A newspaper for th

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MOVING THE DONVERSATION

Breakdown

Lansing developers get tax breaks for unregistered rentals • p. 5

LOCALLY FOCUSED New group uses Instagram to build community • p. 11

After 30 years, **TIM BARRON** ditches the radio dial for his own Internet channel • p. 8

March 18-24, 2015

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Feedback

Realtors to blame for housing bias

As an old friend and supporter of Truman Morrison, I was very pleased to read your article on the fight against housing discrimination in East Lansing. Those who fought the good fight for civil rights cannot be praised too highly.

However, as someone who has written extensively on civil-rights litigation, I must say that your legal background is confused. It was in 1917, not 1926, that the Supreme Court struck down ordinances requiring segregated neighborhoods. As you say, this was followed by the spread of racially restricted covenants. 1926 was an important year, but for a different reason than the one you mentioned: in that year the NAACP (along with, it should be noted, the American Jewish Committee) asked the Court to strike down such restrictive covenants. That, the Court refused to do.

22 years later, in 1948, in a murky decision, the Court refused to rule on such covenants per se but did declare them legally unenforceable. (That meant that the would-

		Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061	A newspaper for D
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate	STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate	(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)	2
Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr. Date of Birth: May 23, 1921. TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Harold Jay Leeman, Sr. died November 25, 2014. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Diane K. Abbott, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 1/15/2015 Cummins Woods Thomas E. Woods P22542 421 W. Ionia St. Lansing, MI 48933 517-487-0800 Diane K. Abbott 731 Allison Drive Marshall, MI 49068 269-781-2730 CP-13587 3-18-15	Estate of Delores May Cherry. Date of Birth: February 25, 1936. TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Delores May Cherry, died December 13, 2014. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Colleen Ann Palmer, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 1/15/2015 Cummins Woods P22542 Thomas E. Woods 421 W. Ionia St. Lansing, MI 48933 517-487-0800 Colleen Ann Palmer 422 Rosadell Lansing, MI 48910 517-980-5649 CP-13586 3-18-15	Correction An article in the March 11 issue on developing a policy to identify police officers involved in shooting deaths should have stated: "Guilford was killed and Frost was injured. The Sheriff's Department released the name of Guilford shortly after the accident; Frost was identified on March 4." Because of a reporting error, the story reversed their names in stating when they were identi- fied.	
		NOTICES	
County Trails and Parks dollars. Info: <u>http://pu.ir</u> Ingham County seeks improvements to the Do	s Task Force in assemblin ngham.org, under Curren bids from experienced a	CP#15_060 and qualified excavators for the purpose of making has located at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. Info:	
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at 124 W. Michigan Ave	IVEN that a Public Hearin	UBLIC HEARING og will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers located 23 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public an.	OBAM ANDY K PIECE OBVIOL CAN GE WE AR
are available for review heading of Documents hearing or send a repre- City business days if r	at the office of the City of Placed on File. If you ar esentative. Written comme eceived before 5 p.m., N	eation Department 517-483-4042. These documents Clerk or at http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk under the re interested in this matter, please attend the public ents will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on <i>l</i> onday, March 23, 2015, at the City Clerk's Office, ansing, MI 48933 or email <u>city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.</u>	J.
Chris Swope, Lansing	l City Clerk		E.
		CP#15_056	

be buyers, if willing to face community hostility, could make their case in court.) After that, it was — as James Farmer, whom you quote, pointed out - the Realtors (and portions of the white community behind them) and not the civil law which kept discrimination going.

To put the issue in a wider context, at the time of the protests, Michigan had an (old) law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations and a (new) law prohibiting discrimination in employment, but housing, as with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was a different matter.

— William B. Hixson Jr. East Lansing

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor. • E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

• Fax: (517) 371-5800 0) White

 Alice Dreger, author of "Galileo's Middle Finger" City Councilman Vincent Delgado

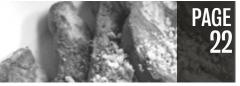


CityPULSE

Deplorable racism in Oklahoma but still free speech



MSU Museum highlights the movie posters of Art Sims



Good Truckin' Diner brings the heat to REO Town



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THIS WEEK ULSE





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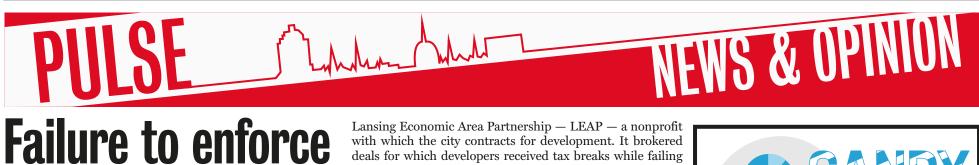
Berl Schwartz 🏓 7 p.m. Wednesdays

by TOM TOMORROW



• BWL Interim General Manager Richard Peffley





City grants tax breaks to developers who fail to register their rentals for inspections

On Feb. 20, Lansing firefighters were called to the new Market Place Apartments, next to the City Market, to respond to a small kitchen fire.

The building's suppression system extinguished the fire, but 11 of the 88 apartments were shut down after an inspection by the city's code compliance office found smoke and water damage.

But what the post-fire inspection missed, and what has

repeatedly been ignored in Lansing, was a building out of compliance with the city's rental registration law.

An investigation by City Pulse of 11 projects that benefited from tax incentives since 2006 found that four properties some owned by prominent area developers, such as the Gillespie Group, which owns Market Place, and the Eyde Co. - were not registered and that three others had some sort of lapses. The 11 projects represent 171 rental units in downtown and Old Town Lansing. The projects also present a total public tax incentive estimated investment of just over \$22 million.

"The owner(s)," says Lansing's ordinance, "shall be responsible for registering a rental property within 30 days following the day on which the owner offers the premises, dwelling or unit for occupancy."

Despite that, Scott Sandford, lead housing inspector for the city of Lansing's Code Compliance Department, defended the failure to cite properties. He said that newly built properties aren't required to be registered until a final occupancy permit is issued by the building department.

Sandford's boss, Fire Chief was, and 1221 Turner St., failed to register as rentals with requests for comment.

Sanford's former boss, Bob Johnson, head of the city's Planning and Neighborhood Development Department, disagreed with Sandford's interpretation.

He said the ordinance is unambiguous: The properties need to be registered.

"No one is saying they shouldn't have (registration)," said Johnson, who oversaw code compliance until it was placed in the Fire Marshal Division in 2013.

"Sometimes it's just an oversight," he said about why registration isn't better enforced.

The path tracing the lack of registration leads back to the

Lansing Economic Area Partnership - LEAP - a nonprofit with which the city contracts for development. It brokered deals for which developers received tax breaks while failing to register. The vehicles for incentives they received included Neighborhood Enterprise Zones, the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act and Brownfield Development projects.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said he expected the LEAP staff to have been aware of any registration issues as part of the agency's review and monitoring of economic incentives and the promised deliverables. LEAP acknowledges that it dropped the ball.

The cost to register a new, multi-family rental property is \$400 per multi-apartment facility and inspection fees are waived for new buildings and construction if registration immediately follows construction. Renewing a registration

> requires an inspection, which costs \$215 for one and twofamily buildings and \$150 for multi-unit inspections. In addition to the inspection fee, landlords pay an additional \$25 per unit for single and two-family properties, while multiple-unit properties are \$18 per unit. Registration is good for two or three years, depending on inspection results.

> The four projects that were not properly registered are Old Town businessman Terry Terry's 1213-1215 Turner St. loft developments above the old Mustang Bar; John Sears' 1221 Turner and its three rental units; Gillespie's Market Place, 313 N. Cedar St., and the Eyde Co.'s Knapp's Centre, 300 S. Washington Square.

> Market Place and the Knapp's Centre have been renting for less than a year. Terry said his properties have been available only "recently." Sears said his property has been "in service" since "about 2006." Both Terry and Sears received Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act incentives for those properties in 2006. Market Place and the Knapp 's Centre received other incentives.

"I don't know the answer to that," Sears said in a phone Randy Talifarro, did not return the city despite receiving tax breaks, public records show. interview March 11 when asked if his property was registered.

"I'd rather not talk to you." Then he hung up.

Photos by Ariel Rogers

For his part, after learning that City Pulse was writing an article from a source other than City Pulse, Terry paid his registration fees and scheduled an inspection. "It fell through the cracks," he said by phone Thursday. "We're all working hard to make this a better place, and sometimes things slip through the cracks."

Terry also owns and rents properties at 1210 Turner, and city records show those were last registered and inspected in

See Rentals, Page 6





Andromeda and Cassiopeia East Lansing

For a town that calls itself a "Citv of the Arts," it is particularly fitting that East Lansing's public art is approachable. Along Grand River, two sculptures tell the mythological story of Queen Cassiopeia and Andromeda. In the familiar tale, Cassiopeia claims that her daughter is more beautiful than the Nereids. Responding to Cassiopeia's vain assertion, the gods threaten to send a sea monster to destroy her kingdom. To avoid this fate, Andromeda is offered as a sacrifice to the monster. The hero Perseus saves and later marries the princess.

Most classical representations portray Andromeda as naked and helpless, cowering as she waits for her protector to rescue her. Here, she is no longer chained to a rock and is freely skipping along Grand River. However, she is decidedly alone, inaccessible in the median, while Cassiopeia is sited near pedestrian passersby. The queen faces her daughter, clearly worried about her fate, possibly regretting her prideful boasts.

Perseus is absent, but an unintended element in this story is provided by the Broad Museum. Although the museum's construction followed the statues' installation by more than a decade, it provides a convincing sea monster. Looming over Andromeda, its imposing presence threatens the isolated princess.

- Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lan-singcitypulse.com or call Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.



Owners of Market Place (above), where the old City Market

Rentals

from page 5

May 2014. This means Terry's 1210 units are belatedly in compliance with the city's registration law.

Mark Clouse of the Eyde Co., which developed and opened the Knapp's Centre in the renovated Knapp's Department Store building in November, said registration had also "fallen through the cracks" for his organization. Eyde Co. registered the building on Friday. The company has been renting residential space for eight or nine

months, Clouse said.

Rachel Michauz, vice president of the Gillespie Group, said the group believes it is in compliance with the city's rental registration laws. "Based on the information we have, we believe we are compliant," she said in a phone interview. "We are desirous to always be compliant."

Market Place has been actively advertising the rental units for more than 30 days, Michauz confirmed.

Properties that have been in and out of compliance include 220/222 S. Washington Square, owned by the Capital Property Group, whose registration lapsed in July 2012; 406,408 and 410 S.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RFQP/15/072 2015 JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. Proposals will be accepted at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, 1110 S PENNSYLVANIA, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on MARCH 31, 2014 at which time proposals will be opened. Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: SIr@ lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Brett Kaschinske, at (517) 483-4042, or go to www.mitn.info . The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15 057

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Lingg Brewer for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 500 Albert Avenue and 122 Division Street. The applicant is proposing to construct a four story, mixed-use building containing 13 apartment units and approximately 1,000 square feet of non-residential space. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

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. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

> Marie E. Wicks City Clerk

> > CP#15 058

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 5, 2015 IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Please take notice that the Charter Township of Meridian will hold an election on May 5, 2015. TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

STATE: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees. LOCAL: WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Pct. 7 only) NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Office of the Meridian Township Clerk, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864, telephone 517-853-4300 or by viewing your ballot at www.michigan. aov/vote

MONDAY APRIL 6 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER in order to be eligible to vote at the May 5, 2015 election. Any qualified elector who is not already registered to vote may register for the May 5, 2015 election. Persons registering after 5p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015 are not eligible to vote at this election. To register to vote, visit any Secretary of State branch office, your County Clerk's office or the Meridian Township Clerk Office, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864 853-4300

Brett Dreyfus Meridian Township Clerk

CP#15_059

Washington, owned by 406 S. Washington LLC, which are registered; and 109-111 S. Washington, owned by LWE LLC, which are registered.

And there are developers who comply with the city requirements, though not always smoothly.

Scott Gillepsie, the brother of Pat Gillespie but who is in business for himself, developed the new apartment and commercial building at Marshall Street and Michigan Avenue. That building was cited for failing to register in February. He said it was an oversight that was remedied when brought to his attention. The property is registered, but it is awaiting a scheduled inspection.

Another property he owns, at 329-337 S. Washington, has been properly inspected and registered for years, he said. City records show that property was registered in May 2014. Multiple units owned by former State Rep. Lingg Brewer at 317 Grand River Ave. and those owned by Saed Saboury at 1135 N. Washington were properly registered.

Bernero said LEAP should have followed up on registration when it arranged tax breaks.

