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February 14 - 20, 2018

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IS GAS THE WAY TO GO?

See page 8




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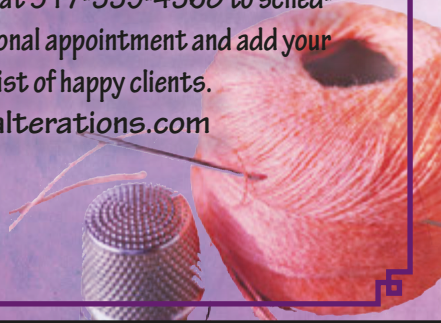
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, March 7, 2018**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a variance request from Ross Realty VIII for the property at 401 W. Grand River Avenue, in the RM-32 City Center Multiple Family Residential District. The variance requested is for the following section of Chapter 50- Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:
Section 50-443(4)(g).1 – Building setback, to decrease the side-yard setback to 4 ft. minimum where 8 ft. minimum is required.

The applicant is requesting a 4 foot minimum side-yard setback.

A public hearing will be held to consider a variance request from John Johnson for the property at 909 Sunset Lane, in the R-2 Medium Density Single-Family Residential District. The variance requested is for the following section of Chapter 50- Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-301 – Ground Coverage, to increase the ground coverage from 39.4% to 47.7% where 40% is allowed.

The applicant is proposing to build a larger garage and increase the width of the driveway.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#18-026

B/18/055 GROESBECK SIGN 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 Feb. 22, 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#18-028

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PAGE
10

Black Arts Matter celebrates local talent



PAGE
13

TEDx is once again coming to MSU



PAGE
18

He Ate/She Ate Goes Greek



Cover
Art

Image created by Skyler Ashley

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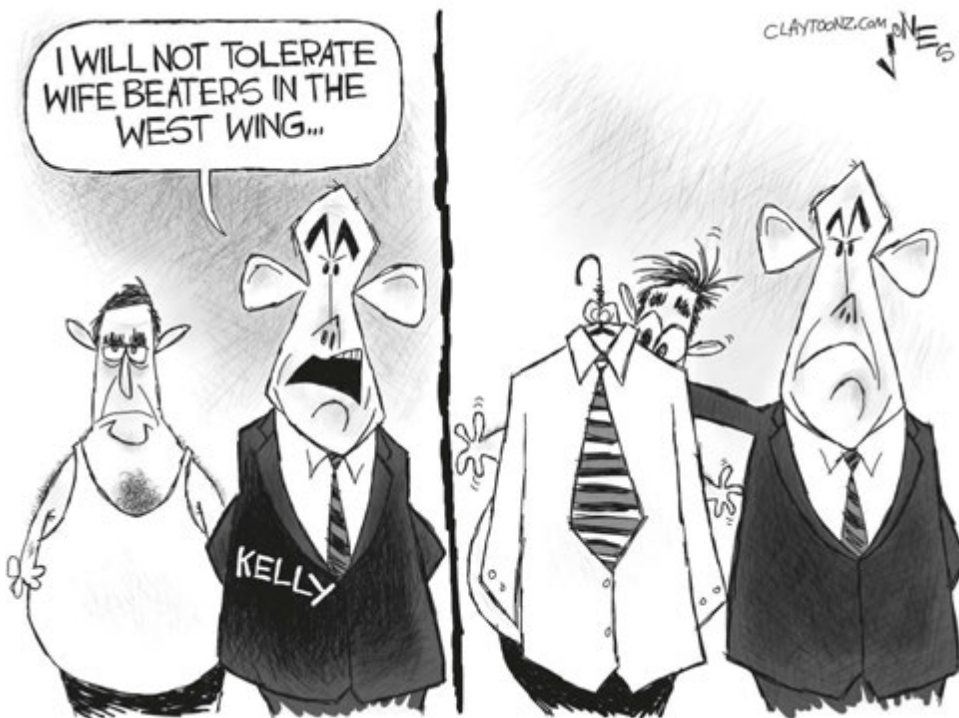
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THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW

1) RIGHT WING MEDIA HYPE PURPORTED EVIDENCE OF DEEP STATE MACHINATIONS.
MY SOURCES SAY THEY HAVE A SIGNED, NOTARIZED CONFESSION FROM JAMES COMEY, DETAILING THE NEFARIOUS F.B.I. PLOT TO DESTROY DONALD TRUMP!
THIS IS WORSE THAN WATER-GATE--AND, UH, OTHER BAD HISTORY STUFF--COMBINED!

2) TRUMP SUPPORTERS GET VERY EXCITED.
I'LL BET IT'S PROOF THAT MUELLER'S INVESTIGATION IS BEING RUN BY THE D.N.C. OUT OF THE BASEMENT OF THAT PIZZAGATE PLACE!
HASHTAG--RELEASE-THE-SIGNED-NOTARIZED-CONFESSION--NOW!

3) INEVITABLY THE DOCUMENT FAILS TO LIVE UP TO ITS BILLING.
WHAT WAS PURPORTED TO BE A SIGNED, NOTARIZED CONFESSION BY JAMES COMEY TURNS OUT TO BE AN OLD GROCERY LIST SOME-BODY FOUND IN A SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT!
IN FAIRNESS, THE HAND-WRITING WAS VERY SLOPPY!

4) TRUMPIES CONTINUE TO TREAT THE STORY AS A VERIFIED FACT LONG AFTER IT HAS BEEN DEBUNKED.
WHY HAVN'T MUELLER BEEN FIRED, IN LIGHT OF THE FAMOUS SIGNED, NOTARIZED COMEY CONFESSION?
IS THIS CONSPIRACY SO VAST THAT LITERALLY EVERYONE IS PART OF IT?

5) AND ON AND ON IT GOES.
COMING UP NEXT--SHOCKING PROOF THAT VLADIMIR PUTIN IS ACTUALLY HILLARY CLINTON WEARING A RUBBER MASK--CLEARLY DISPROVING ALLEGATIONS OF COLLUSION!
I MEAN, WHY WOULD TRUMP COLLUDE WITH HILLARY?

6) AND ON AND ON.
BUT--THIS IS JUST A MEME OF PUTIN WITH THE CAPTION "HILLARY IN A RUBBER MASK."
AND YOUR POINT IS?

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Passing grade

Road plowing was orderly for Schor's first snowstorm

With 6-plus inches of snow snarling the roads Friday, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor faced his first test of the administration's handle on public service. How'd he do?

Residents across the city commenting on Facebook generally were favorable, but expressed some concerns.

"No plows have come to my Southside Lansing neighborhood (Miller Road and N. Coulson Court)," wrote Jon Villasurda on Facebook Friday. "Multiple people have gotten stuck and the snow is several inches high. My wife and I got stuck twice this morning as we struggled to get out of the neighborhood. Throughout this entire winter, I've only seen a plow come through once."

Villasurda echoed concerns of a lot of residents of the south side, which gets plowed last. The plows start on the far north end by the airport and finish, 139 miles later, on the south end.

Kathy Tobe, who attended a meeting with newly elected City Councilman At-Large Peter Spadafore, said she's happy overall with the plowing in her neighborhood, Churchill Downs, also on the south side.

But Joy Gleason, who lives in Potter-Walsh Neighborhood, said her little section of Malcolm X Street, along the south edge of I-496, is often neglected by the plows.

"It gets bad," she said. "People can't get out. And emergency crews can't get in."

Schor was riding shotgun in one of the city's new plows Friday as the city was soaked with snow. For an hour, the new mayor rode south, then north, on Cedar Street, with a second one following. The new plow has not only an undercarriage blade but a side blade. Both work together to scrape snow across a lane and half of traffic. A follow-up plow deposits that snow on the side of the road.

"We are getting it cleared, the main streets," Schor said Saturday morning. "We get to the side streets. It started snowing Friday. The first conservative projection I heard was we'll get to those side streets Monday, and then I heard Sunday, and now, I understand that we've actually gotten to quite a few of them today because it's stopped snowing."

Susan Lyons Robertson praised the city's snow removal on Facebook.

"I'm in the Georgetown area, also a bus route," she wrote, referring to a neighborhood on the outer south end. "City does a great job out here. Sometimes we think it's too slow because they're trying to keep the main roads cleared in a heavy snow, and occasionally my neighborhood waits to get plowed. Generally, not more than 24 hours, though. I'm typically



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Snow day: Lansing Mayor Andy Schor (left, in scarf) and City Councilman Peter Spadafore (center, in glasses) listen as Potter-Walsh Neighborhood resident Joy Gleason makes a point during a meeting on constituent services at the Strange Matter coffee house on Michigan Avenue on Saturday. Ryan Smith from the Cherry Hill Neighborhood is next to Schor. On the right is City Council intern Tayo Moss.

impressed with the main street snow removal/salting. I think they have their priorities right."

The city is broken into 31 zones for snow plowing. That map is available online. And just last week, Schor announced the city had installed GPS tracking devices on all snow plows. While that information won't be uploaded to the city website on a real-time basis, Schor said it will be clear where the plows have been. That's important, he said, noting an instance over the weekend where he was notified a street in Groesbeck had not been plowed.

"I just got a Facebook post from someone who said they were in Groesbeck and Kingswood didn't get plowed, but maybe Chester and some of the others did," he said. "So I texted (public service director) Andy Kilpatrick, and he just texted me back and said, 'They're still doing the route.' They're still doing the routes, so we'll get there, but people should be able to get online and see where has it been done and was their street done and were they missed and were they not missed."

Schor was on Facebook personally reassuring residents that plows were working the city throughout the weekend.

Another common snow-related complaint

is about the city's 24-hour sidewalk-clearing ordinance.

"Chiming in on the double standard," wrote Andrew Herrbach. "If I have to have my sidewalk clear within 24 hours of the last hour of snowfall, the road should be plowed in the same amount of time."

Schor noted that the sidewalk ordinance comes into play only after the snow stops falling. And if a second snowfall comes in later, the clock stops and restarts when that snow event is over. On top of that, he noted, when the city get a complaint on unshoveled sidewalks, the property gets an additional 24 hours to remove the snow before contractors move in to do it. Altogether, a few hundred properties are ordered to be cleared each winter.

That ordinance requires that snow be removed from all sidewalks, side to side. While talking with Schor, it was noted the sidewalks in the 2000 block of Michigan Avenue were not cleared fully, causing people parking on the street to have to traverse snow banks or through the road to an access.

"We won't differentiate it," Schor said of residential versus commercial sidewalk clear-

FOR DESIGN



Last month's detail was perhaps too obscure, since no respondents attempted to identify it. The layered plywood detail is located at Omi Sushi (below) on MAC, part of an interior that won a design award for the restaurant from the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2006.

Acknowledging the recent bitter weather, this month's detail (above) is also indoors, but in a significantly more public location in East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify the location of the detail will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to daniel@eastarbor.com by Feb. 21.



