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January 7-13, 2015



A song and dance

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WLNS ANCHOR EVAN PINSONNAULT LEAVING FOR L.A. • p. 12



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Feedback

City Market is a former city treasure lost to progress

I read with interest the article entitled "Market Slide" about the new City Market. I have visited the market three times since it's opening in 2010, and to my dismay walked out empty handed.

This market is nothing compared to the Municipal Market that was just to the north of the present building. The old market had the class and charm of an earlier time. It was primitive compared to the current city market, but it was crowded with buyers seeking the finest produce in the area. It offered seasonal produce from local farmers, fresh meats and poultry, cheeses, baked goods, and Christmas wreaths and trees. How sad to see such a gem lost to what some call progress.

As a child I remember going to the market each fall with my mother to buy bushels of tomatoes for canning. The market had several vendors who had been there for years selling tomatoes and other fresh produce. Walking from stall to stall to find the finest tomatoes at the best price. There were so many vendors selling tomatoes it was nearly impossible to get a bum deal. My mother would can a hundred or more quarts of Michigan's best tomatoes to use until the next season of tomatoes came into the market. You could tell when spring was arriving in the city by the flats of flowers and vegetable plants at the market. The vendors carried several varieties of perennial and annuals of any color that you could imagine. Thinking back to those days I still remember the fragrant smells

announcing springs arrival.

People would get flowers to decorate graves on Decoration Day which is now Memorial Day. You could buy trees of many species for planting in your yard that someday would produce fruit or shade.

Fall was my favorite time at the market, where fresh seasonal favorites would be displayed for sale. The bushel baskets of peaches, pears, and any kind of apple one could imagine. Stall after stall of apples like Jonathan, red and yellow delicious, spy, McIntosh and so many more to choose from. Vendors would have sample trays of apples for the customer to try. Apple cider was available from many vendors who pressed their own apples to make the fall drink; they too had samples for the customers to try. Other fall items at the market were pumpkins, gourds, squash, dried flowers, and so many other popular items.

It is no wonder that the market is losing vendors. The building is not even visible from Cedar Street.

What's going to happen if a casino is put into the area between the market and the Lansing Center?

There is little parking now, what will it be like then? There is nearly no produce at the market.. The Municipal Market, like so many other treasures in this city has been lost to progress.

The farmers markets are nice, but don't compare to what was.

Thank goodness for Horrocks and Lansing Gardens for produce and spring flowers.

— R. Hodges
Lansing

CityPULSE

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Curbside clothing recycling makes money for Lansing



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Celloist Bion Tsang sings with a cello at Saturday's Lansing Symphony concert



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UNCORKED: Matching wine with local Mexican cuisine



COVER ART

"FIDDLSTICKS!" by NEVIN SPEERBRECKER

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THIS WEEK

- MIRS editor Kyle Melinn
- City Pulse associate publisher Mickey Hirten
- Editor Belinda Thurston
- Ten Pound fiddle co-founder Bob Blackman
- Stephen Esquith, Dean of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at MSU



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

Correction

Because of an editing error, a story in the Dec. 31 issue on filling the Ingham County Register of Deeds post incorrectly reported the process for selecting a replacement. A three-member committee comprising Ingham County Clerk Barbara Byrum, Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III and Chief Probate Judge Richard Garcia will pick the successor to Curtis Hertel Jr., who was sworn in as a state senator on Thursday.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Market questions

What should happen with the Lansing City Market?

After a recent City Pulse article about the declining number of vendors and foot traffic at the Lansing City, Tim Barron said on his radio show the market “could possibly move to Old Town.”

Barron, chairman of the board of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, which manages the market, clarified Monday: “There are many plans and that’s just one possibility. There’s lots of possibilities.”

But he ended it there. “I have no intention of giving an interview,” he said of his comments about the beleaguered and beloved City Market.

Randy Hannan, Lansing’s deputy chief of staff said, “There are no plans to relocate the City Market.”