"I certainly support holding business people accountable for the promises that they've made to the city," Bernero said. "I believe we contracted with LEAP to do just that."

"I didn't think of it," said Bob Trezise, president and CEO of LEAP, when asked why the economic agency had not verified whether incentivized projects had registered the rental properties as required by law. "We live and learn. We're always interested in self-improvement. I can't anticipate everything in advance."

Trezise said all agreements with the city since 2008 have included broad language requiring developers to follow all local laws and ordinances. He says he is uncertain if future agreements will include specific language related to rental registration, noting that ultimately that's the responsibility of the developer.

Johnson, the planning and neighborhood development leader, echoes Trezise.

"It's the landlord's — or the owner's responsibility to register," said Johnson.

"I am not pointing fingers here, but nobody from the city mentioned, nor did anyone inquire about it," says Eyde spokesman Clouse.

Lansing Councilwoman Carol Wood, who chairs the Public Safety Committee, which has jurisdiction over inspections, is demanding city officials act.



Top photo by Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse Bottom photo by Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Owners of both the Knapp's Center, which has apartments on the top two floors, and the rentals above the old Mustang Bar in Old Town say registration fell through the cracks despite getting tax breaks.

> "Letters should go out to the property owners immediately. Inspections should start as soon as possible," she said. "Legal should determine whether the city can fine those who have not complied and what other recourse there is for the city."

> Fines may well be in the offing for this situation. In an email sent to the Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan in December 2014, Sanford said code enforcement was cracking down on unregistered properties.

> "Going forward our office policy will be to issue any landlord in the City, a municipal civil infraction ticket for \$500.00 for any unregistered rental properties we find that are owned or managed by an existing landlord," Sanford wrote in bold letters Dec. 14. "The notices that we are sending out stating that the Certification has been expired for a year or more will also be accompanied by a municipal civil infraction ticket for occupied rentals."

> Under that declaration, may of the developers could face fines because they are already existing landlords in the city.

Richard Williams, president of the Rental Property Owners Association, the failure to register the properties is an issue. "It's just not right," he said.

- Todd Heywood

Constitution protects speech and religion

Government can't punish frat's racist song; religious beliefs a more challenging issue

It is easy to applaud the penalties levied on the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Oklahoma after its members were recorded in a video singing a crude racist chant. The local



SAE chapter was disbanded by the national organization, its frat house was closed and two students, labeled leaders, were expelled by University President David Boren.

To the tune of "If You're Happy And You Know It," this is what

MICKEY HIRTEN

they sang: "There will never be a n..... at SAE There will never be a n..... at SAE You can hang him from a tree, but he'll never sign with me.

There will never be a n.... at SAE." This, of course, is flat-out racist, thoroughly distasteful — and just the level of hateful speech that is protected by the First Amendment, which states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

It means that if you want to express racist ideas — sing racist songs — that's your right. The disciplinary actions by the state-supported, taxpayer-funded University of Oklahoma — that is, the government — trampled that fundamental freedom of speech when it decided that this form of expression was so grave that it must be punished.

What was the real damage? The fraternity's actions weren't directed at an individual. I'd be surprised if students on the Oklahoma campus were unaware of SAE's boorish behavior.

The appropriate punishment for SAE is best meted out by private entities or individuals, not by government. SAE's national brand is hurt by the video, and the national office has taken action. Other fraternities and sororities at the universities are outraged. They can ostracize the brothers. Parents can act.

But absent real harm, government must pass. Not that there isn't pressure to act. Free speech — except for their own — isn't a concept that goes down easily with Americans. The 2011 annual survey by the First Amendment Center found that 30 percent of respondents disagree with the statement that performers have the right to sing lyrics that others may find offensive. Past "State of the First Amendment" surveys put the number as high as 47 percent.

Of course, the First Amendment also deals with religion, and, as with speech, the challenge is where to draw the line.

The free exercise clause is driving the proposed Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which died in the Legislature last session but is coming back again. The measure is designed to provide cover for groups or individuals who assert that government mandates conflict with their religious beliefs.

The essence of the law is captured in these two provisions:

• This act shall be construed in favor of broad protection of religious exercise to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this act, the state Constitution of 1963, and the United States Constitution.

• Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any burden on any religious belief.

For example, Catholic foster-care and adoption services have refused to place children with gay or unmarried married couples, citing conflicts with the religion's moral teachings. Governments have responded by revoking licenses and suspending contracts. The church has also tangled with governments that forbid harboring of "illegal immigrants," acts that the church says reflects a mission of pastoral care and Christian charity.

Individual who abhor anything samesex say basic government accommodation requirements like providing services or housing conflict with their firmly held religious beliefs.

This law would protect both. The law proposed for Michigan is open ended in defining religious beliefs by indicating only that it must be "sincerely held." This is the same sort of open-ended standard that frames Stand Your Ground Laws, that "reasonable belief" is sufficient justification to use deadly force.

The Koran does not promise suicide bombers 72 virgins, but they believe that their martyrdom merits this reward. A firmly held religious belief? Indeed it is. Religious beliefs require faith in virgin births, afterlife on extra terrestrial planets, reincarnation, eternity in Hell and the list goes on.

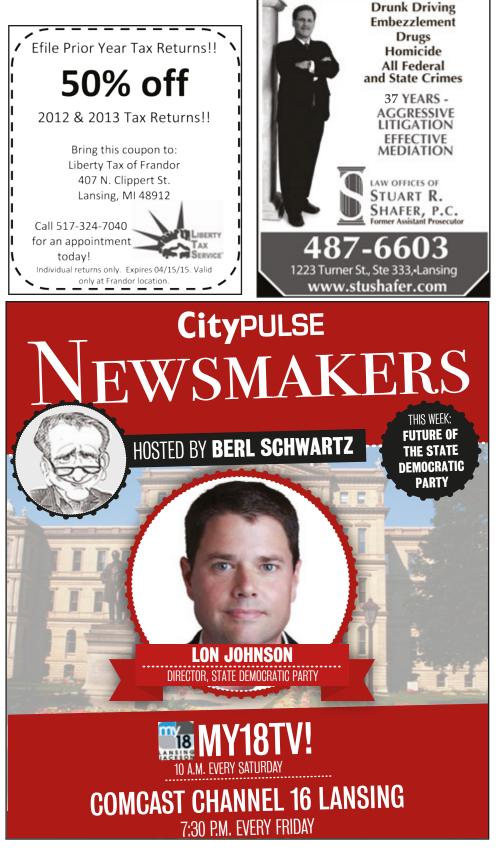
But while fine for individuals, are they a sound a basis for law?

Consider the SAE fraternity. Perhaps its mistake was chanting its racist song rather than singing it as hymn and claiming that separation of the races is a biblical concept and for its members a firmly held belief. This was the artifice used by the Klu Klux Klan to rationalize its bigotry.

A passage in Deuteronomy has long been used to justify racism. In Chapter 7, after identifying outlier ethnic groups living in the Promise Land, God says he will help the Jews defeat them and instructs them as follows:

" ... you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire."

It's hardly an inclusive message, and for those who want to believe in the



literal meaning of the Bible, it certainly

provides a religious foundation for seg-

freedoms. But is isn't easy and probably

politicized, if we aren't careful in how we

CRIMINAL

DEFENSE

shouldn't be - though, as we are see-

ing, it can be distorted, and certainly

Whether religion or speech, the First Amendment is a hallmark of American

regation.

embrace it.



OFF THE AIR, ONTO THE WEB

LANSING DJ/COMMUNITY ADVOCATE TO LAUNCH WEB-BASED, MICHIGAN-CENTRIC TALK SHOW

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Radio DJs seldom know when it's their last day behind the mic. Even the most popular personality in town could have the plug pulled at any time and for no reason. In the broadcasting industry, this guillotine method of firing staff is standard operating procedure. It sounds harsh, but it makes sense.

"It prevents unhappy, soon-to-be-ex-employees from spouting off live on the air," explains longtime talk radio host Tim Barron. "The boss waits until you're done for the day, then he'll ask you to step into his office to sign some paperwork. And that's all the notice you usually get."

After 40 years in radio — the last 30 of which were here in Lansing — Barron was given that rarest of chances Friday morning when he was allowed to say goodbye to his listeners. The host of WLMI-FM's "Tim Barron Morning Show" didn't deviate much from the format he'd had on that station for the last five years. The Capital Area Humane Society's director of operations brought in Cody, a black Chihuahua mix. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero popped in for some mutual appreciation. WLNS meteorologist Emily Wahls called in every half hour to say it was going to be a nice day. If Barron hadn't kept plugging TimBarronsMichiganRadio.com, the Internet-based radio station he'll soon launch, you'd have never known anything was amiss.

"It was purely business, not personal," Barron said about his amicable dismissal. "Even though it affects me, I agree with the decision. I got surprised, but not by much - I thought I had another year. The station is trying to appeal

more to the typical 40-year-old housewife with three and a half kids. I'm a bit too abrasive, too realistic for that. I say words like penis and vagina."

When he moves to the Web this spring, he can use all the titillating terms he wants, from clinical to base slang. Not that he will (probably) — he still wants to be an atwork/in-the-car type of station — but at least he doesn't have to worry about FCC restrictions and pearl clutching.

"My next revenue stream will involve no one but myself controlling my destiny," said Barron, 55, from an Okemos office building where he's building his studio. "Radio has been a cruel mistress, but I was no victim. I was a proactive volunteer. I worked hard for 30 years to establish myself, and I have every intention of succeeding. I'll be the same guy, but more unbridled. I have no one to report to but myself."

TimBarronsRadioMichigan.com is already active, but for now it's just streaming his personal music collection, a 27,000-song mixed-bag catalogue that includes N.W.A., Florence + the Machine and Grand Funk Railroad. By late next month, Barron will debut his new talk show, a 7-10 a.m. mix of talk and music. It's similar to what he's been doing in Lansing for the last 30 years, but in this iteration, he will widen his scope from focusing on Lansing to include the entire state.

"It will be the local morning show of Michigan, with an obvious bias toward its capital city," Barron said. "If it's in Michigan, we'll cover it, and I plan on making a lot of personal appearances across the state. Mackinac Island. ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. The Detroit Jazz Festival. But it will still maintain a Lansing flavor. I'll continue to invite charities on the show. They count on me to help them."

Indeed, if any one thing sets Barron apart from his commercial radio peers, it was this emphasis on local nonprofits and charity groups, not to mention civic leaders from nearby municipalities such as Eaton Rapids and Mason. Regular guests included representatives from the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, Habitat for Humanity and the Lansing Area AIDS Network.

"Tim's a huge supporter of HIV awareness, and being on his show definitely helped us promote our events," said Dwayne Riley, prevention manager for LAAN. "Last year two people who got tested for National Testing Day said they were there because they heard about it on the show. I didn't know how effective my appearances were, but I can see that they did make a difference."

"His passion for preparedness is so obvious and so strong, and for him to (dedicate) air time to that for that once a month has really helped us grow," said Erika Mahoney, executive director of Do1Thing.com, a website that gives home emergency preparation tips. "He believes in the program, and he asks genuine questions that help people better understand a wide range of subjects."

"He's very aware of how important nonprofits are to the community," said Julia Willson, president and CEO of the Capital Area Humane Society. "Our (on-air) conversations were always thoughtful, and sometimes challenging. He liked to talk about pit bulls with me — and we didn't always

Barron

from page 8

see eye to eye. But he was always respectful and made hard topics easier to talk about."

That theme of "we don't always agree, but he's willing to have the conversation" theme increasingly pops up the more people you talk to who have been guests on Barron's show.

"That's what's wrong with modern politics," said Bernero on Barron's show Friday.

BARRON BY THE NUMBERS

Years in radio: **42**

Years in Lansing: 30

General managers worked under: **18**

Stations worked for: **12** (some of

which he worked for twice)

Producers worked with: 7

Times alerted to impending dismissal: **1**

HOSTING GIGS

Silver Bells in the City, 26 years

Costume Contest for Dogs, 24 years

Common Ground, 15 years

Home Guilders Association of Greater Lansing's Toys of Tots

Tri-County Office on Aging Annual Dinner

"Democrats and Republicans don't talk to each other anymore. They forget they're Americans first and (party affiliation) comes second. If I have a hope for your new show, Tim, it's that you start a dialogue in this state that could lead to a real conversation. One of the reasons we get along is you're politically incorrect. I'm often politically incorrect. And it's OK to make a mistake from time to time."

Though Bernero is a Democrat and Barron a Republican (he emceed GOP candidate Mitt Romney's visit to Ingham County), Bernerostill appointed him to chair the board of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority.