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

See Snow, page 7

Lansing Township says no to pot dispensaries

Lansing Township has passed a highly restrictive medical marijuana ordinance, banning dispensaries altogether and allowing only three related licenses: one for a growing operation and two for safety compliance facilities.

By passing the ordinance on Jan. 23, Lansing Township joined Lansing, East Lansing and Windsor Township as the only governmental jurisdictions in mid-Michigan to create pot regulations. Under the new state law, businesses must have a local license in order to gain a state license or they cannot operate legally.

Besides barring dispensaries, the township has banned processors and secure transporters, two categories the new state law provides for.

The township — with a population of

8,126 living in five noncontiguous parcels in and around Lansing — will permit a Class A grower, which the state allows to grow up to 500 plants, as well as the two safety compliance businesses. The application fee will be \$5,000, with facilities required to renew their licenses annually.

Township Clerk Susan Aten said no business interests appeared before the Board of Trustees to make a case for dispensaries, whereas they did for the growing and safety compliance operations.

Lansing Township was still working to craft the specifics of the application, which is set to open on March 1.

“The application itself is under design right now,” Aten said. “We’re doing research on what the state law covers, what portion we need to cover — we’re just educating our-

selves on it.”

Facilities who choose to operate in violation of Lansing Township’s ordinance face a fine of anywhere from \$100 for first-time offenders to \$1,000 for repeat violators. Each day of illegal operation is considered a new offense, according to the ordinance.

Assuming Lansing Township grants the maximum amount of licenses, the township will average less than one medical marijuana facility per square mile.

The city of Lansing, which is limited to 25 provisioning centers but is free to grant licenses to all of the 52 current applicants for other facilities, would average just over two per square mile, assuming they grant the maximum.

The Michigan Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act, the state law, requires grower facilities to be placed in an industrial zone, an agricultural zone or a locally approved unzoned area.

Aten said that the majority of the township’s industrial zones were located on the west side — where old GM properties lie — and on the east side, making these the most likely places for the three allowed facilities to locate.

Two portions of Lansing Township are completely surrounded by Lansing.

The city won’t allow a dispensary within 1,000 feet of an operating school and 500 feet of playground equipment, churches, child care centers and substance abuse treatment centers.

Lansing’s ordinance does not place the same distance requirements on other facility types, only mandating that they be placed in industrial zones.

City Attorney Jim Smiertka was previously unaware Lansing Township had enacted an ordinance regulating marijuana facilities, but said it is the township’s choice to decide whether to abide by the “buffered zones” written into the city’s ordinance. Lansing will follow any provisions in the township’s ordinance, he said.

“Our ordinance says within a church — it doesn’t say specifically that it has to be a

Lansing church or a Lansing whatever else,” Smiertka said.

Lansing Township’s ordinance places no distance restrictions on either of the approved facility types.

Aten appreciated the city’s decision to respect the township’s ordinance. She said it was likely that there were industrial zones in Lansing Township that could potentially lie within a restricted distance of the city’s buffer zones.

“We do have industrial property in the township that would be within 1,000 feet of a city school, I believe, and we would definitely look at that,” Aten said.

However, Aten said the small number of licenses the township would grant — combined with the city’s lack of distance requirements for growers or secure transporters — made it unlikely that any conflicts would arise.

The township’s late start on opting in to state law regulating marijuana facilities likely means no businesses will be allowed to operate within the township until state licenses are handed out.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs said applicants for a state license must either submit an attestation of local approval for temporary operation by Thursday, Feb. 15, or shut down until they receive a state license.

Aten said that as of Monday, she had submitted one attestation on behalf of a grower. With the township’s application period for medical marijuana facilities not set to begin until March, it will be impossible for applicants to have obtained a local license by LARA’s deadline.

LARA spokesman David Harns said the Medical Marijuana Licensing Board will begin considering license applications at its March or April board meetings.

If an applicant has not received a decision by June 15, that facility would have to shut down in order to remain eligible for a license.

— MAXWELL EVANS

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days on March 12,13,14,15,&16 2018 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 14 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review the assessment roll and hear appeals from taxpayers. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal if your property is residential or agricultural. An appointment is suggested and must be scheduled before 4:30PM, March 14, 2018. If you do not make an appointment, you will have to wait for the next available opening in the schedule. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor’s Office by 4:30PM, March 15, 2018. Please call the City of Lansing Assessor’s Office at (517) 483-7624 for information about your assessment and/or to make an appointment.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2018

Eaton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	52.91	0.94501
Industrial	48.19	1.03756
Residential	47.69	1.04844
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Develpmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Ingham County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	48.34	1.03434
Industrial	46.45	1.07643
Residential	48.49	1.03114
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Clinton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	47.81	1.0458
Commercial	48.63	1.0282
Industrial	48.36	1.0339
Residential	N/C	
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

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Maybe more millage

Meridian Township seeks funding plan to improve roads

The Meridian Township Board of Trustees has released its key strategic goals for the year and top among them is finding a long-term funding structure to keep up with road repairs.

"I know people complain a lot about our roads and they're not great, but they're not horrendous either," said the township manager, Frank Walsh, describing them as a 4 or 5 on a scale of 10. "A lot of communities right now are looking at twos and threes."

But a solution will be tricky since the township is not legally required to pay for the upkeep on its 352 miles of local and primary roads. That's a county responsibility, said Derek Perry, assistant township manager.

Nonetheless, the township supplements county roadwork with a combination of general fund dollars and from a 0.2484 mill dedicated for roads.

"The dedicated road millage generated \$401,657 in 2016, \$407,700 in 2017 and

\$416,200 for 2018," Perry said. "General Fund transfer was \$175,000 in 2016, \$295,000 in 2017 and \$550,000 is budgeted for 2018."

That means for 2018, the township has just over \$966,000 available for road improvements.

"We get a match from the county of about \$115,000," said Walsh. "I can tell you, every dollar from our road fund is spent on roads. There is no administrative cost at all. The administrative cost comes out of the general fund."

With just under \$1.1 million available, road replacement is a tough nut to crack. That may sound like a lot, but it's not. It costs \$1 million to strip down and repave one mile of road. That leaves the county and township patching roads and doing small repairs, rather than full replacements of the roads.

The township annually informs residents of how the road millage money is spent and

where, Walsh said.

"We have a complete list and we put that out every year to our residents, in writing, and it delineates every road and every cost," Walsh said. "We've been doing that for years. We're very transparent about what we do and where the money goes."

With 35 percent of the township's roads rated as poor on the Pavement and Surface Evaluation and Rating system, or PASER, a reckoning is coming. Seventy percent of the primary roads are rated as good, while 63 percent of the local, or neighborhood, roads are rated that way. Twenty-six percent of the primary roads and just 6 percent of the local roads are rated as very good in their condition.

To figure out how to tackle the township's roads, Walsh said the government is going to have to do a lot of research.

"What we need to do, certainly by this summer, is come up with the comprehensive plan, which is what this calls for," he said of the strategic goals plan authorized by the township board. "How do we go about this? What is the cost and how do we go about it?"

He said there are municipal models. "There are communities, like Spring Arbor Township and others down in the Jackson area who've gone for significant mills, like I think three or four mills a year, for a number of years to completely overhaul their entire road system," Walsh said. "And their tax base isn't near what Meridian Township's is. I don't know where this is going to come out, but if we ended up needing a millage, it would be a very signifi-

cant millage to get this done."

Would such a millage fly? He said he doesn't have "the appetite" to ask voters for a millage. But he acknowledges that there may be no other way to raise funds for repairs.

But there could be other cost saving measures. He noted that when the Ingham County Road Commission identifies the roads it will repair during construction season and bid them out in a bundle.

"There's some cost savings in that. We have a long way to go and it's very high on our residents' list. We know that from surveys about just how important the roads are to the community," Walsh said.

That in turn points toward possible regionalism. Lansing, East Lansing, and other communities could come together to bid out road work as bundles. He said that would be a "great idea."

funding road repairs, Walsh said, comes down to innovation, whether it takes the form of regionalism or some other mechanism. The funding gap from reduced state revenue sharing continues to pinch the communities of Ingham County as they attempt to do more with less.

As for those roads? "We've got to get ourselves from a four or five up to a seven or an eight," Walsh said. "That's going to take a lot of work to get there, but if it's on the list, it's got full attention."

— TODD HEYWOOD

Snow

from page 5

ance. "If someone is out of compliance, then someone's out of compliance. It includes the city, city spaces. The city will actually cite itself, which I didn't know."

But Schor clarified Monday, "Businesses and residents are responsible to clear enough sidewalk so that people can walk." He added that he will not hold businesses responsible for clearing the snow buildup along the street caused by the city plows.

While the city was busy plowing the roads Friday during the snow event, which resulted in school closures throughout the county as well as the closure of county offices and the early closure of city offices, Ingham County sheriff's deputies and Michigan State Police troopers had their hands full with accidents

on the area's highways.

According to a Saturday morning email from Ingham County Sheriff Sgt. Jeff Weiss, the two agencies responded to 33 accidents. Ingham County handled the bulk of those, 23, while the Michigan State Police responded to 10. Those stats for the county included 13 accidents involving tractor trailers. The department assisted over 40 people, he reported.

But the weather and accidents also resulted in serious highway shutdowns. I-96 was closed for three hours at the U.S. 127 junction. It was also shut down for four hours at the Williamston exit. That shutdown also required Livingston County officials to shut down the highway at Fowlerville as well.

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Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Bids for the **Land Bank Office Building Roof Installation – TPO Roofing Membrane System**. The Request for Proposal is available February 14, 2018 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, MI, 48906, 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank office by 10am on February 28, 2018 and will be opened at 10am, February 28, 2018. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#18-025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom #2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

The hearing will be for the purpose of reviewing budget recommendations for the Program Year 18/19 Community Development Block Grant Program, Mini Grant Program, and Human Service Grant Program prepared by the Community Development Advisory Committee.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#18-027

Aborting the dragon

Is BWL's \$500 million gas plant too much, too late?



Courtesy image

Critics say the energy landscape is changing too fast to commit to a \$500 million natural gas fired plant, as the Lansing BWL announced it would do in December.

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Stanton Memo is out.

It sounds like a salvo from the political wars in Washington, but a memo by Lansing utility expert and former state regulator Tom Stanton is part of a local conflict over Lansing's energy future that's about to come to a boil.

The opposition is ready to push back on the Lansing Board of Water & Light's plan, unveiled in December, to build a \$500 million, natural gas fired plant on the grounds of its Erickson plant. The new plant would replace two aging, coal-fired power plants, the Eckert and Erickson plants, which are set to close in 2020 and 2025, respectively.