City of Lansing Planning Director Bob Johnson echoed Hannan.

“You talk about what ifs. What if we talked about a new parking structure here or there? What if we get a new hotel? We talk about things, but there are no plans for it to move anywhere.”

The state of the market is one that evokes passionate if not critical commentary from the public.

City Pulse asked readers what they thought would make the market thrive, whether the city should be in the business at all and if it moved, where it should go.

Here’s some of your responses:

Advertising

“Both the merchants and the ‘palace’ need to advertise. The (City Market) should increase the signage and advertise but the merchants need to be proactive and let people know that they exist. Businesses in strip malls don’t rely on the building owner to advertise, they do it themselves.”
- Sabato Caputo

LEPFA officials have said there are plans to market the market and target vendor offerings based on what customer surveys reveal. The City Market itself hasn’t posted anything new on its Facebook account since Dec. 19. It’s Twitter account has been posting about free parking the last few days. But marketing efforts by vendors are spotty. The Waterfront Bar & Grille does print and digital advertising, as does Red’s Smokehouse, one of the newer vendors. But Hickory Corners Greenhouse and Gardens hasn’t updated its Facebook posts since 2011.

Vendor options don’t make sense

“I hate that it’s turning into ‘any vendor that fills a spot.’ The vendors that they have don’t make sense together. I’m never going to go buy Chinese food, a five-minute massage and a bottle of wine.” - Kristen Adams

Last month Gus Pine, vice president of sales and marketing for LEPFA, said efforts are under way to attract the vendors customers want. Pine said there is a marketing plan and LEPFA is surveying customers to find out what they want and where they get their information. They will know the survey results by the end of February.

Hours are strange

Some readers say they’d like to shop after work.

The City Market is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (in the summer).

Should the city be in the business of running a market?

“Grand Rapids and Milwaukee are great examples of markets that work. Our historic market had great potential. It had visibility, parking, prime location, a delightful park setting. ... The new location on the river was designed to fail. Developers want the location for more profitable ventures. Tear the pole barn down.” Jeffrey Wood

Dick Ramsdell, manager of the Flint Farmers Market,



Belinda Thurston/City Pulse

Many are critical of the management and direction of the Lansing City Market. Signage and marketing are lacking, according to some.

said his facility has seen significant growth since moving to a new facility in June that has eight times the space of the old facility. It has 50 vendors and 30 more outside in the summer. It is open three days a week and intentionally didn’t add more days. He said they’ve seen an increase in customers since opening — almost 400,000 in the six months since opening, compared to about 270,000 customers a year the last few years. The City of Flint was going to sell the market in 2002 because “the city was broke,” Ramsdell said. The Downtown Redevelopment Corp. took over the market and runs it today.

“I know you’ve had a lot of difficulty down there in Lansing and a lot of dissatisfaction right from the start,” he said. “You’ve got that new little market and new little building. Parking is a big issue, I know.”

Ramsdell said everything isn’t perfect. There are some vendors who will likely be leaving because they can’t afford the rent and aren’t making enough money. He said the “honeymoon period” is over and keeping a good mix of vendors will be a challenge.

“A market is all about balance,” he said.

Other local farmers markets are competing business away.

“Its function has been replaced by farmer’s markets such



Property: 1503 Turner Street, Lansing

Owner: Pyramid Enterprise, East Lansing

Assessed: \$37,200

Along the first several blocks of Turner Street near Grand River, the streetscape is cohesive and lined with pleasant, occasionally eccentric buildings. Just south of this building, the street’s character transitions from quirky and commercial to industrial and often dilapidated. The house is affected by a collection of issues typical of neglected buildings. Formerly fashionable asphalt brick veneer covers the exterior, excepting those places where it has broken away to reveal the wood siding beneath. The entrances are covered with sheets of plywood. Wires lay draped across the porch roofs and the eavestroughs are alternately detached or damaged.