Though not a shock jock ("Those guys are always trying to one-up themselves that's not me"), he does address topics that can veer from risqué to all-out inflammatory. Particularly, his bluntness about issues of race.

"Being a middle-aged white guy, there

are some things that he is just not going to be aware of," said Bernie Lucas, a fan who maintains a steady communication with Barron. (He calls her his "Female Black Conscience.") "He's not aware of some of his own biases. I try to get him to see things from a different point of view."

In 1994, when he was working at WJXQ-FM (Q106), he aired a segment on Cinco de Mayo that offended some members of Lansing's Latino community.

"We were disgusted and we expressed our displeasure," said Guillermo Lopez, trustee for the Lansing School District's Board of Education and an active member of mid-Michigan's Latino community. "Tim felt it was just a joke, but we felt it was uncalled for."

Lopez said a committee was formed that sought non-legal action, but there were no repercussions. (Barron declined to comment, saying it would "only open old wounds.")

"Neither of us approached the other, and it went away," Lopez said. "When I see him around town, we say hello and shake hands. He does a lot of good things, serves on a lot of nonprofits, but many Latinos hold some negative sentiment. People talk about it still."

"Most times when I email him it's because I want him to think about what he's just said," Lucas said. "And I appreciate that he's open to what I have to say. He'll always respond, and I've gotten him to change his mind a couple times. It's funny — as time goes by I find myself more in agreement with him. I don't now if he's mellowed, or I've gotten more conservative."

If Barron is mellowing, he's not slowing down. Besides his radio work, he sits on a wide range of boards, including LEPFA, the Ingham County Community Corrections Advisory, Child and Family Charities, Lansing Area Safety Council and the 100 Club, which takes care of families of fallen police officers. He's the unofficial voice of Lansing, lending his pipes to gigs at Common Ground (15 years), Silver Bells in the City (24 years) and even the public announcements at Lansing 's airport. And he's a founding member of BWL Chili Cook-Off, Downtown Lansing Inc. and Be A Tourist in Your Own Town.

"Before I moved to Lansing, I was in Indianapolis where they had just begun to turn things around," Barron said. "I believed the publicity I could provide on my show and my experience seeing what (Indianapolis) had done would help here."

"He is the perennial community guy you look at the landscape, he's everywhere," Bernero said. "He's a community resource. When you hear about community assets, you don't think of people, but Tim Barron is a community asset

"And I hope his attempt at something statewide recognition goes better than mine, "Bernero said, referring to his unsuccessful run for governor in 2010.

Barron said that the radio's cuthroat machinations almost drove him to leave the industry in 2010, but he credits Peter Tanz

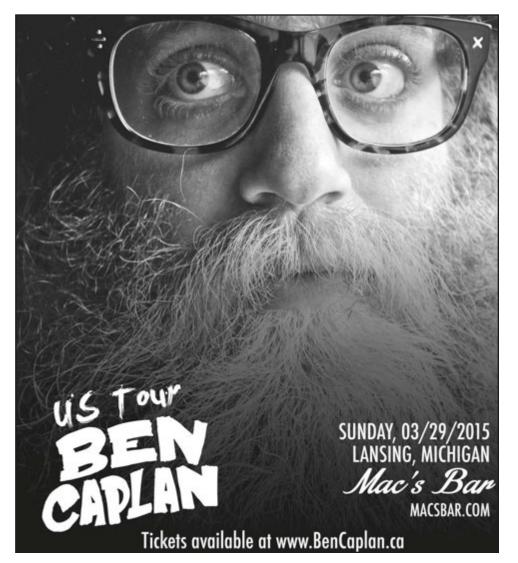


Barron broadcasting his last show from WLMI-FM on Friday while his daughter Katie and his wife, Janet, watch.

from Midwest Communications, owner of WLMI-FM, for keeping him in broadcast-ing.

"The emphasis has shifted from local to national, and shows like mine were few and far between," Barron said. "Peter recognized the necessity of it and he convinced me to stay on. And we created this show that was hyper-local, very involved and irreverent." He said he had the idea for starting an Internet radio station three years ago. After two years of research and planning, he spent the last year collecting equipment and tracking down resources. Six months ago he started work on his headquarters inside the Grewal Building in Okemos;

See Barron, Page 10



Barron

he's dubbed it North Town Construction

new equipment that trumps any broadcast-

ing equipment in the city," he said. "I have

tion manager, a show producer, "an IT

guy" and two salespeople. As he grows,

he plans to create a full roster of full-time

employees, including additional talent for

the afternoon hours. But despite the mas-

sive broadband installation he's working on with Comcast, being an Internet radio

station is inherently limiting. Finding his

show won't be a matter of simply turning

on the radio, even if you have XM. This is

Barron said. "There are a million ways to

listen to the radio. I already have a large

number of listeners (outside the Lansing

market) listening to me on the Internet.

They're just going to change where they

hear me from. And more cars are coming

equipped with Smart Dash and Bluetooth

pairing technology. Soon I think everyone

will be listening to Internet radio. And I

Still, some listeners feel abandoned,

such as Rita Clee of Lansing, who said she

cannot afford the Internet. She'll miss the

politics. "Even though he is of a different

able model that will keep him broadcasting

as long as his voice holds out. He pulls out

his phone and reads a message from a fan

life," he reads. "Your voice has seen me

through thick and thin. It's always com-

forted me and made me know I'm home.'

I don't know what more I could ask for as

a goodbye message. I'm excited about mak-

"You have been the soundtrack of my

after he announced he was leaving.

ing people think.

political bent, I like to hear both sides." Barron said Internet radio is a sustain-

will have been one of the first."

"I'm not concerned at all about that,"

better editing equipment than I left."

"This studio is state of the art, with all

He's also assembled an engineer, a sta-

from page 9

Studios

the Internet.

OVER THE EDGE

The demise of the Edge only the latest in a series of radio changes

By TY FOROUER

10

Many Lansing-area listeners flipped on their radio Monday morning to hear Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings where they used to hear Bastille and Arctic Monkeys. FM station 94.1 WVIC, known until recently as the Edge, switched its format from alternative rock to classic country and rebranded itself as Duke FM.

For those paying attention, the shift was a surprise, but not a shock. Midwest Communications has been tinkering with the Lansing radio scene since 2010, trying to plot a profitable course through the changing radio landscape.

In February 2010, Midwest Communications purchased four Lansing FM radio stations: 92.1, 92.9, 94.1, and 106.1. Based in Wausau, Wis., the company owns 72 radio stations throughout the Midwest.

The Edge is only the most recent casualty in Midwest Communications' shakeup of the Lansing radio scene:

At the time of the acquisition, 92.1 WQTX was a classic hits station marketed as 92-X. The station switched to a 90's-based country format in January 2011, relabeling itself as "Big Country 92.1." Its stint as a country station was short lived: In January, the station announced it would switch to a Foxaffiliated sports talk format under the moniker the Team. (The station briefly used the name the Ticket, but dropped it after a challenge from Detroit's similarly branded WXYT).

92.9, at the time of the sale, was operating under the call sign WJZL and played smooth jazz. In October 2010, the station switched to call sign WLMI. In November 2010 the station switched to an all-Christmas music format, then reemerged on Dec. 27 as a classic hits station, taking up the programming vacated by 92.1's move to country music.

Before 94.1 was the Edge, that name belonged to sister station 92.1. That station played alternative rock as the Edge from 1993 to 2003, when it switched to an adult contemporary format. After the switch, no station operated under that nickname until 94.1 took it up and moved to an alternative rock format in 2009. That branding was left untouched by Midwest Communications until Monday, when the station became the classic country station Duke FM.

106.1 WJXQ, or Q106, bill themselves as "Lansing's rock station." The station plays a mix of contemporary and classic rock music. So far, their branding and programming has gone mostly untouched by Midwest Communications.



Black Box Theatre

\$5 students, \$10 general public 517-483-1488 www.lcc.edu/showinfo

BARRON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Entertainment and **Public Facilities** Authority, chairman

Ingham County Community

Child and Family Charities, board member

Mayor's Camp at Mystic Lake, board member/supporter

HOPE Promise Scholars, volunteer

Downtown Lansing Inc. (formerly Principal Shopping District), founding member

Be a Tourist in Your Own Town, founding member

> BWL Chili Cook-Off, founding member

Lansing Area Safety Council, board member

March of Dimes, board member 100 Club, board member

Capital City Riverfest, director

Screen Actors Guild, member (speaking role in two episodes of "Babylon 5")

AIDS announcement, for 9/11, for the ice storm. I've had guys shake my hand in a garage and say, 'Dude, I never voted until I listened to your show.' That's the kind of 'We were together for Magic Johnson's thing that makes a career."

ENROLLING

CHILDREN

Montessori Children's House of Lansing 2100 W. St. Joseph

Lansing, MI 48915

(517) 482-9191

mchlansing.org

Photo by Elayna Snyder

MONTESSORI

CHILDREN'S HOUSE



Lansing

Corrections Advisory, board member

TRIAD, board member

ARTS & CULTURE ART-BOOKS-FIL

Ransing in perpetus Igerslansing uses Instagram to build local connections

By TY FORQUER

Even if you don't use Instagram, you are probably familiar with its output. It's the mobile phone app that is responsible for those square, faux-vintage photos of your friends' arugula salads that show up in your Facebook newsfeed.

The photo-sharing app claims over 300 million active users posting 70 million photos per day. Users log in to show off their bed-head (using the Beyoncé-inspired hashtag #ijustwokeuplikethis) or to art-

Worldwide Instameet 11

Lansing edition 1 p.m. Satuday, March 21 FREE Biggby Coffee 115 W. Allegan St., Lansing facebook.com/igerslansing instaaram.com/iderslansing (#latteart). But Instagram is more than just selfie-queens and food porn. Even as Instagram's reach expands globally, users are employing hashtags to connect locally, building friendships

fully showcase their espresso drinks

and establishing a sense of place. One such hashtag, #igerslansing, began to appear on Instagram in October. This was not a spontaneous appearance, it was a purposeful move by two local Instagram users to rally a community of local photographers.

"People were using #lovelansing, but not in an organized way," explained Igerslansing co-founder Hannah Feig.

"It's like a brand," said Kylie Doebler, Feig's partner in this endeavor. "We're promoting our city. We're trying to find people taking pictures of Lansing that are creative and thoughtful."

Igerslansing is a name built on a common Instagram formula: a mash-up of Igers, a shortened version of Instagramers, and a location.

"We have seen people in other cities do it successfully," Feig said. "You can search location-related hashtags and see what places looks like."

"There was nothing like it in Lansing," Doebler added. "I talked to Craig Hensel, and he helped us put the idea together."

Hensel, a former Lansing resident, is a Chicago-based photographer and avid Instagram user whose account boasts over 50,000 followers. He participates in several Chicagoarea Instagram communities, including Chitecture, which



focuses on the architectural aspects of the Chicago area.

Igerslansing is a two-pronged effort. The hashtag, #igerslansing, can be used by any Instagram users to give their photos a local tag. Other users can search for the hashtag and discover other photographers in the area.

There is also an Instagram account, under the username Igerslansing, which is run by Feig and Doebler. The pair uses this account to feature local Instagram users, host weekly photography challenges and organize monthly meet-ups.

Feig and Doebler also have personal Instagram accounts,

.

ART• BOOKS•FILM•MUSIC•THEATER

under the usernames Hnuh and Kyliedwardoebler, respectively. For Feig, joining the Instagram community was a natural fit.

"I've always liked photography," Feig said. "When I got my iPhone it was probably the first app I downloaded."

Mobile photography has exploded, both in terms of quality and number of users. The widespread use of smartphones means that most people have a high-quality digital camera in their pockets.

> "I think (photography) is more accessible now," Feig said. "It takes a certain eye. It doesn't matter what device you have in your hand."

> "Professionals are using smartphone cameras in certain situations," Doebler said. "People are more comfortable posing for a smartphone than for a large DSLR camera. It's less intimidating."

> In 2012, Time magazine took the unprecedented step of turning its Instagram account over to five photographers to cover Hurricane Sandy. A photo by Benjamin Lowy, taken with an iPhone, was used as a cover image for the print version of the magazine.

> "It's cool to see these professionals using smartphones," said Feig. "It's inspiring to know that they are doing their work using the same equipment I have."

> Saturday Igerslansing will host its sixth Instameet, an informal meet-up for Lansing-area Instagrammers. Past Instameets have been primarily photo walks, picking a part of the city to explore by walking through it and taking pictures. These photo walks included Old Town, East Lansing and Grand Ledge's Fitzgerald Park.