Joint Public Meeting

Lansing City Council
Board of Water and Light
5-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15
REO Town Depot
1201 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing

Council and Mayor Andy Schor saying that the BWL's plan to build a new plant is in need of a "comprehensive do-over" and the two-year-old analysis that led up to the decision is already out of date. He's not the only one who thinks so.

Opponents use words like "overbuild" and "behemoth" for the plant and say it's already a relic of outmoded thinking in the most swiftly changing energy landscape since steam power was invented.

If the BWL doesn't go back to the drawing board, Stanton wrote, it would amount to "a dereliction of duty" calling for "strong and corrective response from the City."

This time, the pushback isn't coming from the usual suspects alone. Not only environmentalists, but concerned rate-payers, energy professionals and a conservative energy group are joining the fray.

The Stanton memo is bound to have an impact on the agenda Thursday when the Council and the BWL's Board of Commissioners hold a joint public meeting.

The BWL contends that when Erickson closes, leaving the REO Town cogeneration plant as the utility's sole base load generator, the city has no choice but to fire up one last big power plant before crossing the bridge to 100 percent renewables. The utility is proud of its plans to replace only half of the 500-MW hole left by the closing of Eckert and Erickson with gas. The utility plans to make up the rest with renewable energy, efficiency and other sources it's already exploring.

But across the nation, the cost of renewable energy and crucial storage are plunging to the point where some utilities are starting to get bids for renewables that undercut fossil fuels.

Things are moving so fast that critics say the BWL's strategic plan, completed in 2016, is already outmoded. They want the utility to go back to the drawing board, or at least build a smaller plant to keep the utility flexible in the face of a coming revolution in energy production and distribution.

THE LAST WAR

In a phone interview last week, Stanton compared the BWL's build-it-big strategy

to "fighting the last war."

A Lansing resident since 1975, Stanton has researched and written on energy issues for decades. He was a member of the Michigan Public Service Commission for 30 years and is now a researcher for the National Regulatory Research Institute.

"There's so much turmoil going on all over the country, it's truly remarkable," he said. Last month, the energy world was buzzing with news from Xcel Energy, Colorado's biggest power company, with a service area that stretches from Texas to Michigan.

In a scenario similar to Lansing's, a plan to shut down two large coal-burning plants in Pueblo, Colorado, will leave a 660-MW hole in the utility's energy supply. Last month, Xcel announced it has received bids for renewable energy that a Denver Post headline trumpeted as "shockingly low" — the lowest prices ever quoted in U.S., according to a Jan. 16 story in the Post.

Stanton said to expect more news like this in the coming months. The problem of storing intermittent solar and wind energy for use when it's needed is often cited as a deal-breaker, but battery technology is advancing almost as fast as solar and wind tech. Even with storage factored in, the Xcel bids for wind came in cheaper than coal generation, according to the Post. Solar plus storage came in cheaper than 75 percent of coal generation in the state.

And that's just an early shot in what Stanton called the "wild West" scenario that's coming to the utility world in

the next 10 to 20 years. The era of "distributed energy," as power generation de-centralizes from big plants into widely scattered residential, community and commercial sources, is about to shake the utility industry to its foundations.

BWL spokeswoman Amy Adamy said the utility plans to review its strategic plan in 2020, but by then, the proposed plant will be a year into the building phase. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2019 and the first ergs are expected to flow in 2021.

The BWL burns about 800,000 tons of coal a year, according to Adamy. By 2025, she said, that number will be zero. The expected 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases is no small thing, but critics of the proposed gas plant say there are other ways to pick up the slack from coal.

"The right thing to do today is to build as little as possible to meet the needs that we have right away, while we take more time to plan and investigate these different choices that are coming," Stanton said.

THEY'RE NOT HIPPIES

You don't have to look very far to find a large-scale parallel to Lansing's energy debate. Larry Ward of Williamston is the director of the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum, a primarily Republican advocacy group that started up in 2013.

The group is part of a surprisingly broad coalition fighting energy giant DTE's proposed 1,100-MW, \$1 billion natural gas power plant in St. Clair County, intended to replace DTE's aging,

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BWL

from page 8

coal-fired Belle River Power Plant in East China Township.

In a Feb. 1 column in The Detroit News, Ward laid out the case against DTE's big plant, saying that it would "saddle rate-payers with long-term and unpredictable cost."

Ward couldn't care less about the dangers of fracking, the controversial process by which Mother Earth is given a toxic chemical enema to release trapped natural gas. He opposes big new power plants for economic, not environmental, reasons.

The Union of Concerned Scientists and other groups in the coalition concluded that DTE was "overly optimistic" about the future price of natural gas, and gave short shrift to energy efficiency and emerging technologies in renewable energy battery storage.

"A big plant might be right answer in the next two to three years, but eight years from now, it certainly wouldn't be, and 30 or 40 years from now we're still stuck with it," Ward said, and he feels the same way about BWL's proposed plant. "Don't saddle us with something that isn't flexible enough to change," he said.

When I asked Ward whether his organization is an undercover nest of hippies, he laughed.

"I'm a die-hard Republican conservative," he said. "I don't know how we got to the point where it got so politicized. We all pay electric bills and gas bills."

Ward lives in Williamston, part of the DTE service area, but he also has rental properties in Lansing and has followed BWL's recent moves closely.

"Some people don't like coal plants because of the carbon-emitting pollution," he said. "I don't like it because of the cost structure it's saddled us with over the last 40 or 50 years, and we're still paying the price. Are we going to go through that again?"

But the BWL's Adamy said the parallel to DTE is not apt. "The BWL's and DTE's generating needs are very different," she said. Even after the Belle River plant is retired, she said, "DTE will have major nuclear, coal and natural gas generating units of supply electricity."

Without another gas plant, BWL says it will be unable to meet demand when the sun and the wind are not producing energy.

Adamy said the utility recently approved a three-year rate strategy "which will adequately fund paying for the new plant over the course of the bond terms." The plant is expected to come in under \$500 million, she said, and any bond proceeds not spent on the plant will be invested in renewables and infrastructure improvements.



'A natural gas plant is still a necessary, economic and an important part of a least cost resource plan.'

— BWL spokeswoman
Amy Adamy

'The right thing to do today is to build as little as possible to meet the needs that we have right away'

— Tom Stanton, National
Regulatory Research Institute



Answering the concern that BWL is yoking itself to unpredictable gas prices, Adamy said the utility modeled many gas price scenarios. Even under a high-price scenario, she said, a natural gas plant was still a "necessary, economic and an important part of a least cost resource plan."

Finally, she said that scaling back and building a smaller plant, she said, would come at a "significantly higher cost."

The Stanton memo still rejects the BWL's analysis, saying that "any decisions based on assumptions made two or three years ago are not valid."

EFFICIENCY DEFICIENCY

Ward admitted there are big differences between the BWL, a public utility owned by the ratepayers, and privately owned DTE.

"BWL does a lot of really good things with their reach to renewable and diversified fuel sources," Ward said. BWL General Manager Dick Peffley said nearly 85 megawatts of wind will be added to the BWL's already existing 20 megawatts of wind this year and the utility will generate 120 megawatts of solar power by 2030, "making the BWL Michigan's leader in solar energy."

But Ward sees other areas where BWL could improve.

The most potentially beneficial program is a strangely tough sell — energy efficiency. It's not a headline-grabber, but it's also the top item in Stanton's memo. Stanton said BWL has underestimated the potential of energy efficiency by a "factor of two or three, if not more."

"They can do quite a bit more, even to the point where less of their product is being sold," Ward said.

But big utilities, even public owned ones like Lansing's BWL, have little

incentive to reduce demand for their own product.

Adamy pointed out that the BWL's strategic plan calls for growing its energy efficiency program beyond the State's mandated 1 percent annual savings and to continue the program even after the state's requirement sunsets in 2021.

"We are not aware of any other Michigan utility to formally adopt and commit to a plan to exceed Michigan's energy efficiency requirement," Adamy said.

Mountains of evidence suggest that energy efficiency programs promise the highest return on investment of any expenditure a utility can make, from building a new plant to installing solar panels to upgrading the grid.

It might take a 2 or 3 percent hike in rates to fund an energy efficiency program with teeth in it, but the return in savings on the customer's overall bill would be double that percentage or more, according to Ward.

Usage could go down 4 or 5 percent in households and businesses and up to 15 percent "behind the meter" — an industry term that refers to inefficiencies in utility infrastructure — leading to lower overall bills for ratepayers.

Adamy said the BWL has no policy limiting investment on efficiency programs to the growth in overall load, as some critics have charged.

But ratepayers have a way of hating rate increases more than they love — or even notice — the overall reduction in their bills energy efficiency would bring. That limits the utility's incentive to invest in efficiency.

"That's what the utilities will always tell you, and they use that as their justification for saying, 'we need more capacity now so we better build another power plant,'" Ward said.

TAKE IT TO THE BANK

Big, centralized institutions of all kinds are looking more and more Victorian, if not Roman, with every passing year. When grandpa had to do business at the bank, he put on his hat and went downtown to a tall building with massive Greek columns.

A generation later, modest bank branches were everywhere. Today, your bank is probably in your pocket.

"My nephews tell me they've never even been in a bank," Ward said. They scan his gift checks electronically and hand them back to him.

"The system in the electric world is kind of like that," Ward said. "It was originally built on the one-way flow of electrons from large centralized plants to your house."

Experts say the biggest change coming in the next 10 or 20 years is a two-way flow.

"To be able to produce my own power is very much in the realm of reality right now," Ward said.

You can get a glimpse of this future by looking at institutions such as large hospitals or MSU.

"MSU has operated like this for 100 years, with its own power plant," Stanton said. "It's only recently connected with the outside grid, and still largely serves itself. All hospitals have backup generators."

In the coming years, sources of distributed energy will range from vast wind farms to neighborhood or community solar gardens to homeowner solar arrays.

"Denmark, Germany and Sweden have a lot of neighborhood-scale power plants, many of which burn waste from food or agricultural production," Stanton said.

These two opposing models — central power stations versus distributed energy resources — are like two trains headed toward each other on the same track, at full speed, according to widely read Canadian nuclear engineer and energy guru Walter Patterson.

"This is a huge, huge cultural transformation that has to take place," Stanton said.

The questions won't stop at how to generate and distribute power, but even who owns it.

"Whether it's two, four or 10 years out, the storage capability has huge potential," Stanton said.

Nevertheless, the culture of building big is deeply ingrained in the industry. Like the Hindenburg or the Titanic, it will take some time and pushing to turn the leviathan around.

"The BWL knows they can control a power plant that they built themselves, turn it on and off and up and down according to their own schedules," Ward said. "That's what they're used to doing and that's what they're planning with."

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

Black arts matter

Black artists take center stage at the Robin Theatre

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Black Arts Matter. The message behind the charity concert lies within its name, but it has deep roots.