When built at the end of the 19th century, this house probably served as a single-family residence. Dividing older buildings into duplex apartments is not unusual; it may even provide a sensible solution to address increasing rents. However, possibly indicating the stresses faced in this neighborhood, this building has been chopped into several tiny units. Although the resulting apartments may be more affordable, the conversion from single to multi-family is rarely beneficial for the building. Cheap partitions, makeshift plumbing lines and low-quality finishes are usually installed, while new openings are created to accommodate the revised floor plans. The result seen here is not uncommon.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

“Eyesore of the Week” is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates each week with Eye Candy of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.

The clothes off your back

New recycling service makes money from the clothes you throw away

By BELINDA THURSTON

At a penny a pound the City of Lansing may have found easy money out of what you throw away.

In the first few weeks of using an Ohio-based company, Simple Recycling, to haul away clothes and some household items, nearly 36,000 pounds of material was picked up, according to Lori Welch, environmental specialist for the City of Lansing. That means about \$360 for the city. At that rate nearly \$10,000 in cash could flow into the city's coffers in a year, eliminating tens of thousands of pounds of perfectly usable items from being buried.

The city is "mainly motivated by keeping stuff out of landfills," Welch said. "The main mission is to reduce waste. As a bonus, they do pay us a penny a pound for the material collected in the city. It has not been clearly identified how it will be used. Maybe beautification projects."

The new service is offered in Lansing,

East Lansing and some communities around Detroit. Simple Recycling launched in Lansing Dec. 1. The city gives the company the list of addresses of residents who receive recycling service and Simple Recycling mails them info and a special bag for materials like clothing and textiles and soft goods. It costs residents nothing. They just set out the Simple Recycling bag on their normal recycling day. Simple Recycling picks it up.

Welch said the service has another sideline benefit: less unsightly piles of items around donation bins around town.

"It would sure be nice if it would reduce that," Welch said. "Those bins can become dumping grounds unfortunately. It would be definitely a plus to keep those bins neat."

Officials with Simple Recycling could not be reached for comment.

Some are concerned the new service will hurt local nonprofit thrift store operations.

Deborah Mulcahey, a Lansing resident, wonders if people will choose to place their items on the curb for simplicity and stop taking items to places like the Volunteers of America Thrift Store or St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store in REO Town.

Steve Maiville, director at St. Vincent said, "We're not anticipating a big impact. We have a loyal group of donors who seek us out to donate."

"Time will tell more than anything else," he said.

According to the Secondary Materials



Photo provided

Lansing offers its recycling customer the option to also use Simple Recycling, curbside clothing and textile recycling.

and Recycled Textiles Association, recycling old clothing and other textiles is a \$1 billion industry. Forty-five percent of items that are collected either curbside,

from bins or that are unsold from charities are bundled and resold either to other secondhand clothing markets in the U.S. or exported to "emerging market nations where demand for top quality secondhand clothing is particularly high," according to the association's website.

Maiville said selling to the textile recycling market "is a source of income" for St. Vincent as well.

"A penny a pound is low," he said. "We get more than that."

He said the market can pay 8 to 20 cents per pound for used and unwanted clothing and textiles. Recycling of clothing and textiles is "multiple layers deep," he said.

Items "wind up in parts of Africa, Eastern Europe, Ukraine," he said. "The market will vary depending upon availability of the items overseas."

He said the price for clothing has declined because of Ebola. There's less ground transportation available to get the items into Africa, he said.

Maiville said 65 percent of products like clothing and textiles get recycled in Britain but only 15 percent is recycled in the U.S.

"We're a great throwaway society," he said.

Welch agreed.

"It's very easy to say that perfectly good stuff gets thrown away in the trash," she said. "Whether they do it because they don't know of another option or have no means to deal with it responsibly. But yes, some percentage of perfectly good stuff ends up in the waste stream."

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PUBLIC NOTICES



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

In accordance with the Board of Water & Light's Rules of Administrative Procedure, a schedule of dates, places, and times for each regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year shall be adopted in November.