This March's Igerslansing Instameet

is timed to coincide with Instagram's Worldwide Instameet 11. Worldwide Instameets, held every six months, are weekends that Instagram encourages users around the world to organize local meet-ups.

For the Igerslansing version of the event, Feig and Doebler wanted to do something different from the usual photo walk. The duo is preparing an unconventional photo scavenger hunt. Participants will be divided in to teams of three or four,

See Instagram, Page 12



Artist Tony Hendrick of Grand Ledge is in the process of complet-

ing a new mural that will feature members of the REO Motor Co. community.

Hendrick created his original "Spirit of REO" mural in 2004, but it was damaged about five years ago. The new mural is redesigned to include former REO Motor Co. employees and their families in front of the REO Clubhouse. That building was the social hub of that community, featuring a 2,000 person capacity dining room, an auditorium, a library, four bowling alleys, a movie booth and billiard rooms. "What I found in working with this community was that this project is very much about people," Hendrick said. The new mural will be placed on the old Diamond Reo showroom on South Washington (now the Quality Dairy dispatch building).

Photos by ARIEL ROGERS

Thrifty business REO Town hosts second annual Thrift Store Gala

By TY FORQUER

South Washington Avenue will be awash in second-hand suits and re-com-

REO Town Thrift Store Gala and Burlesque Extravaganza 8 p.m. Saturday, March

8 p.m. Saturday, March 21 \$10 adv./\$15 at the door Foliage Design Systems 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing thriftstoregala.com

the second annual Thrift Store Gala and Burlesque Extravaganza. ¹⁵ We., The Thrift Store Gala portion of the evening is the brain-

missioned cocktail

dresses Saturday as

REO Town hosts

child of Ryan Wert, owner of REO Town's Elm Street Recording. Wert was inspired by friends who host an annual "fancy party."

"Everyone dresses up in thrift shop suits and dresses and we drink champagne and Goldschläger," Wert said.

The idea laid dormant for a few years, until he recruited the help of co-organizer Autumn Luciano. A photographer who specializes in vintage, pin-up style photos, Luciano also organizes burlesque events in the Lansing area.

"I saw Autumn's show and thought it would be a perfect fit," Wert said.

And thus, the idea blossomed into last year's inaugural REO Town Thrift Store Gala and Burlesque Extravaganza.

The event encourages participants to come dressed in their finest thrift-storepurchased outfits. Last year's event featured everything from classy, roaring 20's-inspired suits and dresses to tacky leisure suits and over-the-top prom dresses.

"Everyone really dressed up," said Luciano. "It blew me away."

The event is an attempt to reflect the unique character of REO Town, offering

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something a little grittier and a little more risqué than festivals you might find in Old Town, for example.

"The neighborhood has grit to it," said Wert. "It's not a 'fine arts' community. Our artists are graffiti dudes and welders."

As the event enters its second year, Wert and Luciano are tweaking the evening to

make this year's event even better. "There will be a bigger variety of entertainment this year," Luciano said.

The entertainment for last year's event was made up almost entirely of burlesque performers, with Lansing City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar serving as emcee.

"This year, the whole show will alternate between burlesque and other acts," Wert said.

Those other acts include comedians, actors, singers and a magician. Dylan Rogers of the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle emcee the evening.



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Autumn Luciano (left) and Ryan Wert model their thrift store finds in REO Town's Thriftique.

The evening also serves as a showcase for REO Town businesses. Both Thriftique and Vintage Junkies will have pop-up shops set up for the event, and food will be provided by the Good Truckin' Diner. Foliage Design Systems will host the event in their warehouse space. The warehouse, which is normally filled with trees and shrubs of all sizes, will be cleared out to make room for a stage and a dance floor.

Other Lansing-based businesses getting in on the action are Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale, who will be selling beer, and Luciano's Decadence Dolls studio, who will be providing a free photo booth.

Luciano has been organizing burlesque shows in Lansing for almost two years. While burlesque shows are decidedly provocative, Luciano also stresses the art and craft of the performances.

"It's classy and it's artistic. The girls rehearse tirelessly," she said. "It's not like being in a dark, sleazy strip club. It's fun."

On the surface, the Thrift Store Gala and Burlesque Extravaganza is about dressing up and having fun. But it is also part of Wert's long-term plan to establish REO Town's place in the community.

"We're Lansing's cool, weird neighborhood," he said.



Instagram

from page 11

and given a list of ideas or prompts to guide their photo-taking.

"It's not about finding things, it's about responding to these ideas," Doebler explained. "People will be creatively engaging with their teammates to complete the challenge."

It's quite likely that teams will include participants who have never met before, at least in a non-digital way.

"Random people will come (to the Instameets)," Feig said. "That's a big step, to show up somewhere when you don't know anyone.

Through their Instagram accounts, Feig and Doebler build relationships with other Instagram users even before they come to a meet-up.

"People feel connected to the photos you are posting," Doebler said.

For Feig, Instagram gives her a window into other people's lives.

"You can tell a lot about people from their

Digital darkroom

Take your mobile photos to the next level with these apps:

Instagram (**FREE**) — Recent upgrades give users powerful editing tools. Use preset filters to give your photos a vintage look, or use advanced controls to fine-tune your photos.

VSCO Cam (**FREE**) — Powerful photo editor with a minimalistic design. Includes advanced camera features such as focus, exposure, and white balance control.

Snapseed (**FREE**) — Photo editor with adjustable filters and tools for fine-tuning your images.

Filterstorm Neue (\$3.99, iPhone only) — Go beyond simple filters with advanced controls such as setting RGB curves, masking and watermarking.

SKRWT (\$1.99, iPhone only) -

Instagram feed," she said. "You see the things they see in their life."

Even in the short time Igerslansing has been active, it has seen significant growth. The Instagram account has almost 500 followers, and a search for the #igerslansing hashtag brings up over 2,500 photos.

"It really exploded," said Feig.

As for what's next for the group, Feig and Doebler are planning a series of free mobile photography workshops. The workshops will start with the basics photography and composition, but will also discuss using post-production apps to develop an signature style.

"They will be very hands-on," said Doebler. "And we will end each workshop with a photo walk for a chance to put those concepts into practice."

The first workshop will be at MICA Gallery in Old Town April 26 at 2 p.m. Further details will be announced via the Igerslansing Instagram account.

Saturday's Instameet is free and open to anyone with a smartphone or digital camera. Potential participants should meet at 1 p.m. at the Biggby on Allegan Street in downtown Lansing.

Corrects horizontal and vertical perspective distortion caused by mobile cameras' wide-angle lenses.

Mextures (\$1.99, iPhone only) — Add layers of texture to your images, including analog light leaks, grainy film textures, tasteful grunge and gradients. Save settings as a "formula" that you can recall later.

Reflect Mirror Camera (\$1.99, iPhone only) — Create surreal reflections including water, tile floor and future-scape surfaces. Create stunning sky images with artificial stars, clouds or lightning.

PicLab Photo Editor (Free) — Create easy collages and add text to your photos. Also includes easy-to-use editing tools. Upgrade to PicLab HD (\$1.99) for advanced editing tools.

Diptic (**\$0.99**) — Turn multiple photos into creative collages. Simple controls allow you to adjust border size, color, and shape and add text to your collage.

to deliver a serious message By TOM HELMA

We do not immediately think of a garage sale as a metaphor for the loss of love or the chance to find love a second time around.

Review

There may be many times in life when we experience rejection,

get tossed aside unceremoni-

ously or see someone we once loved walking away, but nothing is as terrible as feeling like

"The Garage Sale" at Starlight Dinner Theatre 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 20 \$20 (includes dessert buffet) Waverly East Intermediate Cafetorium 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 243-6040,

starlightdinnertheatre.com

a Raggedy Ann doll covered with peanut butter and tossed into the mud. Starlight Dinner

Theatre's "The Garage Sale," written by local theater icon Jane Shipley Zussman, uses Rag Baby (a take on Raggedy Ann) and

Tuxedo Teddy to tell stories of real-life loss and the strength people find to rise up from the depths of despair to love once again.

Linda Granger, founder of Starlight Dinner Theatre, directed this play and with the help of Doug Vorce — built, decorated, painted and dressed out a set that was not unlike a real driveway garage sale. This setting frames the dialogue between the two stuffed dolls.

Chris Claver portrayed the as-new, completely-untouched-by-human-hands, stillin-his-original-box Tuxedo Teddy. He is stiff and formal, lacking in range of motion and inarticulate — especially with respect to deep feelings. Angela Dill portrayed Rag Baby. In contrast to Tuxedo Teddy, she is spontaneous and impulsive, squirrely, all over the set and gushing with more love and affection than the family dog.

Klaver had the more challenging of these two roles, portraying a character who is awkward and uncomfortable without looking like his acting is awkward and uncomfortable. It's a difficult line to walk, but it was done very well. Angela Dill, on the other hand, had to be exuberant throughout and delivered multiple hilariously comic lines as she unfolded her character. Mugging to the audience and playing most everything for immediate laughs, she wooed the audience — and the crowd loved her every move.

The elder audience-members laughed at the subtle, poignant messages imbedded in the play that children grow and leave us, that our first real loves as adults may not be our last and that it is better by far to have lost in love than not to have loved at all.

"The Garage Sale" is a one-hour play without intermission and is combined with a dessert buffet consisting of cheesecakes, lemon meringue pie, and a wide variety of chocolate delights.

Provocative by design MSU Museum showcases the

movie posters of Art Sims

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

Graphic design can be a peculiar art form, especially in terms of appreciation for the people behind it.

"Movies and Messages: The Movie Posters of Art Sims"

t On display through April 30 MSU Museum 409 W. Circle Drive East Lansing, MI (517) 355-2370, museum. msu.edu Teams of artists can put hours of effort into the creation of project that, upon completion, has the potential to become highly memorable and iconic. And while in the past, artists who worked

in similar fields had the benefit of being able to sign their names to their works — like the printwork of Toulouse Lautrec — today's graphic designers go largely unnoticed.

The MSU Museum's new exhibit, "Movies and Messages: The Movie Posters of Art Sims," takes a look at one such unsung artist: Art Sims. His team of creatives, along with his own considerable talents, have created some of the most memorable marketing material for motion pictures over the last three decades. In art, the road from conception to completion is never an easy task, and this exhibit illustrates that with graphic design it is no different.

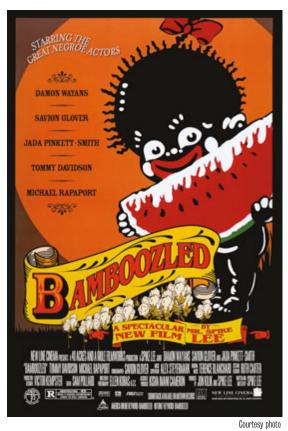
"Marketing is a long process," said Sims. "And it takes a whole team of illustrators, designers and finishers to get it done."

Sims, an MSU alumnus, is a designer and owner of Los Angeles-based design studio 11:24 Design. While his studio's focus is on promoting African-American art and culture, 11:24 Design also does design work for the motion picture industry, working with such major studios as 20th Century Fox and Lucasfilms.

While Sims has much in his portfolio to be proud of, a notable contribution is his work with filmmaker Spike Lee. Sims has worked on every Spike Lee film since 1988's "School Daze." He states that his working relationship with Lee wasn't anything as serendipitous as happening upon some Hollywoodstyle big break, but was completely by design — no pun intended.

"I knew if I wanted to grow my business in marketing, I needed to work with stars," Sims said. "So I sought out the work and my name started to spread after working with them."

"Movies and Messages" puts its focus primarily on Sims' work with Spike Lee, showcasing eight of his most memorable pieces produced for some of Lee's most iconic films. The exhibit is supplemented with materials that help viewers better understand the process. Guests can view photographs and other materials, illustrating all the components



The poster for Spike Lee's "Bamboozled" appropriates racist imagery to challenge viewers' perspectives.

that contribute to a finalized piece. Some of the posters are also accompanied by binders containing several conceptual ideas for film posters, giving a glimpse into alternate takes on posters as iconic as the films they accompany.

Included in the exhibit is one of Sims' most recognizable designs, his poster for the 1992 film "Malcolm X." At first glance, the design is as simple as they come: a massive silver X over a black background. Sims reminisces that coming to that design solution was anything but. His team was stumped as to how to sell a film for the historic civil rights activist, mulling over if there was any one period of his life that was right for selling the film. Eventually, the film's star, Denzel Washington, suggested that since the subject matter was so complicated, simplicity was the key.

"Denzel suggested we just use the X," said Sims. "I thought the silver X/ black background was perfect. I didn't know what else we needed to say!"