“We’ve been dealing with the issue of race on one level – police brutality, the criminal justice system and all these other things, but everybody wants to stop right there,” said attorney and stand up comedian Robert Jenkins. “Those things are obviously important, but black people are three dimensional. We’re artists, we’re entertainers, dancers, musicians and all these other things too.”

Enter Black Arts Matter, an event that will carry that same political weight, albeit within a different medium, than outright

protest. Black Arts Matter uses — well — art as its sole conduit for communication.

Several artists, musicians and performers will take over the Robin Theatre Friday for the second annual Black Arts Matter Celebration. The lineup includes host Jahshua Smith, Horn & Holland, Hakeem the People’s Poet, Jared Autrey, Robert Jenkins and Mikey Austin & the Happy Medium.

Black Arts Matter’s organizer, Michael Austin, a self-described “arts activist,” says he’s for new ways to reach people with deeper political messages.

“There’s a lot of people you won’t see at a Black Lives Matter rally, but you’ll see them at a concert, or a poetry jam,” Austin said. “I want to bring both types together. It’s not just for black people, but for those who want to see what we’re doing and make that statement with us.”

Austin said Black Arts Matter is a crucial cultural celebration that provides a well deserved platform for Lansing’s talented black artists.

“This is a time for us to celebrate local black artists and those who advocate for black art,” Austin said. “And it’s not just about music. We’re trying to incorporate all forms of art and put it together for the community.”

Austin wants to reverse a trend of black artists failing to receive recognition for their work. He cited historical examples like the Harlem Renaissance, where the art was appreciated but not the people behind it.

“The art is there, but the people are not,” Austin said.

This attitude puts Black Arts Matter squarely in line with a larger national movement for black representation



Courtesy photo

(Left to right): Sareem Poems, Michael Austin and Ozay Moore of All the Above Hip-Hop Academy, receiving the Black Arts Matter Awards at last year’s event.



Courtesy photo

Melissa Carter and Michael Austin sing, while Deon Gladney drums, at the 2017 Black Arts Matter show.

and visibility in media.

Among the local artists Austin holds in high regard is Hakeem Witherspoon, who will perform under his stage name, Hakeem the People’s Poet.

Witherspoon carries his own brand of positive spiritualism wherever he goes, and for an event like Black Arts Matter, his ideologies are right at home.

“Black Arts Matter is multicultural and for the youth, which is one of the main reasons why I’m excited to perform,” Witherspoon said. “We need more events, such as this one, in order to bring not only artistic people, but communities together.”

By your standard definitions, Witherspoon could be deemed a slam poet. Yet he packs so much urgency into his prose that it feels misguided to lump him in with a genre where the emotions often come across as forced. Witherspoon avoids that trap with sheer electricity.

“My poetry is something that flows through me, and it’s more than just an art, poetry is the written embodiment of the soul,” Witherspoon said.

Jenkins is unafraid to touch on uncomfortable racial subjects.

“I’m not necessarily a storyteller. I talk about politics a lot, but all of those things are filtered through my experience as a 35-year-old black person from Detroit,” Jenkins said. “I use what I’ve seen in the jokes that I write.”

Black Arts Matter is making it tradition to donate its proceeds to young talented Lansing students. Last year’s incarnation raised \$4,000, which was split between four high schoolers, who were each surprised with a \$1,000 check of their own.

“That was all done in the spirit of the arts matter,” Austin said. “To be able to shine a bright light on the positives art brings, especially in the black community, was really important for me.”

And the night’s artists are more than willing to help with Austin’s cause.

“Helping children extend their education is one of the greatest things in the world, and I’m glad I’m being a part of something life changing,” Witherspoon said.

East Lansing Public Library examines watershed black films on the eve of ‘Black Panther’

Why representation matters

By JONATHAN SHEAD

Jeffrey Wray, an African-American film studies professor at Michigan State University, says the decisions of what movies end up receiving funding and who stars in them are decided by a group of people who are “overwhelmingly white and male.”

“That has to change,” Wray said.

Jared Mosley, a member of the Black Media Entertainment student organization at MSU, said he’s been waiting a long time to see a movie he could racially relate to.

“It’s not often that you get to see a superhero that looks like you,” he said. “People are definitely more used to seeing black people in a role where they’re poor or comic relief, and we need to show them that we can do more than that.”

A panel discussion hosted by the East Lansing Public Library, part of its African-American film series event held throughout this month, will tackle these

issues.

The library’s been screening black-centric films all February, with two more showings, “Boyz N the Hood,” Feb. 20, and “Pariah,” Feb. 27. “Pariah” will be followed by a panel discussion with Wray involved.

Annie Gordon, the adult services librarian at the East Lansing Public Library, selected the films to be shown for Black History Month. Gordon chose the films to highlight specific social and legal issues, with hope that the ensuing discussion can shed some light on these issues of black representation.

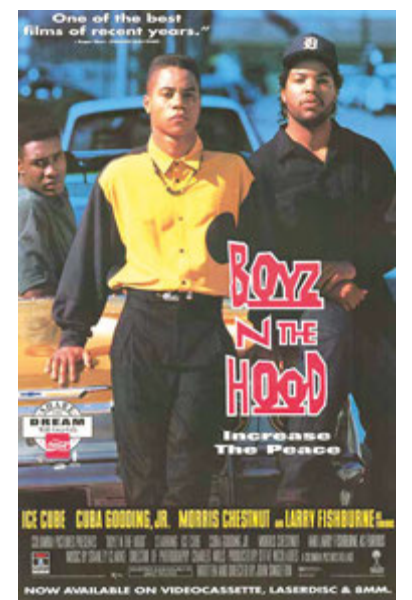
“As a community organization, we think it’s important to recognize and represent all cultural holidays and the people they celebrate,” Gordon said. “We have a diverse community.”

“Black Panther,” a pro Afro-futurism film with a primarily all-black cast that hits theaters Friday, is forging new paths for other media companies to follow.

Mosley believes more diverse representation will only increase a movie’s success. “If you wanted to make a movie about

the Black Panther, and about Africa in a way, representing black people and advancements in technology, you got to get black people to do those things. There’s no better way to do it,” Mosley said. “It’s all about representing the culture.”

These companies are giving a lot of black actors and actresses jobs, but what Wray sees as more important is the fact that they’re finally giving black filmmakers, and others behind the scenes, a chance and a job too.



Wray said we’ll have to wait to see if “Black Panther” will be the big blockbuster film it’s been hyped up to be, but there’s no doubt it’s a step in the right direction for more black representation in Hollywood.

Silk and Korngold

Epic symphony crowns spectacular night for LSO

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The usual symphony concert takes you to some splendid but familiar destinations. Saturday night, the Lansing Symphony was not serving up the usual.

Guest violinist Yi-Jia Susanne Hou played with a tone that was so ductile, so tender, so free of friction, it made the downiest peach fuzz seem like the unshaven chin of Popeye.

Hou's luminous, coppery performance of Mendelssohn's famous violin concerto hushed the house. An epic, rarely performed symphony by Hollywood film composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold almost blew it down.

There were many levels to Hou's musicianship, from her warm rapport with the audience to her technical prowess, but it was hard to get past her ravishing, silken tone. Was it ice or was it fire? Yes and yes. In the very highest register, where even Jascha Heifetz starts to summon thoughts of a dentist's drill, Hou dared to linger, linger, linger, until the cry-

talline ring seemed to sublimate into pure thought.

She put her own stamp on the music from the first phrase, shaping and inflecting the melodies as if she were talking with you face to face, not delivering a graduate seminar on violin pyrotechnics — although she snuck that in as well.

The orchestra flexed a lot of muscle underneath Hou's magic, grounding her lyrical flights in a stormy, Beethoven-ish landscape. It was a profoundly centered, focused performance that never drifted into idle delectation, as romantic idylls sometimes do.

For an encore, Hou spoke directly with the audience, hawking her latest CD and playing a few excerpts while the orchestra and maestro Timothy Muffitt patiently cooled their jets. The unusual epilogue poked a small pin in the preceding magic, but Hou did it with such earnest enthusiasm nobody seemed to mind.

What happened next was unusual on a whole new scale. Discovering a monumental

symphony by Erich Wolfgang Korngold was like taking a trip to a spectacular national park that, for some reason, hardly anyone knows about.

Thanks to Muffitt's bold programming and a masterful, pedal-to-the-metal performance, a rarely heard American masterpiece got a thrilling 53 minutes in the sun, right here in Lansing.

The symphony came out of shadows hard and cold, like a gun barrel, a two-note thwacking anchored by mallet percussion that quickly escalated into an existential storm. As the tension grew, principal flutist Richard Sherman floated a tender melody into the shadows, like a lost bird in a film noir alley.

Most national parks have at least one nexus of wonder that no place else can match — the geyser, the pink stone arch, the glacial



Courtesy photo

Yi-Ja Susanne Hou was LSO's guest for the performance of Mendelssohn's violin concerto as well as a symphony by Korngold.

lake. In this symphony, that was the volatile, kaleidoscopic second movement.

With no warning, massive blocks of sound emerged from the underlying strata of cellos and basses at sudden and surprising angles. A gorgeous brass chorale erupted from nowhere, disappeared and returned just when the memory of it began to fade. The most arresting feature in this geothermally active terrain was a weird, periodic meltdown in the strings that lasted only a couple of seconds but made my pelvis curl up into my neck every time. Muffitt and the orchestra nailed the split-second timing of all these episodes, with sudden changes in tempo and key of a degree of difficulty I can only imagine.

The second movement was the dazzler, but the heart of the symphony was its slow movement that followed, an epic elegy for President Franklin D. Roosevelt. You might wonder how purely orchestral music can paint a portrait so specific, and of course, it can't, but that's the beauty of it. The composer dedicated the symphony to FDR, but the cry was universal. Again and again, the orchestra returned to a noble, three-note signature theme, usually in the low strings and violins, suggesting a human soul moving through the storms, tragedies and loneliness of life. It was fascinating to hear how Korngold chiseled the flourishes from his more melodramatic film music style to craft a more serious and monumental, but no less affecting, musical language.

Muffitt excels at opening up long, epic scrolls like these and giving each granular detail its due. When the big moments came, you could feel the rumblings of the basses and brass cascade up from the floor through your legs and let your face bask in the sudden sunbursts of brass streaming over the crags. The entire symphony, especially the slow movement, was blessed with many eloquent solos, several of them from principal clarinetist Guy Yehuda.

After all the angst that came before, the last movement was almost too light in tone. It was an all-American boffo ending, buoyed by a zesty melody John Williams will surely steal some day — if he hasn't already. But, that stomp of triumph turned out to be a familiar friend — the fragile, bird-in-the-alley solo from the very first movement, come back to roost in the sun.