RESOLVED, That regular meetings of the Board of Water & Light's Board of Commissioners are hereby set for calendar year 2015 as follows, unless otherwise notified or as a result of date conflicts with rescheduled City Council meetings:

2015 Board of Water and Light Commissioners Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 27
Tuesday	March 31
Tuesday	May 26
Tuesday	July 28
Tuesday	September 22
Tuesday	November 17

Meetings will be held in Board of Water and Light's REO Town Depot, located at 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, at 5:30 p.m.

In the event a special meeting or rescheduled meeting is held, a notice will be posted in the Board of Water & Light Headquarters' Lobby, 1201 Haco Drive, Lansing, Michigan, at least 18 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

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Lows and highs

Legislature punts on roads and funding

As legislators prepare for their mid-January return to the Capitol — the Republicans empowered and the Democrats weakened — it's worth remembering the just-ended lame duck session: What the old Legislature did and what it didn't do. It can stumble either



MICKEY HIRTEN

way, and when it comes to hard choices and leadership — that is, fixing our roads — it did both.

Lacking the political starch to address the decades of neglect that burdens Michigan with some of the worst roads in the nation, the Legislature punted, telling voters they will have

to decide what to do. It authorized a ballot proposal for a May vote on a constitutional amendment to raise the sales tax from 6 to 7 percent and tossed into the mix all sorts of sweeteners. The ballot measure would add about \$300 million for school funding, roughly \$200 per student, drop the sales tax on fuel, restore some low income tax relief and pave the way for thousands of road construction jobs. Good old pork barrel politics.

If approved, the higher sales tax will add as much as \$1.3 billion a year to the \$2 billion already allocated for road repairs. By scheduling the vote for May, traditionally a very low-turnout election, a less representative sample of voters than shows up for a primary in November will determine the outcome. The lobbying effort for passage will be fierce, with construction interests, educators, teachers and some business groups pushing for a "yes" vote.

Opposing, so far, are no-tax groups like Michigan Taxpayers Alliance and Americans for Prosperity of Michigan, the local chapter of the Koch Brothers' income-inequality support group. Usually, if they and their supporters are for something, I'm against it. But not this time.

Funding roads using sales tax revenue places the largest relative cost on those least able to pay. A sales tax is regressive.

An analysis in 2013 by the Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy found that for the poor, those earning \$16,000 a year or less, Michigan sales tax payments consumed 3 percent of their total income.

As incomes rise, the relative burden of sales taxes decreases. Consider the legislators who initiated the road-funding plan. Their House and Senate salaries, a minimum of \$71,685 a year, place them in the \$52,000-to-\$83,000 tier, where sales taxes account for just 1.8 percent of total income. And since many legislators have additional income, they really belong in the top tier, where the tax is about a half percent of annual income.

This, of course, isn't why Americans for Prosperity of Michigan dislikes the proposal.

It would be just as opposed to a fairer plan like funding the roads with income tax

revenue, a somewhat more progressive tax.

But you take your allies where you find them. And still feeling the glow of the holiday season, it's possible to tease some positives from the just-ended session.

The Legislature passed revisions to the state's Freedom of Information Act, which requires government to respond to people's requests for information. In most sessions, the Legislature creates more exemptions to transparency; this year it added some teeth to the law. Public bodies will be required to cut their FOIA fees if they don't respond to requests in a timely fashion. Fees for documents will be more consistent, and the new law establishes an appeal process for unreasonably high document costs. The bill awaits a signature from Gov. Rick Snyder. There were bills to help Detroit (and other struggling communities) by allowing homeowners to restructure their tax debt and avoid foreclosure, a grant of tax-exempt status to the long-proposed M1 city rail project and a measure helping refurbish neighborhoods.

The Legislature approved new quarters for the Senate, an expenditure that could cost as much as \$70 million. It would have cost as much as \$16 million to fix up the existing offices, but the entire process was shrouded in secrecy and that option was rejected. Think of the expense this way. There are 38 senators, which works out to about \$1.8 million for each of them and the support staff.