While most artists are hard pressed to choose a favorite from their work, Sims confesses it might be the poster he did for the 2000 Spike Lee film "Bamboozled." The film is about a frustrated African-American TV writer who decides to use offensive representations of blacks from early 20th century culture to sell a TV show. While such a premise could create a quagmire in terms of art to sell it, Sims carried on unflinchingly. Lee requested that Sims make the art appear as a mix between something Barnum & Bailey Circus would produce, while also utilizing pickaninny imagery. While the results were inevitably offensive, Sims was excited with how the work stretched the idea of what the image was, what it meant and what people saw. And boy, how it offended. Even Sims' printer called to complain.

"My printer called me in absolute disbelief over 'Bamboozled," said Sims. "If a printer tells you that? That shows how creative it was."

The interesting thing about browsing Sims' exhibit is that it's just as much a walkthrough of motion picture history as it is of our own cultural history. This is why Sims seems think his exhibit's title, "Movies and Messages," couldn't be any more appropriate.

"People say I've developed a style in working with movies, but I wasn't specifically trying to make something unique or different," said Sims. "It was all about the messages that came first."



Galileo gives the bird

Local author and activist explores issues of science, ethics and politics By BILL CASTANIER

You may think you know Alice Dreger, but you probably don't. You may have heard her asking pointed questions of Board of Water & Light officials during the aftermath of the 2013 ice storm. Or maybe you've seen a photograph of her in in the Lansing State Journal in an article about freedom of information. You might even remember Rush Limbaugh trash-talking an article she wrote on pedophilia and football head injuries. But you don't really know Alice Dreger.

That could soon change for East Lansing's Dreger, 49, a historian of medicine and science. She has written a book on the darker

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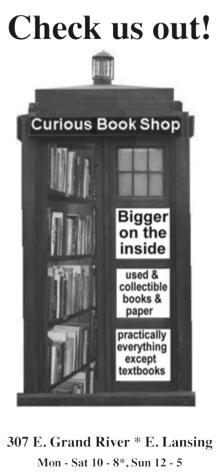
For more information, visit www.schulerbooks.com

side of scientific research, scholarship and activism that threatens to push her into the national spotlight. The title, "Galileo's Middle Finger: Heretics, Activists and the Search for Justice in Science," reflects Dreger's wry, often ironic sense of humor. The idea for the title came from her experience seeing the famed astronomer's actual skeletal middle finger on display at a shrine in Florence, Italy.

Dreger's reason for writing the book was to examine, in a scientific way, a number of famous scientists and how their research, although evidence based, was publicly discredited. With the recent rise of climate change deniers, anti-vaccination advocates and anti-evolution creationists, it's easy to see how she would be drawn to the subject.

One of the first cases that she writes about involves the 2003 findings of J. Michael Bailey, a Northwestern University sex researcher. In his book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen," Bailey suggested something previously unthinkable in transgender politics.

"Bailey had pushed a theory these activists didn't like," Dreger writes. She cites Bailey's book, which suggested a division of male-tofemale transgender individuals into two types in which both gender and sexual orientation matter: those who identify as female and are attracted exclusively to men, and those who identify as female and are sexually aroused by being perceived as female. In the latter cases, natal men "found themselves sexually aroused by the idea of being or becoming women. The



* January thru May 'til 7 332-0112 * www.curiousbooks.com we validate parking simple idea of becoming a woman causes sexual excitement." This type of sexual orientation has been termed "autogynephilia" by Canadian sexologist Ray Blanchard.

This idea didn't sit well with transgender activists, who saw a division between "real" transgender individuals and others who are merely aroused by the idea of it.

Starting with Bailey's controversial case, Dreger dramatically illustrates how the science of legitimate researchers is often attacked, belittled and damned by activists who do not find the work politically correct.

Dreger is no stranger to controversial research. She is a nationally recognized patients' rights advocate and medical researcher in the areas of transgender research and activism, and teaches medical ethics and bioethics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine (commuting from East Lansing, where she lives with her husband and son). During her Ph.D. studies at Indiana University, she studied hermaphrodites in the Victorian era and published the book "Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex." She later studied the complex issue of intersex, a condition where individuals are born with sexually ambiguous anatomy, and became a national activist against intersex surgery.

Most chapters are intrinsically interesting, especially in an era when science and scientists is under fire from politicians and political activists on both the left and the right. When the tables are dramatically turned on Dreger, however, the book really soars.

When Dreger began looking into a drug regimen that was being used "off label" to treat pregnant women whose fetuses are at risk of being born with congenital adrenal hyperplasia (or CAH, a condition which often leads to sexually ambiguous anatomy), she is pulled into a swirling debate that not only challenges her personal integrity, but threatens her entire career as a bioethicist.

Her investigation leads her to look closely

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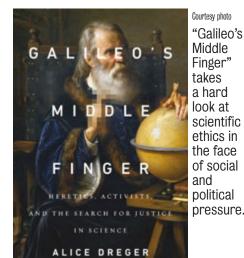
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at a New Jersey doctor who seems to be running a modern medicine show, using the drug Dexamethasone to treat CAH in utero. She finds that the patients were not given full disclosure, were used inappropriately as research subjects and the researcher misrepresented the facts to federal funding sources.

"It showed me researchers can play the system," she said. "All the safety nets failed and other protective systems were not in place."

As Dreger ramps up the inquiry, she finds herself in the complex position of not only criticizing another researcher's work, but coming under an organized attack from that researcher's supporters — supporters who have a lot to lose in this battle.

I would not be fair to readers to tell what happens to Dreger, but suffice it say these chapters read like a medical thriller.

Dreger hopes that her book will be read by scientists and used as a textbook, but she also thinks it should be read by activists everywhere — sort of a modern day version of Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals."

"Evidence is really an ethical issue, the most important ethical issue in a modern democracy," Dreger writes. "If you want justice you must work for truth. And if you want to work for truth, you must do a little more than wish for justice."



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Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, March 18 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170, artmuseum.msu.edu.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866. MiCafe. Call for an appointment. 9:30 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com. Story Art Time. Make art inspired by storybooks. Ages 2-5. 10-11 a.m. \$5/adults FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/events/storytime. Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215. Walk-In Wednesdays. Drop-In Art Class. All ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE (\$5 suggested donation). Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

CMPRSA Networking Breakfast. Social media. 7:45 a.m. \$40/\$35 members/\$25 students. Greater Lansing Association of Realtors, 4039 Legacy Parkway, Lansing. (517) 896-1456, cmprsa.com.

Sushi Workshop. Learn about and make sushi. Reservation required. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com. Knit & Knot So Much. Knitting and Crochet Group. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE, donations accepted. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Honeybee workshop. What is going on inside the hive, why do we care? 6:30 p.m. FREE. Eaton Conservation District, 551 Courthouse Drive, Charlotte. (517) 543-5848 ext. 5, eatoncd.org.

EVENTS

See Out on the Town, Page 17





Double vision

Friday, March 20

Good things come in twos this Friday as the Ten Pound Fiddle pairs two of Michigan's finest folk duos. Co-headliners Billy Strings & Don Julin and Red Tail Ring will provide contrasting takes on American folk music.

"We're going to cover a wide span of roots and Americana music," said Laurel Premo, half of Red Tail Ring.

Billy Strings & Don Julin are a bit of a musical odd couple. Strings is a 22-yearold, tattoo-covered guitarist and singer who attacks his instrument with machinegun precision. Don Julin, who will turn 55 later this year, is a veteran mandolinist whose influences range from Vivaldi

to Led Zeppelin. Together they serve up an explosive, virtuosic take on traditional bluegrass music. The Bluegrass Situation blog described their most recent album as "the unholy child of Pantera and Tony Rice."

"They'll melt your face off," Premo said with a laugh.

Red Tail Ring will perform first, providing a contrast to Billy Strings & Don Julin's fiery style.

"We specialize in intricate harmonies and instrumental interplay," said Premo. "It will be a really nice combination."

The Kalamazoo-based duo blurs past and present, performing traditional music from the Appalachian Mountains region alongside original songs written in that style. Premo said that this mix of old and new leads to interesting conversations, as audience members try to figure out which tunes are traditional and which are new creations.

"I'm so happy that people are interested in where the music comes from," she said.

Laurel spoke with me by phone from the Upper Peninsula, a place that has become an important resting place for her.

"I grew up in the U.P. in a very rural setting, in the woods, really," she explained. "I recently bought a house in Kalamazoo, but the U.P. is where I go to recharge." Balancing urban life and a hunger for nature is key for Premo.

"I need to have a little bit of both to stay healthy," she says.

Formed in 2009, Red Tail Ring has built a reputation by touring the U.S. and beyond. Recent tours included stops in Germany and the Czech Republic. Billy Strings & Don Julin and Red Tail Ring at Ten Pound Fiddle 8 p.m. Friday, March 20 \$15/\$12 members/\$5 students MSU Community Music School 4930 S. Hagadom Road, East Lansing tenpoundfiddle.org

"Life on the road has gotten increasingly better," Premo said. "As we keep touring, we make more and more friends in different

areas. Our fans are very hospitable."

While these tours have taken the pair all over the world, Premo feels a special connection to places that remind her of home.

"I've found myself falling in love with places that remind me of the wilds of Michigan," Premo

said. "Places like Vermont and West Virginia. The environment is so beautiful."

Red Tail Ring released their last album, "The Heart's Swift Foot," in 2013. The past year has found the duo focusing on collaborations, including "The New Roots Exchange, Vol. 1," an EP recorded with bluegrass band Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys. The duo also recorded the album "The Right Hands 'Round" as part of the string-band quartet Bowhunter.

While folk music has a myriad of traditions and conventions, Premo finds the genre anything but restricting.

"We're not falling back on the tropes of pop music," she said. "We don't have to satisfy top 40 radio and be easy to digest. We can give you a lot to think about."

NEW FOUND GLORY AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$24, \$20, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24

New Found Glory were leaders of the pack in the second wave of Blink-182-style pop punk. The Florida natives headline an all-ages show Tuesday at the Loft; openers are Turnstile, This Wild Life and Turnover. Since its genesis in 1997, New Found Glory has released three albums of covers, two EPs and eight proper LPs. The band comprises vocalist Jordan Pundik, Chad Gilbert (guitar), Ian Grushka (bass) and drummer Cyrus Bolooki. The early 2000s spike of mainstream teenage punkanthems was New Found Glory's heyday. During this golden age of pop punk the band headlined Warped Tour and supported Green Day on the road. In 2002, the band's third album, "Sticks and Stones," reached #4 on the Billboard 200 chart. Its latest album, 2014's "Resurrection," hit #3 on the Billboard Alternative Albums chart.

THE STICK AROUNDS AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$5, 8 p.m., Saturday, March 21 Lansing power-pop purists the Stick Arounds return to the Avenue Café with a cast of fellow Michigan-based rock'n'roll outfits including: Flatfoot, the Aimcriers and Desolation Angels. The Stick Arounds formed five years ago and includes former and current members of Calliope, the Pantones, Millenary and the Gentleman Callers. The band comprises: Jason Lantrip (lead guitar/vocals), Jeffery "Pops" Gower (vocals/guitar), Matthew Carlson (12-string guitar/vox), Tammy Cook (bass) and drummer Joel Kuiper. The band plays a blend of jangly/crunchy originals and covers — with no lack of vocal harmonizing. "Playing the right covers is fun, but we usually end up doing about 75 percent original material," said Gower, who, along with Carlson writes the band's tunes. As for the covers, the song list includes tunes by the Kinks, the Equals, Nick Lowe, Elvis Costello, Teenage Fanclub and more.

MIGHTY UKE DAY 5 FUNDRAISER AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10 suggested donation, 6 p.m., Sunday, March 22

While Mighty Uke Day — an annual three-day ukulele festival in Old Town — doesn't start until May 8, a fundraiser for the event happens Sunday at the Avenue Café and includes performances BY the Motor City Ukes, the Ukulele Kings and more. Festival founder Ben Hassenger said the fundraiser is a welcome boost. The preamble fundraiser/concert/strum not only eases the financial components of hosting a DIY event, it simultaneously spreads awareness. "(It helps) us continue and expand our programs, cover upfront costs and get everyone fired up for our festival," Hassenger said. Mighty Uke Day is Michigan's largest ukulele festival, blending live shows, films, workshops, children's activities, strum-alongs, jams and more. This May, the fifth annual Mighty Uke Day will feature headliners Stuart Fuchs and Victoria Vox.