FEB. 17 >> WALTER VERDEHR ALUMNI CONCERTS

A big celebration of violinist Walter Verdehr's musical legacy is in the works for this weekend at MSU, with three concerts featuring former Verdehr students as well as the man himself. Saturday night's concert features Central Michigan University violin professor Fanye Sun playing the music of Chinese-American composer Bright Sheng. On the same bill, violinist Svetlana Tvisnkaya will play a remarkable 20th-century solo violin sonata in the Bach mold, also by Prokofiev. Sunday night, Verdehr himself will join several of his former students and other musicians to play Zoltan Kodaly's Serenade for Two Violins and one of the most sublime works in all of chamber music, the Octet by Felix Mendelssohn.

Cook Recital Hall, Music Building 333 W Circle Dr., East Lansing 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18 \$8-\$10; students and under 18 free (517) 353-5340



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Lest we forget: White supremacist speakers at MSU

A history of controversial campus speeches

By BILL CASTANIER

A crusading judge, a white nationalist, a marijuana advocate and a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer will provide plenty of opportunity to challenge the mind, as February gives way to March and the hope of spring.

Richard Spencer, a white supremacist, will speak on the MSU campus 4:30-6:30 p.m., Monday, March 5. MSU first refused to let him speak due to concerns about violence, but following a lawsuit MSU agreed to let Spencer speak at the auditorium in the Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education although



Rockwell

students will be on spring break at the time. The event is ticketed and arrangements were not available at this time, but will be handled by MSU.

Former President Lou Anna K. Simon in announcing the agreement said, "Michigan State is wholly dedicated to freedom of speech, not just as a public institution, but as an institution of higher education. Here, ideas, not people, are meant to clash and to be evaluated based on their merits."

This is not the first clash MSU had with a white nationalist wanting to speak on campus. On May 23, 1967, George Lincoln Rockwell, the head of the American Nazi Party, spoke to 4,500 students at the MSU Auditorium. According to media accounts at the time, Star of David stickers were distributed to the audience to wear and the audience was "reserved."

Rockwell told the audience of primarily students that college campuses were the only place he could speak without violence. To ensure peace, police guarded every door at the Auditorium. A complete video of his MSU talk is available on YouTube.

Rockwell's speech was one of the first times MSU allowed controversial speak-

ers on campus. Less than a year earlier the San Francisco poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti was banned from speaking on campus. His event was quickly moved to the State Theater in East Lansing where more than 800 students, faculty and townies listened to his Beat poetry.

Ferlinghetti wasn't the first speaker MSU banned. On May 17, 1962, the MSU Board of Trustees took a straw vote to ban Robert G. Thompson, the former head of the Communist Party, from speaking on campus. At the time, the campus was split, with student government voting to allow him to speak while a faculty group voted "no" to his appearance.

In an enlightened move the fraternity Delta Sigma Phi, on Grand River, allowed Thompson to speak in their "backyard" which fronted the Red Cedar River. The audience, reported to have exceeded 2,000, was not supportive, but there was no violence. The fraternity was chastised by the university and fined \$500 by its national parent organization.

The Board of Trustees issued this statement: "the decision re-emphasized the long-standing policy of not allowing a Communist to preach his treatises on our campus."

Soon after the Ferlinghetti blow-up MSU changed its policy and began to allow more controversial speakers on campus. A speaker's series was sponsored by the Associated Students of MSU (ASM-SU). With that change, the floodgates opened to include speakers like Timothy Leary, Allen Ginsberg and Rockwell.

UPCOMING AUTHOR APPEARANCES:

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who needs no introduction, will be at Schuler Books in Okemos at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, to discuss her new mystery book, "Triple Cross Killer." Judge Aquilina recently exploded on to the national scene when she allowed more than 150 victims of MSU physician Larry Nassar to make witness statements at the sentencing hearing.

The gut-wrenching stories of the women were often lead the evening news and front pages of every major newspaper, here and abroad. Due to the expected high level of interest, tickets must be picked up at the bookstore, in advance.

Finally, Amy Goldstein, a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for The Washington Post and author of the Pulitzer Prize winning book "Janesville: An American Story" will make an appearance at 12:15 p.m., Monday, March 26, at the MSU Museum Auditorium. The event is free. "Janesville" tells the story of the clos-

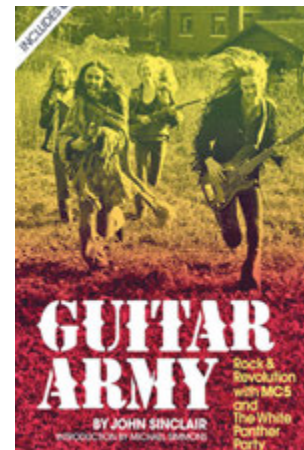
ing of a General Motors facility in Janesville, Wisconsin and the tragic impact on the community. Goldstein follows the closing and its aftermath from 2005-2013 with her eye on the devastating impact on individuals.

John Sinclair, who almost needs no introduction, will join artist Casey Loren, Saturday, March 31, 4-6 p.m. at the MSU Erickson Kiva, 620 Farm Lane, for a wide-ranging conversation about art and creativity with maybe a little radical politics thrown in. Sinclair who is mostly known for his advocacy for marijuana reform was also the founder of the Artists Workshop Society (now known as the Detroit Artists' Workshop), the manager of the MC5 rock band, founder of the White Panther Party, along with founding the Ann Arbor Hash Bash. The event is free.

Sinclair also is the author of the book, "Guitar Army," which explores his marijuana conviction and his role in the White Panther Party.

In addition to curating, Loren provided artifacts for the current MSU Broad exhibition, Detroit Artists' Workshop, on view through May 18. The exhibit includes photographs by Leni Sinclair and writing by John Sinclair.

Loren is an artist, musician, writer, and archivist and was a founding member of the Destroy All Monsters collective in 1973, along with Mike Kelley, Jim Shaw and Niagara. His work has been shown worldwide including the Whitney Biennial of American Art in 2002. He is co-owner of the Book Beat bookstore in Oak Park, Michigan, and serves as Chairman of the Detroit Artists' Workshop steering committee.



SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

CCWA ROMANCE PANEL

Thursday, February 15 @ 7pm

Join us for a romance author panel in honor of Valentine's Day, with published members of the Capital City Writers Association! Featured authors are Lyssa Kay Adams (*Seventh Inning Hero: The Vegas Aces*); Alyssa Alexander (*A Spy in the Ton* series); Alexandria Sure (*In the Pursuit of Charity*); Meika Usher (*Something So Sweet*); and Darcy Woods (*The Summer of Supernovas*). We'll have some goodies and a giveaway of a bag of books, so save the date!

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Sat., February 17 @ 11am

Join us for a special story-time event on the third Saturday of every month! A local volunteer will read a fun new picture book monthly to help instill the love of reading in your little ones!

LOCAL AUTHOR NIGHT

Thursday, February 22 @ 7pm

Featured authors include Mark M. Bello (*Betrayal of Justice*, Zachary Blake Legal Thriller series); J.A. Bullen, (*Beyond the Amaranthine Veil*, young adult Legends of Valoria series); award-winning, bestselling author C.M. Gleason (*Murder in the Lincoln White House*); and Randy D. Pearson (novel, *Trac Brothers*).

Located in the Meridian Mall
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
www.SchulerBooks.com

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Aquilina

Book Club meets March 1

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that watershed year, City Pulse is sponsoring a monthly book club that will run through all of 2018.



Each book club meeting will be held at Schuler Books in the Mertidan Mall on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Exceptions come when the Thursday falls near a holiday, when the book club will meet on the second Thursday of that month.

March 1 - My Lai by Howard Jones. "Slouching Toward Bethlehem" by Joan Didion, which was scheduled for March, has been moved to November, replacing "House Made of Dawn."

Curious Book Shop

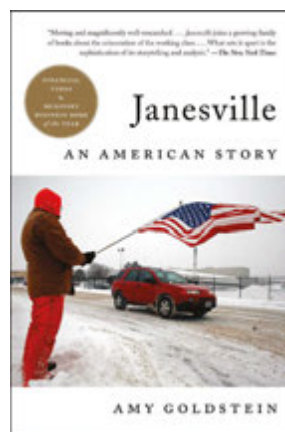
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OUT ON THE TOWN

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, February 14

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Mindfulness Meditation. Meditation for all levels, 7-9pm, FREE. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S Washington Ave., Lansing. www.LAMC.info • robertmosher1@comcast.net. 517-351-5866

AARP Senior Learning Series: Finances for 50+. From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Open Studio Life Drawing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others.. 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.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Bookworms at the Broad: Collecting. From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

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

The Storytellers Musical Story Time. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Celebrate Valentine's Day with DJClarinet. From 12 to 1 p.m. Williamston Senior Center, 201 School St. Williamston.

EVENTS

Drop-in Last Minute Valentines (All ages). From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Drop-in Valentine Craft (All ages). From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

Exposé: Interactive Art and Music Experience. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$20 Door • \$10 Advance . The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing .

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.

Paper Chain Dragon for Lunar New Year - Teen Event. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Raising Little Ones Together. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Rebounding . From 2 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$70 members / \$80 non members / \$12 drop in fee. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Thursday, February 15

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly . At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

Bach Stress Relief Q&A. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free or Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Beginning Facebook for Small Business . From 12 to 1 p.m. Free - to register 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

Chipmunk Story Time: Snowy Valentine. From 10 to 11 a.m. \$3/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

MUSIC

Capt. Cat & friends - Live at Mac's Bar. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$7 advanced / \$8 at the door For Tickets visit <https://www.ticketweb.com/event/capt-cat-drugstore-makeup-s2r-macs-bar-tickets/8012135> All ages welcome. Mac's

The Broad Museum set to host TED Talks



February 15 • 8 p.m.

By CIARA PAGE

“The Way” is the theme for the 2018 TEDxMSU event.

The theme harks back to their 2015 TEDxMSU conference “The Will,” which focused on willpower and the mobilization of getting brilliant ideas from your brain space and into the tangible world.

This idea of the two suggests the old adage, “Where there is a will, there is a way,” TEDxMSU curator Alex Babbitt said.

Last year’s theme, “Mosaic,” challenged the audience to look deeper into their inner thoughts.

TEDxMSU rebooted in 2014, with the hope of cultivating deep discussion, new ideas and innovative creativity. These events are aimed to inform and inspire.

TED Talks have become a national phenomenon, featuring some of the world’s most famous creative thinkers. On YouTube, many TED Talks have garnered several million views. TEDxMSU’s latest event, “A Night at the Broad,” takes place 8 p.m. Thursday at the Broad Museum.

Guest speakers are being kept under wraps, in order to create suspense. Speakers anticipate reaching out to a large crowd and are ready to lead,

Babbitt said.