A bill passed requiring police to collect DNA from anyone arrested on a felony charge. This conforms with a U.S Supreme Court ruling. The American Civil Liberties Union initially opposed the legislation, but it shifted to neutral when the measure was modified to require destruction of the data if there is no conviction.

The "what didn't happen" side of the ledger includes bills to regulate medical marijuana, reform prison sentencing, lengthen term limits, apportion Electoral College votes in presidential elections and extend civil rights protections to the LGBT community.

The LGBT civil rights issue was at play in the push to legislate a Michigan Freedom of Religion Restoration Act. It too failed. The measure as proposed in HB5958 would "limit governmental actions that substantially burden a person's exercise of religion." It was perceived by opponents as an anti-gay measure that would allow discrimination in housing, the work place and commerce based on firmly held religious beliefs.

The standard at play is whether the government's compelling interest outweighs the right to practice religion without government interference. The bill defined exercise of religion as practices "substantially motivated by a sincerely held religions belief, whether or not compelled by or central to a system of religious beliefs."

That would be the Satanist display on the Capital lawn just before Christmas. Or the nativity scene. The Freedom of Religion Restoration Act attempts to regulate what should be tolerance on either side of the issue — that is, compromise. Keeping the issue out of the hands of ever-more partisan politicians and courts is a good non call from the Legislature.



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City Market

from page 5

as in Meridian Township, East Lansing, Allen St., etc. I question why the City of Lansing should be in the market business at this point." Steve Foe

The Allen Street Farmers Market opened in 2004 and is open on Wednesdays year round.

Joan Nelson, director of the Allen Neighborhood Association, which runs the market, said the success of the market depends on the success of the vendors. Allen Street Farmers Market accepts multiple types of currency — WIC coupons, debit and EBT. Allen Street has different rates for vendors for winter and summer. City Market has a flat rate.

"There were several years when the City Market was lively and busy as were we," she said. "I don't think that the mere existence of the Allen Street Farmers Market impacts the City market. On the issue of saturation I think that readers probably make a point. When we started in 2004, we were one of three farmers markets in the region. We are now one of 26. We are probably reaching saturation."

The City Market is in the midst of transformation, she said.

"The City Market has gone through many multiple transformations in the last several years. I think what will happen is once the Market Place Apartments are filled the City Market will probably transform once again ... They'll figure out how to be pertinent to those folks."

What does John Hooper have to say?

"It has become clear that our developer

friendly local government never had an interest in the Market succeeding. LEPPA has done our community a grievous disservice. Has anyone from your publication contacted former market manager John Hooper and the group of individuals who attempted to save the original Market? I would love to hear their thoughts on this matter." ~ Steve Butts

John Hooper, former manager of the City Market, did talk to City Pulse.

"I guess basically I'm saddened and disheartened by the state of the market today," he said. "We had a great vision. We had a huge buy-in by the community ...

"When we opened that market we had 70,000 people that day. It was packed with vendors. We did an amazing job with \$1.6 million.

"When I say I'm disheartened, I'm mostly saddened by the current state of where it's come to. The vendors and entrepreneurs when the new market opened was a very dynamic group. We had people from every aspect of the food chain. It had transformed downtown Lansing from a food desert to an actual destination. But the one thing that was lacking was support. It started with LEPPA and I'll place it right at Virg's (Mayor Virg Bernero) feet.

"The market could have been the focal point of our community. It could have been a destination. But without the support and the financial resources it wasn't meant to be.

Slowly I watched vendors fall away. They could not sustain their livelihood there. It became apparent with years of empty promises that we would never get the support we needed.

I decided to step away.

"It's lacking on what it takes to build a community."

Hooper said he does believe the city should be in the business of running the

market as a placemaking and community building tool. He said he doesn't believe the sole mission is to be a small business incubator.

He doesn't believe it can survive in the long-term as it's being run now.