UPCOMING SHOW? contact rich tupica at rich@lansingcitypulse.com >>> to be listed in live & local e-mail liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com

LIVE&LOCAL	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
he Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Desmond Jones, 8 p.m.	Flatfoot, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Steve Cowles, 7 p.m,	Greg Smith, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Grant Hendershot, 8:30 p.m.	Grant Hendershot, 8:30 p.m.
oach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			Unlimited, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
olonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Jublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.				Cheap Dates, 10 p.m.
he Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 9:30 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	
reen Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johhny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.
ius's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
he Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Taukl, 8:30 p.m.			Ekoostic Hookah, 4 p.m.
lac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Ashes of Horus, 9 p.m.	Crowd Cntrl, 9 p.m.	Hidden Hospitals, 7 p.m.	Trey Gunz, 7 p.m.
Ioriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Cash O'Reilly, 9 p.m.	Charliehorse, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.
I-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Kathy Ford Band, 8:30 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 8:30 p.m.
eno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		Life Support, 8 p.m.	Jake Stevens Duo, 8 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.				Steve Cowles, 7 p.m.
eno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Rush Clements, 8 p.m.	Life Support, 8 p.m.
in Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
nicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m
laterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Vatershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton. 7 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Vhiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS! Only submit information for the following week's paper.



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AGER HOUSE



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SURVEY OF LANSING'S

MUSICAL

from page 15

Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org. Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174. Mother Son Dance. DJ, refreshments, photos and special surprise. 7-9 p.m. \$12/\$10 Delta Township

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives. Love, Sex and Greed in French Comic Opera. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. Mind Benders. Trivia game. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE.

Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter. weebly.com.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing

THURSDAY, MARCH 19-22 & MARCH 26-29 >> 'VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE' AT RIVERWALK THEATRE

Riverwalk's production of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" sees Hollywood starlet Masha and her youthful arm candy Spike return to the family farm where her siblings, Vanya and Sonia, reside. The encounter erupts in a comedic examination of life and love. The play has been praised for being a humorous adaptation of themes from the works of Anton Chekhov that doesn't require familiarity with Chekhov. Thursday 7 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19–22 & MARCH 26–29 >> 'DOGFIGHT' AT **PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE CO.**

Peppermint Creek presents the Michigan premiere of the musical adaptation of the 1991 Warner Bros. film, "Dogfight." Set in the early 1960s, this musical features three marines as they set out for a night of adult mischief before they're deployed to Southeast Asia. The three make a bet to present to one another the ugliest girl they can find in town. But when Corporal Eddie Birdlace chooses an awkward waitress named Rose as his offering, he learns a powerful lesson he won't soon forget. Thursday-Saturday 8 p.m.: Sunday 2 p.m. \$20/\$15 students and seniors 65 and over. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

residents. Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555, deltami.gov. Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, (517) 999-3911.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Thursday, March 19 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhonehaslett.com

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org. Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room 214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessbookstore.net. Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, guanamtemple.org. Genealogy Club. Third Thursday of each month, 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Youth Art Gallery Unveiling. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE (donations welcome). Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

H.E.R.O.: Home Safety. Call to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, www.glhc.org.

EVENTS

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Evening Storytime. Stories, songs and crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl. org

English Country Dance Lessons. Rm C20. No experience needed. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/ MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, msu.edu.

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

Allan I. Ross/Citv Pulse Skate City Rink opened this week in South Lansing. It has a separate rink for younger skaters, and will have different themes for

each night of the week.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

A new roller skating rink opened this week in South Lansing. Skate City **Rink** is built into a nearly 10,000-square-foot former office plaza near



Road. It's set back a little way from the intersection, and there's no way-finding sign in place yet (making it a little hard to find), but spokeswoman Trulane Pea said that will come in time.

"Our priority is to finally open and start skating," she said. "And the response has been great so far."

She said the soft opening last weekend was posted to Facebook, and so many people came out they had to turn people away.

"I felt bad, but it was good to know that there are people out there who want to (skate)," she said. Construction started

in August, and some of the dust is still settling. The main oak-floor rink

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

Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Lansing Home & Garden Show. The biggest in Mid-Michigan. 3-9 p.m. \$9/\$4 children. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Road, East Lansing. (800) 328-6550, lansinghomeshow.com.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm because it is cancelled occasionally. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403. Open Mic Thirsty Thursday. All styles welcome. 7 p.m. \$6 Cover. Gregory's Ice & Smoke, 2510 N.

MLK Blvd., Lansing. (313) 218-9685, gregoryslansing.

SKATE CITY RINK

is complete, but the DJ booth is still being assembled. There's also a separate, smaller oak rink that's nearly finished; it will accommodate skaters 8 and under. On Saturdays,

> the rink's flow guards will give free skating lessons for kids. Three rooms were built to accommodate birthday parties, and a larger room with five big-screen TVs was designed to host video game competitions. There's also a separate, smaller room — "the Ouiet Room" — with a sofa, WiFi

and closed circuit TV for parents who may need to take a break but still want to keep an eye on the kids. Skate City also has a

concession area, an arcade and a sales counter, called the Pro Shop, that deals in tchotchkes like glowin-the-dark pacifiers and sparkly glasses. Prices for most skates during the week are \$5 per person, \$8 on the weekend. Skate rental is \$2.

"There's not a lot to do for young people in this area, so we created this to get them off the

something positive to do," Pea said. "No one's allowed in if they're under the influence, and we're not going to tolerate big, loud parties. This is a place to be safe and stay active. Parents will be able to drop their kids off and know they're not going to get in trouble.

streets and give them

"And then if the parents want to skate, then there's a night for them, too."

Skate City Rink

805 Southland St., Lansing 1-6 p.m. (birthday parties and open skate) & 8 p.m.midnight (18-up only) Sunday; 7-11 p.m. Monday (Old School Night, 25-up only); 8 p.m.-midnight Tuesday (Gospel Night); 6-9 p.m. Wednesday (Family Night); 7-11 p.m. Thursday (College Night); 6-10 p.m. (under 18 only) & 11 p.m.-2:30 a.m. (open skate) Friday; 9-10:30 a.m. (youth skate lessons), 1-4 p.m. (open skate), 6-10 p.m. (youth only) & 11 p.m.-2:30 a.m. (open skate) Saturday. (517) 887-7000, facebook. com/skatecityrink

com.

Silence Equals Death. Presentation on the heroin epidemic. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

SoupGrant. Crowd-sourcing micro-grants for community projects. 6:30 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing@gmail.com.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adults. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380. Teen Game Haven. Play a variety of games: board, card and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of

from page 17

sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Drum Circle. All ages and levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic. com.

MSU Wind Symphony. Kevin L. Sedatole, conductor; Dali Quartet, guests. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE students. Wharton Center, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike." Comedy about a reunion of siblings. 7 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Jonesin' Crossword

"Inside Out"--a different kind of reversal. Matt Jones

Across

1 Soft serve alternative 6 Be too late for 10 "Briefly," e.g., briefly 13 Clear of vermin 14 Foot or hand, e.g. 15 Participate in a child's game 17 Physically fit Turkish leader? 19 Welles role 20 "Orange" drink 21 Small floor covering 23 Blender brand 25 Bounces back 26 Outranking 29 20-Across, for one 31 "Popeye" surname 32 Pasta or Noodle follower on shelves 33 Sports prodigy 35 " Kapital" 38 Italian dumplings 40 1979 U.K. album cer- ease," casually tified 23 times platinum 66 Dora's cousin with in the U.S. 42 Accepts 43 Bird who makes hourly appearances? 45 Brainstorm result 46 "Alice" diner owner 48 Sloth, e.g. 49 Put on (be phony) 50 Places to pop Jiffy Pop 53 Wash phase 55 Come under harsh criticism 57 Former game show announcer Johnny 60 "Havana" star Lena 6 Beer order

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Thursday Morning Storytime. Stories and crafts. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Chipmunk Story Time. Preschoolers enjoy nature stories, games & crafts. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Friday, March 20

Friday Flicks: "Titanic." Blockbuster epic Crop Storage & Handling. Learn proper storage and handling of varied crops. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3923, allenmarketplace.org/happenings.

By Matt Jones

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61 "That Amin guy who 7 Bad place for a cat to sense!" thought he was King of Scotland, right?" 64 Cushion stickers 65 The "kissing dishis own cartoon 67 "Long, long 68 Frozen waffles brand 69 Be a benefactor Down 1 "Sunrise at Campobello" monogram 2 Agree to another tour

get stuck 8 Exhaled response 9 Long look 10 Be inquisitive, in a wav 11 Nostalgic song about canteen an Oklahoma city? 12 Place for a concert 16 They get tapped 18 "Nothing but _ All Ye Faithful" 22 " 24 Business school course 26 Best Picture winner set in Iran 27 Cartoon impact sound 28 Yoko ablaze? 30 Brando plaved him 3 19th-century writer in "Julius Caesar" 4 He asked us to "Eat It" 33 Dien Bien Vietnam

34 "Now it makes

39 Staff sign for violists 41 Spanish leather bag that looks like a 44 Alive partner 47 "Be that as it may ..." 49 Hint at, with "to" 50 Word in an octagon 51 "Rocky" star Shire 52 Nickelodeon feature for many years 54 Pigeon noise 56 "My Life as (1985 Swedish film) 58 Having no width or depth 59 NASA scratch 62 _-hoo (drink brand) 63 "SMH," verbally

Answers Page 21

36 Jack on "30 Rock"

37 Blinds component

Mud and Mug (21 and Up). Pottery class for beginners and experts. B.Y.O.B. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643. reachstudioart.org/events/mudmug. The Art of Brewing: Tea Edition. Exploring the art of tea. 6:30 p.m. \$45/\$35 members. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

EVENTS

MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit. To benefit MSU Museum programs. 7-9:30 p.m. \$45. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu. Lansing Home & Garden Show. The biggest in Mid-Michigan. Noon-9 p.m. \$9/\$4 children. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Road, East Lansing. (800) 328-6550, lansinghomeshow.com.

Lansing Cosmic Connections Convention. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. \$5 admission. Comfort Inn, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. (810) 631-6887, mariashaw.com.

Shuto Con 2015. Lansing's annual anime convention, 9 a.m.-midnight. See website for rates. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. shutocon.com.

StoryTime. Ages 3-6 years enjoy stories, songs and crafts. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Firefly Storytelling. Join us for the OWMS program. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Tech Time. Teens have access to a cluster of laptops. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl. org.

Grand Ledge Used Book Sale. Hardcovers \$1, 25 cent paperbacks and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib. mi.us.

Sparrow Health System Hiring. Hiring medical assistants. 10-11 a.m. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. jobs.mitalent.org/jobseeker/job-details/JobCode/5648528.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Deadline For Tree Preorders. Tree/shrub fundraiser. Prices vary. Eaton Conservation District. 551 Courthouse Drive, Charlotte. (517) 543-5848, eatoncd.org/plant-sales.

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				6			1	
6				9			7	
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Elvis and the Indiana Blues Brothers. Tribute performance. Call for ticket info. 8 p.m. The Mason Masonic Temple, 840 E. Columbia St., Mason. (517) 676 1721.

MUSIC

Singles TGIF Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 7:30 p.m.-midnight. \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Rd., Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

Hidden Hospitals. With special guests Secret Grief. All ages welcome. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, fusionshows.com.

MSU Symphony Orchestra. MSU Honors Concerto Competition winners. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE for students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu. John D. Lamb & Joe Cartoon. Affinity Singer/

Songwriter Series, 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$15 adv. The Wax, 215 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson. (517) 782-3221, jacksonsymphony.org.

THEATER

"They're Playing Our Song." Rom-com musical. 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/ showinfo.

"Alice@Wonderland." 21st Century Alice visits the Wonderland of old. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 for ages 12 and under. Happendance Studios, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, mmft.org.

"The Wiz." Based on the 1975 musical reimagining of "The Wizard of Oz." 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. elps.us/theater.

"The Garage Sale." Humorous examination of life. 6:30 p.m. \$20 includes dessert buffet. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040 starlightdinnertheatre.com

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike." (For details see March 19.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, March 21 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org. Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10

See Out on the Town, Page 19

INTERMEDIATE

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 21

©201 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 to the second secon

Jewett

Sarah

5 Futile

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

drama. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorecenter.weebly.com.

from page 18

a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Self-Myofascial Release. Self-care alleviate trigger point and chronic sorene. 1-3 p.m. \$10. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 242-1285, lotusvoice48823.com

EVENTS

Paws for Reading. Kids read to therapy dogs. Call to register. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

Grand Ledge Used Book Sale. Hardcovers \$1, 25 cent paperbacks and more. 10 a.m.-noon, Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us. Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184. Lansing Home & Garden Show. The biggest in Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. \$9/\$4 children. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Road, East Lansing. (800) 328-6550, lansinghomeshow.com.