“Usually the people on our stage are people who have been inspired themselves by a TED Talk,” Babbitt said.

Speakers hope to inspire listeners with stories of creative problem solving Thursday night.

“I am always inspired, but I am extra inspired by the speakers we have this year,” Babbitt said.

Babbitt hopes the event will encourage students across Michigan State to form new ideas and generate old ideas in a new way.

Staying community driven and bias-free has kept the TED Organization functioning, allowing them to maintain connections with local communities.

Many of their diverse topics are used to give voices to variety of disciplines.

“We want to challenge you creatively and intellectually,” Babbitt said. “The conference makes you think differently about things.”

TEDxMSU provides students with education outside of the classroom, networking opportunities, enlightenment and, most of all, inspiration. Building up leaders, “do-ers,” and thinkers of the world is a priority.

“There is nothing else that resembles this, it’s a different style of speaking that you wouldn’t see anywhere else,” Babbitt said.

Out on the town

from page 13

Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

MSU Faculty Recital: Michael Kroth, bassoon, and Deborah Moriarty, piano. From 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; free for students and those under 18 with valid ID. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive East Lansing.

THEATER

Our Lady of Poison. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Adult \$27, Senior (65+) \$25, Military \$25, Student \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW.

EVENTS

10th Annual Pizza Taste-off (Ages 7+). From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8+). From 5 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Black History Month--Why it Matters (All ages). From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up). From 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

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.

Orations and Libations: Your Sexy Brain . From 7 to 8:30 p.m. This event is free, but 21+. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N Larch St Lansing. 517.999.2631.

Preschool Storytime in Wacousta. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 517.627.7014.

Reading with the Animals (Ages 1-6). From 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

ARTS

Ballroom Lessons (Argentine Tango). 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.

Friday, February 16

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

MUSIC

Tell Yo Mama. From 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. \$5 COVER - DOORS OPEN AT 7PM Food and Drink Specials!. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St Lansing. (517) 331-8440.

The DJClarinet Combo at Roma's Back Door. From 7 to 9 p.m. no cover. Romas Back Door, 200 Comstock St. Owosso.

THEATER

Our Lady of Poison. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Adult \$32, Senior (65+) \$30, Military \$30, Student (with valid ID) \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW.

EVENTS

Beaded Bracelets 101 (Adults). From 1 to 2:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Chocolate Extravaganza. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This event is free! . Maple Street Mall , 108 W. Maple St. Mason. 517-244-9444.

Elementary Neuroscience. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Game Night . From 6 to 6 p.m. \$5. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

St. Casimir Fish Fry. From 4 to 7 p.m. St. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W. Barnes Ave. Lansing.

Saturday, February 17

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Reiki 1 Training. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$75. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

WINTER SEED SOWING WORKSHOP (ADULTS). From 10:30 a.m. to noon \$10/MEMBER; \$15/NON-MEMBER. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Books and Bagels. From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Children's Social Justice Reading Group. At 10:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library,

950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MusicRITMO. From 8 to 11 p.m. \$10 cover Food and Drink Specials . UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St Lansing. (517) 331-8440.

EVENTS

Black History Month Event--Straight Ahead (All ages). From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Candyland--Life-sized (All ages). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

Curator-led Tour of the exhibit, "War and Speech: Propaganda, Patriotism, and Dissent in the Great War. From 1 to 2 p.m. free. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 355-7474.

Speed Friending. From 7 to 10 p.m. \$5 cash at the door. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

ARTS

Echoes: Works by Jena McShane & Roxanne Frith. From 12 to 5 p.m. Free, open to the public. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt Hope Ave Lansing.

Sunday, February 18

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Pflag greater Lansing monthly. From 3 to 5 p.m. Salus Center, 624 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

MUSIC

Hamiltunes. From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

FEB. 17 >> ALL THINGS LOVE, CHOCOLATE & TEA

Guests will be treated with a three-course tea, hosted by Lansing Parks & Recreation at the historic Turner-Dodge House. The courses include: classic English teas, sandwiches and chocolate. Along with the food, visitors will be accompanied with a performance by classical guitarist Russell Nebelung.

3 p.m. at Turner-Dodge House, \$15, 100 E. North St., Lansing, call (517) 483-4220 for more info

FEB. 14 >>EXPOSÉ AT THE LOFT

Couples and singles are all welcomed to this "Artgasm" event. Artists and musicians performing include: Robert Shelburg, Kathie Kuhn, Joshua Burwick, Stoop Lee and Fruit of the Womb.

7 p.m. at The Loft, \$20, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, <https://www.theloftlansing.com>

Physics: The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position: Staff Physicist (East Lansing, MI) Development of liquid lithium charge stripper, development of diagnostics for measuring the stability of the liquid lithium thin film. Document designs and test results. Research diagnostics for liquid lithium flow in vacuum, fluid mechanics, electromagnetism, heat-transfer theory, statistics and liquid lithium chemistry. Qualified candidates will possess Ph.D. in Sustainable Energy, Environmental Eng, Physics or related + 3 years exp. as Researcher or related position in physics and energy research. Must have exp working with liquid lithium, design, manipulation and diagnostics of liquid lithium flows. Must have exp performing experiments with liquid lithium flows, experimental techniques for diagnosing liquid lithium flows with studies of instabilities, multi-physics codes such as Mathematica, Wolfram, advanced computational fluid mechanics software such as Fluent, ANSYS. Must have exp working with advanced mathematical and scientific software applications such as computational fluid dynamics software, liquid lithium thin film, and document designs and test result, techniques handling liquid lithium, diagnostics for liquid lithium flow in vacuum, fluid mechanics, electromagnetism, heat-transfer theory, statistics and liquid lithium chemistry. Michigan State University, Attn: Chris Townsend, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824. To apply for this posting please go to www.careers.msu.edu and search for posting number 489191. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Computer/IT: The Michigan State University Controller's Office seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position: Systems Analyst II (East Lansing, MI) Plan, analyze, and design automated software solutions to support administrative functions of the Controller's Office. Lead major application development with management throughout the unit and the University at large. Program complex custom solution using a variety of languages including VB.Net, C#.Net, ASP.Net, Java Script, HTML5, and Microsoft Reporting Services. Qualified candidates will possess Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Programming or Information Systems + 3 years of exp as Consultant or any related IT position. Must have exp in Microsoft's .Net programming environment (including VB.Net, ASP.Net, C#.Net, XML); exp in Web application development using ASP.Net, Java Script, and HTML. Work Site: 426 Auditorium Road, Room 301, Controller's Office, East Lansing, MI 48824. To apply for this posting, please go to www.careers.msu.edu and search for posting number 488361. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"En Vacation"--they all come up short.

Across

- 1 1/1760th of a mile
- 5 Baseball Hall of Famer Ripken
- 8 Came down softly?
- 14 Margarine, colloquially
- 15 Brewhouse brew
- 16 Party appetizer
- 17 Poet/dramatist Hughes
- 19 Quirky French title role of 2001
- 20 Furniture to display cheesy stuff?
- 22 ___ Soundsystem
- 23 Baled stuff
- 24 Symptom that might require eye drops
- 26 Attach, as a button
- 29 Pre-flight org.
- 31 Stewart who sang "Maggie May"
- 32 Till the soil
- 33 Hot off the presses
- 34 Changes gradually, graphically
- 37 Kiwi's much larger cousin
- 38 Go faster
- 40 Sturdy tree
- 41 Dress shirt component
- 43 Connectivity issue
- 44 U.S. : counter(clockwise) :: U.K. : ___(clockwise)
- 45 "Captain Underpants" creator Pilkey
- 46 Two-___ toilet paper
- 47 Incas' mountains
- 48 Goof
- 51 Teensy carpenter
- 52 European peak
- 53 Tiny mythical creatures on patrol?
- 59 2004 Jude Law drama
- 61 "Music for Airports"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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59			60				61					
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65							66			67		

- composer
- 62 "Come ____, we're expecting you..." ("The Love Boat" theme lyrics)
- 63 Confident finish?
- 64 Armitage who plays "Young Sheldon"
- 65 Frosty maker
- 66 ___ ThErÈse, Quebec
- 67 Gambler's numbers
- Down**
- 1 Part that's egg-centric?
- 2 Jai ___ (fast-moving sport)
- 3 Landlord's check
- 4 Competition for toys?
- 5 Comic strip character known for saying "Ack!"
- 6 Tons
- 7 "Girls" creator Dunham
- 8 Balancing device
- 9 Mention a connection, perhaps
- 10 "First of all..."
- 11 Body of water that's surrounded?
- 12 Humongous movies
- 13 "Dirty ___ Done Dirt Cheap" (AC/DC song)
- 18 Read a QR code
- 21 Underwire's locale, maybe
- 25 Neither companion
- 26 Built to ___
- 27 "Sesame Street" character voiced by Ryan Dillon since 2013
- 28 Is totally up for nestling in bed?
- 29 Golf prop
- 30 Get bigger
- 33 "Science Friday" ailer
- 34 Cocoa container
- 35 Really dislike
- 36 Equipment used at the Winter Olympics
- 38 Viciousness
- 39 Sunup to sundown
- 42 Back muscle, for short
- 44 Actor Banderas
- 46 Shepherd's pie bit
- 47 "Black Beauty" novelist Sewell
- 48 Colorful parrot
- 49 "___ right back!"
- 50 Many residents of Erbil in Iraq
- 51 Limber
- 54 Some baseball stats
- 55 "Gosh darn it!"
- 56 Name in spiral notebooks
- 57 Noddy creator Blyton
- 58 Mumford & ___
- 60 Melancholy

©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 17**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

February 14 - 20, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) At 12,388 feet, Mount Fuji is Japan's highest peak. If you're in good shape, you can reach the top in seven hours. The return trip can be done in half the time -- if you're cautious. The loose rocks on the steep trail are more likely to knock you off your feet on the way down than on the way up. I suspect this is an apt metaphor for you in the coming weeks, Aries. Your necessary descent may be deceptively challenging. So make haste slowly! Your power animals are the rabbit and the snail.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made a few short jaunts through the air in a flying machine they called the Flyer. It was a germinal step in a process that ultimately led to your ability to travel 600 miles per hour while sitting in a chair 30,000 feet above the earth. Less than 66 years after the Wright Brothers' breakthrough, American astronauts landed a space capsule on the moon. They had with them a patch of fabric from the left wing of the Flyer. I expect that during the coming weeks, you will be climaxing a long-running process that deserves a comparable ritual. Revisit the early stages of the work that enabled you to be where you are now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) In 2006, five percent of the world's astronomers gathered at an international conference and voted to demote Pluto from a planet to a "dwarf planet." Much of the world agreed to honor their declaration. Since then, though, there has arisen a campaign by equally authoritative astronomers to restore Pluto to full planet status. The crux of the issue is this: How shall we define the nature of a planet? But for the people of New Mexico, the question has been resolved. State legislators there formally voted to regard Pluto as a planet. They didn't accept the demotion. I encourage you to be inspired by their example, Gemini. Whenever there are good arguments from opposing sides about important matters, trust your gut feelings. Stand up for your preferred version of the story.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Ray Bradbury's dystopian bestseller Fahrenheit 451 was among the most successful of the 27 novels he wrote. It won numerous awards and has been adopted into films, plays, and graphic novels. Bradbury wrote the original version of the story in nine days, using a typewriter he rented for 20 cents per hour. When his publisher urged him to double the manuscript's length, he spent another nine days doing so. According to my reading of the planetary configurations, you Cancerians now have a similar potential to be surprisingly efficient and economical as you work on an interesting creation or breakthrough -- especially if you mix a lot of play and delight into your labors.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Poet Louise Glück has characterized herself as "afflicted with longing yet incapable of forming durable attachments." If there is anything in you that even partially fits that description, I have good news: In the coming weeks, you're likely to feel blessed by longing rather than afflicted by it. The foreseeable future will also be prime time for you to increase your motivation and capacity to form durable attachments. Take full advantage of this fertile grace period!