"At this point it's really questionable," he said. "It doesn't sound to me like it has any more support and probably less support than it did previously. The people that have the ability to ensure its survival, it's like having somebody's back. Nobody ever had the market's back. Nobody stood behind it and said let's make this happen. The ceremony is over and the photo op is over and they have the plaque on the wall with their names on it and they left."

Lastly City Pulse asked if the bar at the City Market was right for the mission and vision of the market.

"Here's the true story behind the Waterfront Bar & Grille," he said. "Originally when that idea was proposed to me by Pat Gillespie and Eric Hart (CEO of LEPPA at the time), the concept was to have a small restaurant at the market, a sit-down place where you could have a glass of wine and a great meal. ... I don't know if it was naively or not enough investigation on my part. They do have another fine restaurant in the area. It became a bar and grille and did not become the restaurant we had envisioned. It is a perfect anchor but not in its present manifestation. For it to dominate the space as it does now, I think it was a huge mistake."

Read more reader comments and suggestions at the City Pulse Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lansingcitypulse

— By Belinda Thurston



Land Use lunches are sponsored by Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council.

And Briefer

Lansing's City Council has elected **Derrick Quinney as president** and **Tina Houghton as vice president**. Quinney, who was Council president in 2009, succeeds A'Lynne Boles. . . . Since Monday, U.S. Postal Service **first-class mail in Lansing** has been getting second-class treatment. The Postal service has closed its Collins Road processing center and local mail is now handled in Grand Rapids, which add a day or two to many deliveries. . . . Michigan State's football team staged a dramatic fourth-quarter **rally to win the Cotton Bowl** in Dallas, defeating Baylor University 42-41. . . . After 30 years on the drawing board, the Michigan State Capitol Commission has voted to seeking funding for an **\$88 million welcome center**, aimed at improving security and reducing traffic through the historic building.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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TERTIARY FILTRATION, ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION AND EFFLUENT DISCHARGE
SRF No. 5546-01
Contract 200-13045-13001-S-1

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of East Lansing, Michigan at the Office of the Director of Public Works at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 up to 11:00 a.m. prevailing local time, on Tuesday February 3, 2015, and then publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of Contract 200-13045-13001-S-1.

The Work consists of improvements to the existing East Lansing Wastewater Treatment Plant tertiary filtration system and construction of ultraviolet disinfection system for a capacity of 48 million gallons per day (MGD). Work includes replacement of existing tertiary filter underdrains and media, valve replacement, addition of simultaneous air-water backwash system, replacement of filter influent pumps, construction of ultraviolet disinfection building and installation of ultraviolet disinfection equipment, new gates, gate replacement, construction of new 66-inch plant outfall, site work, concrete and masonry repairs, and electrical and instrumentation replacement.

Bids shall be on a lump sum basis.

Bidding Documents may be obtained on January 5, 2015. Plans will be available to view, purchase or download from River City Reproductions, 4039 40th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, Phone (616) 464-1220. The River City Reproductions plan room can be accessed at website www.rivercityrepro.com and click on the Planroom button in the upper right.

The Drawings and Project Manual under which the Work is to be done are on file and may be examined at the office of the ENGINEER, Tetra Tech, Inc., 401 S. Washington Square Suite 100, Lansing, Michigan 48933. They are also available at Construction Association of Michigan in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Builders Exchange in Lansing, Michigan.

A Bid Security in the form of a certified check, bank check, or Bid Bond for a sum not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

The right is reserved by OWNER to accept any Bid, to reject any Bid, and to waive irregularities in Bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 13, 2015, at City of East Lansing Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1700 Trowbridge Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823 Representatives of OWNER and ENGINEER will be present to discuss the Project. Bidders are invited to attend and participate in the conference and tour of the Site. ENGINEER will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as ENGINEER considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

OWNER will not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or unrelated disability. Bids from minority- and female-owned organizations are encouraged.

This Contract is funded with a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan. Bidders are required to complete the Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters statement included in the Project Manual.

This Contract requires the use of prevailing wage rates. Other specific funding requirements are included in the Project Manual.