Spring Fling Shopping. Crafts, silent auction and vendors. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Plumber's Local 333 Hall, 5405 S. MLK Blvd., Lansing. (517) 242-4603. onestopshopmidmichigan.weebly.com.

My Little Pony Party. Games, crafts and activities for kids. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Welcome Spring Campfire. Spring campfire and program with guided walk. 7-8:30 p.m. \$3/\$7 family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Chili Cook Off. Chile tasting and competition. 1-3:30 p.m. \$5. The Bath American Legion Post 412, 5480 Clark Road, Bath. bathamericanlegion412.org. Neuroscience Fair. Learn about the nervous system. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. MSU Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building, MSU campus, East Lansing. neuroscience.msu.edu/outreach/fair.html. Shuto Con 2015. Lansing's annual anime convention, Noon-11:59 p.m. See website for rates. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. shutocon.com.

Arduino Lab. Registration required (elpl.org), ages 9 and up. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org. "CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Open House. Art activities for all ages. 2-4 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

March Cat-ness. All cats spayed/neutered, up-todate on vaccines. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. PetSmart (West Lansing), 305 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Best in town. Reserve ahead. 5:30 p.m. \$12. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com. Dinner and Dance. 5:30-11:30 p.m. \$10 dinner/ \$6 dance. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330, liederkranzclub.org.

MUSIC

Jackson Symphony Orchestra. "Mendelssohn,

Brahms and a touch of Exotica." 7:30 p.m. \$18, \$27, \$32. Potter Center, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. (517) 782-3221 ext. 118, jacksonsymphony.org.

THEATER

"They're Playing Our Song." (For details see March 20.) 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 >> SHUTO CON 2015

The streets of downtown Lansing will be overrun with titan-battling military officers and cat-eared cosplayers galore for 2015's Shuto Con anime convention. This year's convention promises an even bigger schedule that celebrates all things anime including art vendors, live music, dedicated gaming halls and visits from top talent in the anime voiceover industry. Guests are encouraged to come in full costume and take part in the convention's "interactive cosplay experience," where you can participate in mock battles with other attendees. Shuto Con began in 2009 with a goal of highlighting artists and cosplayers and has grown exponentially every year since. Friday 9 a.m-Sunday 6 p.m. Check the website for admission information and full schedule. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. shutocon.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20–21 & MARCH 27–28 » 'THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG' AT LCC



Lansing Community College's new musical comedy explores the loving relationship between a neurotic composer and an offbeat lyricist in "They're Playing Our Song." The play, which takes place in the 1970s, tells the story of Sonia and Vernon's colorful relationship. Armed with three alter egos apiece, the two try to sort out their past and make sense of the present. The play is co-written by and based on the lives of famed songwriting duo Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer Sager. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. LCC Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 >> MSU MUSEUM WINE TASTING BENEFIT

The MSU Museum is home to many great exhibits and programs, but sometimes maintaining such a high level excellence requires just a little help from the community. The Kellogg Hotel and Conference center hosts the MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit. Guests can sample over 175 wines from around the world. In between sips, guests can also participate in a silent auction and sign up to win door prizes. All proceeds from the evening benefit programs at the MSU Museum. 7-9:30 p.m. \$45. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu.

(517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

"The Wiz." (For details see March 20.) 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater. "Alice@Wonderland." (For details see March 20.) 3 p.m. \$7/\$5 for ages 12 and under. Happendance Studios, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, mmft. org.

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike." (For details see March 19.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Edmund Unravels Storytime. Stories and crafts. 11 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Collectors' Showcase. Call to register to display your treasured finds. Noon-3 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org/showcase. Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org. Parents of LGBTQ kids. Weekly support group. All faiths are welcome. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. Diversity Psychological Services, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. (720) 401-4214.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson/ FREE for students. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Lansing Home & Garden Show. The biggest in Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$9/\$4 children. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Road, East Lansing. (800) 328-6550, lansinghomeshow.com.

Lets Walk & Talk with a Doctor. Meet with local physicians. 1 p.m. FREE. Hawk Island County

Park, E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (517) 347-3377, choosinghealth-caha.org/lets_walk_talk.php. **Shuto Con 2015.** Lansing's annual anime convention. Noon-6 p.m. See website for rates. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. shutocon.com. **"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn.** Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. "Humanism Evolving." 5 p.m. FREE, \$10.20 buffet optional. Old Great Wall Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 914-2278, atheists.meetup.com/453. Sunday's Avenue Cure All. Make your own Bloody Marys. Breakfast all day. 3-9 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/ avenuecafe2021.

Comedy Night. No cover. \$1 off everything. 7 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Pokemon/Magic the Gathering Card Games. Tutorials for kids. Starter decks provided. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900, facebook.com/everybodyreads.

MUSIC

Mason Orchestral Society concert. Works by Beethoven and more. 4 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. masonorchestras.org. **Restorations.** With guests lan Graham and Little American Champ. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, fusionshows.com.

Sunday Concert: David James. Warm up by the fire with live music. 2 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

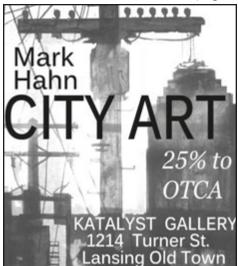
THEATER

"The Wiz." (For details see March 20.) 2 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater.

"Alice@Wonderland." (For details see March 20.) 3 p.m. \$7/\$5 for ages 12 and under. Happendance Studios, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, mmft. org.

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike." (For details see March 19.) 2 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 20



Sunday, March 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

371-5119, ruetenik@gmail.com.

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard

Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517)

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third

floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown

from page 19

Monday, March 23 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout. Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163

Job Seekers Support Group. Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org. Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

EVENTS

Social Bridge. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com. French Club. Practice listening to and speaking French. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, (517) 351-2420, elpl.

org.

Out of This World Book Club. "Lock In" by John Scalzi, 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl. org.

Monday Movie Matinee. Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

BabyTime. Intended for ages 1-18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org. Homework Help. Free drop-in tutoring provided by MSU's SMEA. K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

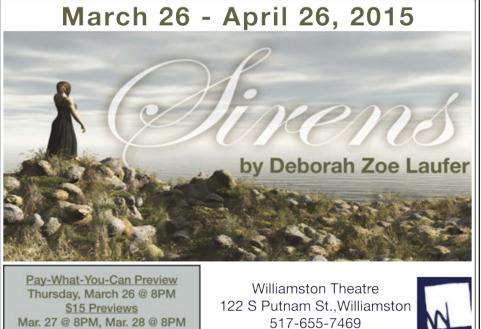
"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

The Ghost Inside. With guests The Acacia Strain, Gideon and more. 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$16. The Loft, (at Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. fusionshows.com.

Operation Anime. Ages 10-15. Explore anime

4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos, (517) 706-5045. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's





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R A D I O

BEYOND THE NAKED EYE: **EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY** A lecture presentation by Photographer Vincent Brady

Sunday, March 29 | 7pm Dart Auditorium Free Event

COLLEGE

MUMMENSCHANZ THE MUSICIANS OF SILENCE



Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30PM

Since its hit run on Broadway decades ago, Mummenschanz has been enchanting all ages with its clever, funny world of creatures, situations, colors and shapes. Ordinary materials become giant balloons, huge slinkies and more, creating a universe and telling "stories" where the only sound is audience laughter.

"Witty madness...dazzling and delightful." -The New York Times

"What Mummenschanz does so extraordinarily well is create its own comic universe - a place of constant wonder and ingenuity." -Boston Herald

MUSIC

Tuesday, March 24 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

with videos and drawing. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing, (517) 321-4014 ext. 3., dtdl.org, Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

German Basics. Class size limited to 15. 3-

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Mar. 29 @ 2PM, Apr. 2 @ 8PM

Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

www.williamstontheatre.org

Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos, (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com. Hearing Screening. No appointment needed. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave.,

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public

5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL

Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517)

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-

6:45 p.m. FREE. EVERYbody Reads Books and Stuff,

2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Chair Massage. Call for an appointment. 9:30 a.m.-

12:30 p.m. \$14/\$12 for members. Meridian Senior

together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room,

Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

367-6300, cadl.org.

Business Startup Basics. What it takes to start/ run a thriving business. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Federal Credit Union, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. To support you in your weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163. H.E.R.O.: Framing a Room Wall. Call to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture in everyday settings. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

ToddlerTime. Ages 18-36 months listen to stories and music. 10:15-10:45 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By

THEATRE



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from page 20

MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

MUSIC

New Found Glory. With guests Turnstile, The Wild Life and more. 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$20. The Loft, (at Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. fusionshows.com.

Off With Their Heads. With guests Pears, the Hunky Newcomers and more. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, fusionshows.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Sami S. Chetrit Reading. Reading by Israeli poet. 7 p.m. FREE. RCAH Auditorium, Snyder/Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcah.msu.edu/calendar.html.

Wednesday, March 25 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170, artmuseum.msu.edu.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Story Art Time. Make art inspired by storybooks. Ages 2-5. 10-11 a.m. \$5/adults FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/events/storytime.

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

Walk-In Wednesdays. Drop-In Art Class. All ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE (\$5 suggested donation). Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Life Reimagined. Get help from AARP in achieving your goals. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

Knit & Knot So Much. Knitting and Crochet Group. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE, donations accepted. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

EVENTS

Strategy Game Night. Learn and share favorite

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games. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4., dtdl.org.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174. **Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Guest Speaker at ANC. Presentation and coffee. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3912, allenneighborhoodcenter.org. **Trevor Paglen: Landscapes.** Photography and sculpture. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu. **Knitting and Crochet Group.** All ages and levels welcome. Now at the library. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org. **MSU Creative Writing Center.** All types of writers

are encouraged to attend. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Crafternoon. Teens create a magnet craft. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org. "CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916. "What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA

Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

MUSIC

Uke Play-A-Long. Learn how to play chords and songs on the ukulele. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com. **Handel's Xerxes.** Presented by MSU Opera Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"The Wiz." (For details see March 20.) 7 p.m. \$10/\$5 Children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater.

	CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 18													
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Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're entering a time and space known as the Adlib Zone. In this territory, fertile chaos and inspirational uncertainty are freely available. Improvised formulas will generate stronger mojo than timeworn maxims. Creativity is de rigueur, and street smarts count for more than book-learning. May I offer some mottoes to live by when "common sense" is inadequate? 1. Don't be a slave to necessity. 2. Be as slippery as you can be and still maintain your integrity. 3. Don't just question authority; be thrilled about every chance you get to also question habit, tradition, fashion, trendiness, apathy, and dogma.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): By 1993, rock band Guns N' Roses had released five successful albums. But on the way to record their next masterpiece, there were numerous delays and diversions. Band members feuded. Some were fired and others departed. Eventually, only one original member remained to bring the task to conclusion with the help of new musicians. The sixth album, *Chinese Democracy*, finally emerged in 2008. I'm seeing a similarity between Guns N' Roses' process and one of your ongoing projects, Taurus. The good news is that I think most of the hassles and delays are behind you, or will be if you act now. You're primed to make a big push toward the finish line.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The anonymous blogger at Neurolove.me gives advice on how to love a Gemini: "Don't get impatient with their distractibility. Always make time for great conversation. Be understanding when they're moody. Help them move past their insecurities, and tell them it's not their job to please everyone. Let them have space but never let them be lonely." I endorse all that good counsel, and add this: "To love Geminis, listen to them attentively, and with expansive flexibility. Don't try to force them to be consistent; encourage them to experiment at uniting their sometimes conflicting urges. As best as you can, express appreciation not just for the parts of them that are easy to love but also for the parts that are not yet ripe or charming." Now feel free, Gemini, to show this horoscope to those whose affection you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have recently been to the mountaintop, at least metaphorically. Right? You wandered out to the high frontier and ruminated on the state of your fate from the most expansive vista you could find. Right? You have questioned the limitations you had previously accepted, and you have weaned yourself from at least one of your devitalizing comforts, and you have explored certain possibilities that had been taboo. Right? So what comes next? Here's what I suggest: Start building a new framework or structure or system that will incorporate all that you've learned during your break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to the international code of food standards, there are 13 possible sizes for an olive. They include large, extra large, jumbo, extra jumbo, giant, colossal, super colossal, mammoth, and super mammoth. If I had my way, Leo, you would apply this mind-set to everything you do in the coming weeks. It's time for you to think very big. You will thrive as you expand your mind, stretch your boundaries, increase your territory, amplify your self-expression, magnify your focus, and broaden your innocence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Half the troubles of this life can be traced to saying yes too quickly and not saying no soon enough," proclaimed humorist Josh Billings. That's an exaggeration made for comic effect, of course. (And I think that some of life's troubles also come from saying no too much and not saying yes enough.) But for you, Virgo, Billings' advice will be especially pertinent in the coming weeks. In fact, my hypothesis is that you will be able to keep your troubles to a minimum and boost your progress to a maximum by being frugal with yes and ample with no. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your mind says, "I need more room to move. I've got to feel free to experiment." Your heart says, "I think maybe I need more commitment and certainty." Your astrologer suggests, "Be a bit more skeptical about the dream lover who seems to be interfering with your efforts to bond with the Real Thing." I'm not sure which of these three sources you should heed, Libra. Do you think it might somehow be possible to honor them all? I invite you to try.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Without your wound where would your power be?" asked writer Thornton Wilder. "The very angels themselves cannot persuade the wretched and blundering children on earth as can one human being broken on the wheels of living." Let's make that one of your ongoing meditations, Scorpio. I think the coming weeks will be an excellent time to come to a greater appreciation for your past losses. What capacities has your suffering given birth to? What failures have made you stronger? What crucial lessons and unexpected benefits have emerged from your sadness and madness?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Creating is not magic but work," says Kevin Ashton, author of the book *How to Fly a Horse: The Secret History of Creation, Invention, and Discovery.* In other words, inspiration is a relatively small part of the creative process. Over the long haul, the more important factors are self-discipline, organized thinking, hard work, and attention to detail. And yet inspiration isn't irrelevant, either. Brainstorms and periodic leaps of insight can be highly useful. That's a good reminder as you enter a phase when you're likely to be more imaginative and original than usual. I expect creative excitement to be a regular visitor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The fictional detective Sherlock Holmes was a good Capricorn, born January 6, 1854. In the course of Arthur Conan Doyle's 60 stories about his life, he revealed his exceptional talent as an analytical thinker. His attention to details was essential to his success, and so was his expertise at gathering information. He did have a problem with addictive drugs, however. Morphine tempted him now and then, and cocaine more often, usually when he wasn't feeling sufficiently challenged. Let this serve as a gentle warning, Capricorn. In the coming weeks, seek more relaxation and downtime than usual. Focus on recharging your psychic batteries. But please be sure that doesn't cause you to get bored and then dabble with selfsabotaging stimuli.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): English is my first language. Years ago there was a time when I spoke a lot of French with my Parisian girlfriend, but my skill faded after we broke up. So I'm not bilingual in the usual sense. But I do have some mastery in the language of music, thanks to my career as a singer-songwriter. Having raised a daughter, I also learned to converse in the language of children. And I've remembered and worked with my nightly dreams every day for decades, so I speak the language of dreams. What about you, Aquarius? In the coming weeks, I bet you'll be challenged to make more extensive use of one of your second languages. It's time to be adaptable and resourceful in your approach to communication

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do you need a reason to think sharper and work smarter and try harder? I'll give you four reasons. 1. Because you're finally ready to get healing for the inner saboteur who in the past has undermined your confidence. 2. Because you're finally ready to see the objective truth about one of your self-doubts, which is that it's a delusion. 3. Because you're finally ready to stop blaming an adversary for a certain obstacle you face, which means the obstacle will become easier to overcome. 4. Because you're finally ready to understand that in order to nurture and hone your ample creativity, you have to use it to improve your life on a regular basis.

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

Mar. <u>18-24</u>



As I stood outside the Good Truckin' Diner in Lansing's REO Town, "Nighthawks" came to mind. The diner occupies a low-slung structure sandwiched between taller buildings on a dull city block — a shoe box

• wedged between packing crates. The place was devoid of custom-• ers. I sighed.

At this point I remind myself that first impressions are often wrong, something I have to remind myself all too often.

Yes, we were the only two customers on this blustery winter • day. But that soon changed. Besides, Good Truckin' is jam-packed

• with potential and darned fine eating. Our friend and frequent dining companion, Bruce, said it best. "Diners are keepsakes. These places need to be kept around."

The odds may not favor the Good Truckin' Diner. • Before it opened last November, there were at least three previous restaurant incarnations in this spot. The last,

Famous Taco, seemed to vanish before the salsa was • prepped.

But here's why I think Good Truckin' will thrive: There's a creative vibe about the place that begins with funky decor and far-out names for their entrees and ends with an obvious love for taking food in new and better directions.

I had a Hangover. Let me rephrase that. I ordered the Hangover. It's a splendid riff on traditional biscuits and gravy. The Hangover (\$6.99) comes with two lightly fried • eggs, fresh-baked biscuits, subtly seasoned white gravy • and smoked pulled pork. I asked if their pork is "homesmoked." It is.

Judy had the Low Country (\$7.99). The smoked pork made an encore bow inside a flour tortilla, mixed with • scrambled eggs, green peppers and a spot of barbecue sauce. Judy praised the abundance of pork. Her one minor quibble: She wished the tortilla were crisper.

Waiting for our orders to arrive - if the place is busy, expect to wait - I soaked

See He Ate. Page 23

big three were Theio's, the now defunct USA Café (They had sliders that I loved. Back • then they were just called "tiny hamburgers."), and Flap Jack. In the years since, I've • looked around for a restaurant that could be my go-to weekend breakfast spot. The

nearer to my house, the better. Now that Good Truckin' Diner has arrived on the scene and their food truck has blossomed into a brickand-mortar business, I'm feeling good about my breakfast prospects.

The diner is owned by two local guys, which I like. I also liked when, on a recent visit, the boyfriend and I walked in and interrupted a conversation between owner and cook about the merits of Terrance Howard. ("He's a modern-day Denzel," they said. "He can play anybody from a pimp to a lawyer.") I like that everything on the menu is affordable. But most important, and this is something that

has managed to elude many restaurant owners in the area, it's open on the weekends. Saturday and Sunday.

> On our first visit, the boyfriend had the Diesel Breakfast (at \$9.99, one of the most expensive items on the menu). This plate comes loaded with two eggs, two pancakes or French toast, biscuits and gravy, bacon and potatoes. His meal was typical diner fare. Granted, these usual suspects don't allow much room for creativity, and creative they weren't.

My Miklo omelet (\$7.99) was much better — a three-egg omelet with chorizo, pickled red onions, potatoes, cheddar cheese, queso fresco, sour cream and cilantro. I have been absolutely housing chorizo-stuffed breakfast casseroles and frittatas for the last few months, and this omelet gave me exactly the fix I needed. The chorizo was spicy and a tad greasy - just as chorizo should be — and the queso fresco and sour cream topping cooled things off a bit. I ate the entire omelet, a few of the uninspired and lukewarm home fries and one bit . of toast. The toast was thin, unbuttered grocery store bread, so I wasn't missing much. I drank more than my fair share of 9 hot, fresh, constantly replenished coffee (\$1.99) and the boyfriend enjoyed his gargantuan glass of orange juice (\$1.99). On a return visit, I noticed a board advertising \$1 breakfast tacos. I

remembered the above-average fish tacos I had from the Good Truckin' food truck last

See She Ate. Page 23

ingerman's Born & raised in FO(Now carrying bread from HOUSE NATURAL . FRESH . ORGANIC **NEW HOURS TO SERVE YOU BETTER!** Mon - Sat: 8am - 9pm | Sun: 9am - 8 pm (517) 324-9010 foodsforliving.com Employee-owned and 2655 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing proudly serving the community for 17 years Delivered fresh 7 days a weel Corner of Park Lake Rd. & Grand River Ave.

22

1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (517) 253-7961 \$

Good Truckin' Diner's breakfast tacos are a steal at just \$1 a piece.

Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

Good Truckin' Diner 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 • p.m. Saturday-Sunday; closed Monday

He Ate

from page 22

up the surroundings. Good Truckin' originated as a food truck, and its new, permanent digs aren't much bigger. There are four booths, six seats at the counter and room for a table or two. Walk five paces from your booth seat and you are standing over a hot griddle.

If you don't care to watch the cooks prepare your food (I do), spend some time drinking in the decor. There's the business end of a parking meter squatting on each booth table. Two arrowed signs adorn the space above the counter. The arrow pointing to the kitchen says Naughty. The one pointing toward the patrons says Nice.

I'm not sure the daily reality at Good Truckin' involves perpetually nice customers, but I did notice on our second visit that nearly everyone knew somebody in the joint and laughter flourished.

We lunched on our second visit. We arrived at 11:30 a.m. Too late. The place was packed. At least we got to stand inside while we waited for a table; others waited outside on yet another crummy winter day.

I ordered a burger called the Old Town Tavern. While the server didn't ask how we wanted our burgers cooked, it didn't matter. The patties were well-cooked but still juicy. The Old Town Tavern (\$8.99) comes with strips of applewood smoked bacon, cheddar cheese, bourbon sauce and "drunken" onions, served on a pretzel roll.

The caramelized onions take the prize, their sweetness playing off the salty bacon. I also tasted a hint of garlic. This is one of Greater Lansing's best burgers.

Judy had the West Coast (\$9.49), and asked for smoked pork in place of the chicken. This avocado-inspired sandwich comes with bacon, Swiss cheese and "Awesome Sauce" that tastes like a good aioli. Personally, I would have gone with the chicken, but the West Coast is nonetheless a winner.

Bruce had the ImBoring (\$6.99) which, as the name implies, is a basic burger with the usual deluxe trimmings.

Jan and I both ordered the soup du jour (\$3.49 for a generous bowl), a chicken-based soup with rice and topped with crisp corn tortilla chips. There were just enough chunks of jalapeno to give it a kick. But the overall effect was too much salt. I suggest some quality control.

On Lansing's north side is the Golden Harvest, which has an almost cult-like following where people gladly wait outside for a chance to dine in the restaurant's claustrophobic confines.

I believe Good Truckin' Diner has the potential to be Golden Harvest's southside twin. It's that good — and not a Nighthawk in sight.

She Ate

from page 22

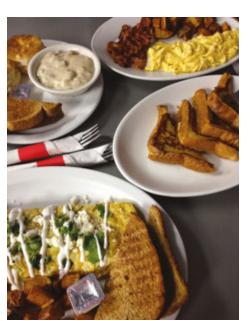
summer — and since the boyfriend and I remarkably weren't trying to out-eat each other that day — we decided to split four tacos and an order of French toast (\$6.99).

The tacos are where the diner shines. They show personality in their bold (and, for the record, absolutely correct) choice of corn tortillas over the more popular (and way crappier) flour tortillas. The tortillas are filled with scrambled eggs, shredded cheddar cheese, and a choice of meat (we picked chorizo, obviously) or potatoes. For \$1 a pop, you can't beat these little breakfast tacos.

The French toast was completely milquetoast. I would say that we didn't even finish it, but that would be a lie. However, the thought did cross our minds. It just wasn't worth the calories to eat something that tasted so strongly of nothing.

I returned with a pal for lunch. Being a normal person, I chose to each lunch food for lunch. My weirdo companion chose to drink coffee and eat a Good Truckin' Morning (\$4.99) — two scrambled eggs, home fries, toast and bacon. He said the eggs were well prepared and the home fries were properly seasoned and crispy. I ordered the toasted ravioli (\$5.49) and the Bacon Me

Sun-Wed 11 a.m.-midnight Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.



Gabriele Johnson/City Pulse Good Truckin' Diner in REO Town offers Mexican-inspired diner cuisine and specialty burgers.

Crazy sandwich (\$7.99), and added fries for an extra dollar. The toasted ravioli made for an interesting and flavorful appetizer, and I was happy to pack up more than half of the order to take home for the boyfriend. The sandwich had strips of bacon, greens, an oddly flavorless roasted tomato and poblano aioli on grilled sourdough. I could have easily, and with minimal effort, slapped this

sandwich

together in my own kitchen. The fries, while hand-cut and freshly prepared, were completely unsalted and, again, not worth the calories. Maybe I should have stuck with breakfast food.

And that's what I will do in the future. I'm thrilled that Good Truckin' Diner is within walking distance of my house and that the hours make sense. You want people to come in for breakfast? Be open early. Want people to eat at your place on the weekends? Be open on the weekends. This little place has some kinks to work out, but this enthusiastic eater sees a lot of potential.



fed Cedar spirits™

Cocktail Bar & Distillery

Enjoy Red Cedar Spirits high quality spirits--all made here at our distillery. Savor them in our many new age cocktails as well as in traditional drinks. We make our cocktails using fresh squeezed fruit juice, fresh herbs and other unique ingredients.



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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

Rodney Whitaker Quartet with Betty Baxter • Twyla Birdsong Rockelle Fortin • Betty Joplin



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