going to be like phase one of it, I named it StreetKitchen.

Your menu is quite dynamic offering ingredients that are new to the area like Tempeh and Cashew Cheese. What is your inspiration in your dishes and the business as a whole?

We definitely try to use what's available seasonally. So my farmer just brought me the very first vegetable that he's grown all year, he brought me some spinach today so we put that on the menu. I'm inspired by what is seasonally available, I'm inspired by what I see at the farmers market. After working with these farmers for 18 years, they send me texts, [saying] 'the peppers look amazing this week, these are the best peppers ever,' and I try to write a dish or a few dishes that are based around those peppers. My process is usually, I find one or two ingredients and try to find ways to showcase those ingredients. I want the food to be comfortable, unless it's like childhood memories or something like that. Something that is fun and delicious, but also simple.

So, while you do offer lots of vegan, vegetarian and dairy free options, you also do work with meat and dairy products, correct?

Right. And we take a lot of pride in the tempeh and other products that we use because they're made in Michigan at a local manufacturer. But we also do like, pork belly, braised pork shoulder. Right now we have this Korean brisket sandwich that's on Stone Circle focaccia with this amazing fennel and lime slaw and a sesame mayonnaise. And it's huge, it's so big that we called it tiny hands because you can't tell

if the sandwich is so big or if you just have tiny hands. We try to have fun with it.

This restaurant has the same, laid-back, arts-y feel that you find when you go to Golden Harvest. Would you say that that is something you are trying to create with this restaurant?

I think, it's more about, a reflection of the people who come in here and make a space for this. You know? It's just community, and that's what I want it to be. I want everyone to come in here and feel comfortable here and comfortable to be themselves. It doesn't matter where you come from or who you are, this is your table, this is your home too. If you give people room to be themselves, then I think you get a lot more from each experience. That's what I would like.

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