No Bids may be withdrawn after the above date and time for receiving Bids for a period of ninety (90) days.

Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_002

Brief

Mark Grebner to speak at Land Use Lunch

Political consultant Mark Grebner will be the speaker at the Land Use lunch Friday.

Grebner is known to many for his years as an outspoken Ingham County commissioner.

Grebner's topic will be "the utter absence of institutional framework for planning and land use control in Michigan, and the fact that nobody even notices we don't have any."

Grebner says it's too late to develop a rational system now, but he'll try to lay out some rules for coping with the present situation, while trying to avoid the worst of the looming disasters.

The Land Use lunch is noon to 1 p.m. at the Michigan Environmental Council conference room, 602 W. Ionia St., Lansing.

A buffet lunch will be available for a \$5 contribution.

A FOLK FAVORITE

celebrating 40 years of the Ten Pound Fiddle

By LAURIE HOLLINGER

In the 1970s, if you were looking to feel something real and connect and share, the coffee house was where it was at.

It was an intimate space chock full of acoustic music, social and political debate and palpable change. It was spaces like these, which emerged in the '60s, that gave singers like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez their starts.

By 1974 it was common to take a ride to the Ark in Ann Arbor for your "folk fix." The only place where you could find a folk jam locally at that time was in the then-new Elderly Instruments on Grand River in East Lansing. That all changed in 1975 with the birth of a concert series inspired by a need for affordable, good folk music.

"We were just hoping to kind of snag folk singers on the way between Ann Arbor and Chicago to come do a concert for us," said Bob Blackman, a longtime leader of the local folk community. "I don't think we ever envisioned it would go on for more than a few years."

The Ten Pound Fiddle is 40 this year. The concert series was created much like a folk song comes together. It is both a personal and a community endeavor. The parts are simple and the feeling is deep.

The Fiddle is a nonprofit music series that also hosts dances and singalongs. Unlike most concert venues, the Fiddle doesn't have a physical home. Its concerts float from location to location.

It's a format that has allowed the organization to keep costs down, pay artists well and grow a folk music community. The board members along with an army of nearly 70 volunteers produce around 30 concerts and 10 dances every year. It has a paid membership of more than 300.

Over the years the series has drawn such acts as Tom Paxton, Janis Ian, Utah Phillips, The Chenille Sisters, and Suzanne Vega, and this March Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary).

"The Ten Pound Fiddle is one of the pre-eminent clubs in the country," said Sally Rogers, a nationally known folk singer who got her start

with the Fiddle. "It is on every traveling folk musician's list of places they have played or would like to play."

Arising from the actions of a few folk music fans who saw that something was missing in East Lansing, the Fiddle came from humble but ambitious beginnings in the fall of 1974. At the time folk music lovers would hang out in Elderly Instruments checking out the used acoustic guitars, banjos, dulcimers and mandolins. Blackman, a 1970 East Lansing High School graduate, spent his first three years at Kalamazoo College managing the Black Spot, the student coffee house there. He returned to East Lansing, attending Michigan State University for his fourth year of college.

"I met some people who were interested in starting a coffee house here," he said, "and ran into Gary and Barb Gardner, who had moved here from Boston ... and had been very active in the folk scene there."

Gary Gardner and Blackman revived the dormant MSU Folksong Society to gain access to a free venue on campus. They would begin to produce what would be known as the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series.

Named for an old Scottish fiddle tune, the Ten Pound Fiddle would follow a British folk club format for its concerts. A group of local "resident singers" would open the show, followed by a set with the main act for the first half. Then, following the intermission, an open mic session featuring "floor singers" from the audience would lead up to the main act's second set. It was inclusive, simple and organic.

The Fiddle's first concert was Jan. 10, 1975, at the MSU Union Grill in a small room called Old College Hall. The main act was John and Rosy Goacher, performing an evening of British folk music. John was the

See Folk, Page 10

Courtesy Photos

Above right: A 1979 Ten Pound Fiddle promotional flier. The concert series is celebrating 40 years this year. It attracts national acts and has created community around singalongs and contra dancing. Right: This is a flyer from one of the first contra dances held by the Ten Pound Fiddle in 1977.