Virgo (August 23-September 22) In 2004, a man named Jerry Lynn tied a battery-operated alarm clock to a string and dangled it down a vent in his house. He was hoping that when the alarm sounded, he would get a sense of the best place to drill a hole in his wall to run a wire for his TV. But the knot he'd made wasn't perfect, and the clock slipped off and plunged into an inaccessible spot behind the wall. Then, every night for 13 years, the alarm rang for a minute. The battery was unusually strong! A few months ago, Lynn decided to end the mild but constant irritation. Calling on the help of duct specialists, he retrieved the persistent clock. With this story as your inspiration, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you Virgos to finally put an end to your equivalent of the

maddening alarm clock.

Libra (September 23-October 22) Was Napoléon Bonaparte an oppressor or liberator? The answer is both. His work in the world hurt a lot of people and helped a lot of people. One of his more magnanimous escapades transpired in June 1798, when he and his naval forces invaded the island of Malta. During his six-day stay, he released political prisoners, abolished slavery, granted religious freedom to Jews, opened 15 schools, established the right to free speech, and shut down the Inquisition. What do his heroics have to do with you? I don't want to exaggerate, but I expect that you, too, now have the power to unleash a blizzard of benevolence in your sphere. Do it in your own style, of course, not Napoléon's.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) "Trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruit," said French playwright Molière. I'm going to make that your motto for now, Scorpio. You have pursued a gradual, steady approach to ripening, and soon it will pay off in the form of big bright blooms. Congratulations on having the faith to keep plugging away in the dark! I applaud your determination to be dogged and persistent about following your intuition even though few people have appreciated what you were doing.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) The growth you can and should foster in the coming weeks will be stimulated by quirky and unexpected prods. To get you started, here are a few such prods. 1. What's your hidden or dormant talent, and what could you do to awaken and mobilize it? 2. What's something you're afraid of but might be able to turn into a resource? 3. If you were a different gender for a week, what would you do and what would your life be like? 4. Visualize a dream you'd like to have while you're asleep tonight. 5. If you could transform anything about yourself, what would it be? 6. Imagine you've won a free vacation to anywhere you want. Where would you go?

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) You may think you have uncovered the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. But according to my analysis of the astrological omens, you're just a bit more than halfway there. In order to get the rest of the goods, you'll have to ignore your itch to be done with the search. You'll have to be unattached to being right and smart and authoritative. So please cultivate patience. Be expansive and magnanimous as you dig deeper. For best results, align yourself with poet Richard Siken's definition: "The truth is complicated. It's two-toned, multi-vocal, bittersweet."

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) The posh magazine Tatler came up with a list of fashionable new names for parents who want to ensure their babies get a swanky start in life. Since you Aquarians are in a phase when you can generate good fortune by rebranding yourself or remaking your image, I figure you might be interested in using one of these monikers as a nickname or alias. At the very least, hearing them could whet your imagination to come up with your own ideas. Here are Tatler's chic avant-garde names for girls: Czar-Czar; Debonaire; Estonia; Figgy; Gethsemane; Power; Queenie. Here are some boys' names: Barclay; Euripides; Gustav; Innsbruck; Ra; Uxorious; Wigbert; Zebedee.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Now that you have finally paid off one of your debts to the past, you can start window-shopping for the future's best offers. The coming days will be a transition time as you vacate the power spot you've outgrown and ramble out to reconnoiter potential new power spots. So bid your crisp farewells to waning traditions, lost causes, ghostly temptations, and the deadweight of people's expectations. Then start preparing a vigorous first impression to present to promising allies out there in the frontier.

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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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 17

TURN IT DOWN A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Mon. Feb. 19 **KYLE KINANE**

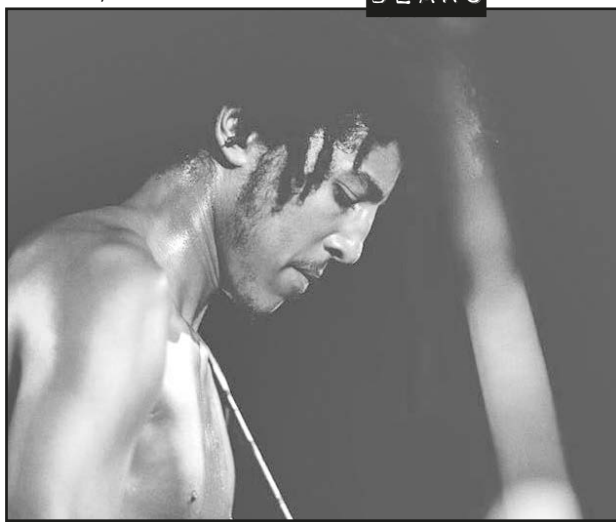


Comedian Kyle Kinane at The Loft

Monday, Feb. 19, @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 16+, \$25, \$20 adv., 8 p.m.

Stand-up comedian Kyle Kinane returns Monday to the Loft for a headlining show. Opening the evening of comedy are locals Taylor De La Ossa and Laura Witkoski. Kinane, an Addison, Illinois native now living in Los Angeles, has performed his edgy brand of humor across the country and overseas. A British news outlet described his performance as a “bleak, misanthropic, Ernest Hemingway look-alike with a penchant for suicide jokes.” Over the years, Kinane, 41, has been featured on NBC’s “Last Call with Carson Daly,” “Conan,” “@midnight” and “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” Beyond the late-night television circuit, Kinane is a regular on podcasts, and has appeared on “WTF with Marc Maron,” “The Adam Carolla Show” and “Getting Doug with High.” In 2010, he released his debut comedy album, “Death of the Party.” His latest, “Loose in Chicago” was issued in 2016.

Sat., Feb. 17 **THE PLASTIC BEARS**



The Plastic Bears album release at Mac's Bar

Saturday, Feb. 17, @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 8 p.m.

The Plastic Bears, an East Lansing-based progressive-indie-rock quartet, headlines an all-ages show Saturday at Mac's Bar. Opening the event, which is hosted by local promotion company Lansing Live, are Corduroy Heart, Mertle, Twin Moms and Matthew Rinker. Led by songwriter Khalid Malik (vocalist/guitarist), the Plastic Bears debuted in April 2017 with two digital singles, “Pocket-Watch” and “Post-Truth.” On Feb. 9, the band released its first full-length, the 11-track “Songs from Stoddard Park.” The eclectic album, which the band describes as “straight to the point, energizing indie/punk rock,” is streamed in full at theplasticbears.bandcamp.com. This Mac's Bar show serves as its release party, and the band has cassettes and CDs available at their merch booth. Malik, the band's chief songwriter, is a Flint native now attending Michigan State University.

Wed., Feb. 14 **METAL INSIDER**



Metal Insider debuts Tyrant's 'Fear of Faith' video

Wednesday, Feb. 14, @ “Fear of Faith” video debut at metalinsider.net

Fresh off their 2017 North American Take Over Tour, Lansing-based thrashers Tyrant return with the release of their new video for the single “Fear of Faith.” The single debuts exclusively on metalinsider.net on Valentine's Day. The newly produced five-minute video was shot by Daniel Stephens and Delaney McFate and was directed by Tyrant frontman Phillip Winters (guitar/vocals). The band also comprises drummer Andrew Winters, bassist Cory McLain and guitarist Tony Garza. Shot in Dec. 2017, lyrically, the “Fear of Faith” single is “an ode to outsiders,” according to vocalist/guitarist Phillip Winters. The heavy-and-hooky chorus, “Fear of faith for a faith of fear” touches on religion, death and distorted beliefs. “Fear of Faith” will soon appear on Tyrant's forthcoming full-length album. The nine-track record is slated for release later this year. For more information, visit facebook.com/tyrantmetalmusic.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT
ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café , 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Open Mic	Free Dance Party	Free GTG
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Colin Riley	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's , 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tournament, 7:30 p.m.		DJ, 9 p.m.
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. Showdown	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Mix Pack	Medusa
Lansing Brewing Co. , 518 E. Shiawassee St.			Dan MacLachlan, 8pm	
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Esposé 7pm		Homegrown Throwdown, 6:30	
Reno's East , 1310 Abbot Rd.			The New Rule, 7pm	The New Rule, 7pm
Tequila Cowboy , 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Kari Holmes, 8pm	
UrbanBeat , 1213 Turner St.		Jazz Thursdays, 7pm	Tell Yo Mama, 8:30 pm	RITMO, 8pm
Watershed Tavern and Grill , 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

Out on the town

from page 14

EVENTS

2018 Taste of Black History Program . At 3 p.m. free. UAW Local 602, 2510 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing. The 9th Annual Brew & Bubbly. From 2 to 4 p.m. Advance Tickets: \$25.00 This includes 10 beer and/or wine samples Tickets at the Door: \$30.00 Each Additional sample is \$2.00 a piece. Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Road Haslett.

ARTS

Sunday Night Speaker Series: The Second Line: A Rebirth of Race in America. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. free. First Presbyterian Church of Holt, 2021 Aurelius Road Holt. 5176948151.

Monday, February 19

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Balance and Core Class . From 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$60 for members / \$70 nonmembers /\$15 drop in. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Lick the Sugar Habit! Seminar. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Gilead Healing Center, 306 S Creyts Rd Lansing. (517) 319-5818.

EVENTS

Animation Station. From 1 to 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 5176277014.

Game Night. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Tuesday, February 20

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

STEAM Club. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Writing a Business Plan: Your Roadmap to Success. From 6 to 8 p.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921.

Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr. Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

MUSIC

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

EVENTS

Knitting and Crochet Group. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Reading to Dogs (All ages). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

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

ARTS

African American Film Series. At 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

This building, 2225 E. Grand River Ave. in Lansing's Groesbeck Neighborhood, will soon become home to M43 Fitness, a new gym/personal training studio. Also coming to the site: The Urban Cup, a new craft coffee house co-owned by Nick Gavrilides, who also owns/operates Soup Spoon Cafe in Lansing and the Bistro in Williamston.

THE URBAN CUP / M43 FITNESS

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Next month, Lansing's Groesbeck Neighborhood will be getting in on the booming craft coffee scene with the arrival of the **Urban Cup**, an eight-seat coffeehouse specializing in locally roasted coffee and award-winning soup.

"The idea is to offer great coffee, great soups and inspire great friendships," said co-owner Nick Gavrilides. "Groesbeck is definitely underserved when it comes to coffee, and it's an opportunity to let Rob Flanders' coffee magic shine on its own."

Flanders is the owner/operator of Rudy Baggs Coffee Roasting Co., a small batch coffee bean roasting business he founded in 2003 in Lansing as a home delivery service. He found a fan in Gavrilides, who started serving Flanders' fare in his restaurant, the Soup Spoon Café when he opened 10 years ago. Flanders even created a special blend just for Soup Spoon: the Spoon Bender.

"I've always loved what Rob does, so when my friend Scott bought this building in Groesbeck and said he wanted to have a café in there, Rob was the first person I thought of," Gavrilides said. "It's a fantastic location and I think it will be a welcome addition to the area."

Scott Abramowski purchased the multisuite building at 2225 E. Grand River Ave. to turn it into **M43 Fitness**, a full-service gym/personal training facility. The building is located next to Westlund's Apple Market just west of I-127, and it has a history of being a watering hole: Abramowski said the 1959 building had a soda fountain. The building is also home to the long-running hair salon A Cut Above; Urban Cup will take over the remaining 800-square-foot suite.

"I'd actually gotten out of personal training because it's hard to make it

unless you're working for yourself," Abramowski said. "But I was saving up my money, and when I saw this building for sale, I thought it would be a perfect location for a gym. I'd just gotten married, so I just said to my wife, 'What the heck, let's do this!'"

Abramowski bought the building for \$365,000 in August and will invest around \$200,000 to transform it into M43. He hopes to cut the ribbon on the business sometime early next month (the website is already active: m43fitness.com), while Urban Cup will come online sometime in early spring.

The Lansing area's cup overfloweth with craft coffee these days. Between the two Strange Matter Coffee Co. locations (on the east side and in downtown Lansing), the two Crafted Bean Coffee Co. spots (in DeWitt and near Lansing's Stadium District) and REO Town's Blue Owl Coffee Co., capital-area coffee aficionados have no shortage of places to grab a pour-over or a coffee cocktail these days. And besides soup, the Urban Cup will have something customized for fitness buffs: a high-performance java called bulletproof coffee, which is designed to jump-start the body's fat-burning abilities and cognitive functions. It combines fresh-brewed coffee, MCT oil (also known as brain oil) and grass-fed butter, and was developed to be an ideal post-workout beverage.

"We're also going to have a traditional espresso bar inside, so you can grab a latte or a cappuccino without too long of a wait," Gavrilides said. "The concept is to be takeaway driven. You come in, grab a cup of soup or a coffee and you're on your way. I think we may add breakfast items eventually, but for right now we're just trying to get to open."

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Athenas

By **MARK NIXON**

We have several fine restaurants in Greater Lansing whose kitchen artistry deserves our appreciation. What of the rest? Doomed to exist among the rabble of restaurant losers?

Well, yes and no. There are some really crummy restaurants around here, with no apparent path to redemption.

Yet, there are places in town that daily redeem themselves with solidly built menus that eschew cutting edge sizzle.

I give you Athena's on Lansing's south side. It's a friendly place, tidy and unpretentious, usually busy and boasting a globe-spanning menu.

On our first visit, I knew beforehand I was going for comfort food. The meatloaf special with mashed potatoes, gravy and steamed vegetables and a roll (\$7.95) fit the bill. The portions were generous and, while this didn't knock my socks off, it's just what I wanted.

Judy and I shared tastes of her gyro plate (\$11.25). I thought the gyro meat —

a mix of seasoned lamb and beef — was a bit on the tough side. But the fresh pita and the tzatzki sauce more than redeemed the entire dish.

Our meals came with a choice of a side. We asked for the lemon rice soup. I was disappointed. I'm used to avgolemono with the rice still intact, and bits of chicken and a pronounced lemon "pop" to finish it off. The rice in this soup was mushy from being overcooked.

On our second visit I went straight to the Coney Island (\$3.75). The coney sauce had the requisite cumin crackle, and the hot dog the proper snap when I bit into it. This coney is in the Detroit style, meaning the sauce is soupier than the drier Flint-style coney. I prefer the Flint coney (Sparty's in Frandor has the best locally) but Athena's version is as good as any Detroit coney I've tasted.

Judy's fish and chips (\$10.95) were spot on; crisp and properly fried on the outside, still tender and moist within.

My favorite taste on this visit was the cheese and tortilla soup. It's what we call at our house "refrigerator soup" — a little of everything. Given the chance, I would steal this Athena's recipe.

Our final meals consisted of a chicken dinner with rice pilaf (\$10.75) and spinach pie (\$6.99). The chicken was adequate, akin to what you could get out of a supermarket deli. The rice pilaf was fluffy and sturdy without being overcooked, a la the lemon rice soup.

Now to the spinach pie, where we agreed to disagree. I love a good spanakopita, the Greek word for this dish. I've had some amazing tastes of this dish in Detroit's Greektown.

Athena's version was hit and miss. The phyllo pastry was light and flaky. A hit. The interior was a wad of spinach that was essentially tasteless.

That's my take. Judy begged to differ. Either my taste buds are shot, or hers are akin to a dog's keen sense of smell. (And I am now officially in the doghouse for that analogy).

The servers are either genuinely happy or are outstanding actors. They are funny, efficient, smiling and full of blarney. Note to servers: That last part is a compliment. I'm part Irish, don't you know?

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

On our first visit to Athenas, complete with one bundled-up newborn who snoozed in his car seat the entire time, we were hungry for breakfast. When I don't have particularly strong feelings over what I want to eat, I frequently choose something that is denoted as being a house special or a favorite item. With this in mind, I chose the House Hash with my eggs sunny side up. The menu claimed that the hash is served with homemade hash brown and topped with grilled onions, tomatoes, green peppers, mushrooms, spinach and feta cheese.

I don't know how to soften this blow, and I don't think the blow deserves a feathery landing. This hash was one of the worst meals I have ever paid for.

The hash browns were so completely overcooked that they were essentially impossible to eat. Ever chipped a tooth on a potato? I didn't want to risk it.

The problem with previously frozen spinach is that it is waterlogged, and unless you thaw it and squeeze the water out of it, you'll

have the sensation of gnawing on a wet sponge. I tired of that feeling quickly and ate the eggs, after covering them in the salt and pepper that had apparently been missing from the kitchen. After I made quick work of those I concentrated on my coffee, which was excellent. I'm not saying that with tongue in cheek, the coffee was exceptional.

Mr. She Ate ordered one of his favorites, a Monte Cristo sandwich. What is supposed to be a battered and fried ham and cheese sandwich had been reimagined as simply a ham and cheese sandwich made on French toast. Whether the reinterpretation of the Monte Cristo we are familiar with was intentional or not, we will never know, because he is not interested in ordering it again. His side of bacon was, in a word, cold.

After the first visit and before the next one, I crowd-sourced my experience. I asked a limited group of people if they had been to Athena's, if they had enjoyed it, and what we should try next time. It gives me little joy to lambast local businesses, and if there's some-



thing great on the menu that I've missed, I always want to know about it. I was told to go there for lunch, not breakfast, and to eat the Coney dogs, since the sauce was to die for. With that in mind we again packed up Baby She Ate and headed in for lunch.

After hemming and hawing over gyros and spinach pies, I chose the Chicken Kabob on Pita. What arrived at the table was a generous serving of char-grilled chicken breast, skewered with peppers and onions on top of a piece of pita bread. Mr. She Ate took a bite of chicken before I did and looked at me wide-eyed, and his reaction paired with the actual appearance of the chicken let me know that I was in for something good. This chicken was juicy, and flavorful, and had texture to it because it was cooked on a grill. The vegetables still had a snap to them, and I proceeded to slather the pita bread with the accompanying tzatziki and rip off pieces to scoop up pieces of chicken and green pepper. If you've never understood how people can get excited about a grilled chicken breast, which I happen to love, this one will make a believer out of you.

Because we know how to take direction, Mr. She Ate ordered a Coney dog combo with fries. The dogs were appropriately topped with only chili sauce, mustard and chopped onion, and while they lacked the snap that makes people flock to Lafayette Coney Island in Detroit, they were the best you can find in Lansing. The sauce was mildly spicy and thick, which we appreciate, because is there anything worse than a hot dog bun becoming soaked through and disintegrating into your hand right when you have to go back to work?

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THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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 <p>420 Dank 3301 Capitol City Blvd. Lansing (517) 708-0129 Hours: Open 7 days/ 10am-10pm</p>	<p>Stop in and see us right by the airport! High quality and nothing over \$10 a gram for all your medical needs. We also have a convenient drive-through. Check us out on weedmaps!</p>	 <p>The Card Clinic Haslett, MI (517) 706-1309 Hours vary by appointment</p>	<p>Certification for your Medical Marijuana Card. We are dedicated to “raising the bar” by offering a comfortable, professional, respectful and discreet experience. We are the place you can take your grandma! Conveniently located off I-69 in Haslett, Michigan. Call today to schedule your appointment.</p>
 <p>Capitol City Provisioning Center 821 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing Mon-Sat 10am-8pm Sunday 12pm - 4pm</p>	<p>Formerly Capital City Seed Bank. Stop in today & let us cater to all your MMMP needs.</p>	 <p>Got Meds Lounge 3407 S Cedar St, Lansing, (517) 253-7468 Mon-Sun 9am-10pm</p>	<p>Got Meds is a donation-based organization committed to meeting its customers' needs. Our budtenders are knowledgeable and experienced, allowing us to deliver you the best services and products in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.</p>
 <p>Lansing Elite Provisioning Inc. 3208 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (517) 220-2188</p>	<p>Follow us on social media! @Haight_ash_mmmp #Haight_ash_mmmp mimedlansing@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Miracle Meds Wellness Center 925 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing, (517) 708-0577 Mon-Sun 9am-10pm</p>	<p>Here at Miracle Meds Wellness Center our patients are our highest priority. We strive to have exceptional customer service for each and every patient. The goal is to not only provide safe access, but to also inform our patients about the different medications available in the constantly evolving medical marijuana industry.</p>

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