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Lancashire, England-born host of WKAR Radio's "A British Tradition," and Rosy, a Lansing native. The resident singers were Elderly Instrument founder Stan Werbin, Blackman, then MSU music therapy major and Elderly Instrument employee Sally Rogers, and Gardner. More than 100 people attended the show, joining in on the choruses of "The Wild Rover," and "Red-Haired Mary," among others.

Another concert followed the next Friday, featuring Joel Mabus, who has since become a Fiddle favorite in addition to having recorded more than 20 albums, and penning a banjo tune, "Firelake," familiar to many folk enthusiasts nationwide as theme music for NPR's syndicated show "The Folk Sampler."

Rogers, a Connecticut-based singer, songwriter, and dulcimer player who has gone on to release 13 albums, learned a lot in the Fiddle's early days.

"We had so many fine musicians living within 30 minutes of town: Joel Mabus, Ray Kamalay, Kitty Donohoe, Karrie Potter, Dave and Mike Ross, the Lost World Stringband, etc., etc., etc," Rogers said. "There was no shortage of really good musicians."

Rogers served for several years as the Fiddle's booking manager.

"I helped arrange for Jean Ritchie to come to the Fiddle," Rogers said. "She also did a dulcimer workshop. She was and is my idol and mentor."

Rogers was also coming to realize just how friendly and supportive the folk community could be.

"I'll never forget how full of song and laughter she and her husband, George, were," she said. "They were like family, and [we] became close friends. George produced and was the videographer of my one and only children's video."

Folk nature

Defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, folk music is "music originating among the common people of a nation or region and spread about or passed down orally, often with considerable variation."

Folk musicians and folk music lovers are plain folk. Artists often stay at the homes of volunteers rather than in hotels. Early concerts were in people's homes, and "house concerts" are still a staple for emerging folk musicians to make their way.

The experience isn't one-way. Fiddle audiences and performers interact intimately even during the shows.

"The audiences make the club," Rogers said. "It is known as a singing club."

That's the nature of folk music though.

"What folk music is really about historically

Courtesy Photos

Above right: The Chenille Sisters are among some of the big name acts the Ten Pound Fiddle has attracted over the years. This flier is from a 1992 concert. Right: This 1979 flier promotes a folk music festival at Williams Hall. The Fiddle often used venues on the Michigan State campus in its early days.

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\$5 Admission

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Folk Festival

Barry Martin
Dave Barrett
Catherine Madsen
Wanda Degen



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is people who are just singing for their own entertainment because they can't afford to go to concerts," Blackman said. "Or they can't afford to buy a lot of recordings. ...It wasn't so much that you did songs that were old, it's that you did songs that you knew. ...Whatever songs they heard or knew wherever they came from, they just like to sing them with their friends and family for their own amusement. That, to me, is the core of what folk music is about."

Community sings

Even though the Fiddle is known as a singing club on the national folk scene, it wasn't until it had been around for over 20 years that it began producing an annual event dedicated to audience involvement.

The Fiddle's current booking manager, Sally Potter, and her band Second Opinion once played Pete Seeger's Clearwater Festival on the Hudson River, a festival drawing tens of thousands of folk fans annually.

One of the festival's seven stages was a singing tent, where every hour on the hour, song-leaders would lead the audience in song.

"We had our shift in the middle of Saturday," Potter said, "and there were four women in the front row, and I'd seen them there Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. I said to them, 'you know, Sweet Honey in the Rock is here, (Tom) Paxton is here ...people are here! And you've been here all weekend!' They looked up and said, 'Well, yeah, this is singing! Isn't this what a folk festival is?'"

Potter saw this same enthusiasm at local concerts and realized the potential for the Ten Pound Fiddle.

"Instead of a festival where everyone's just listening to everyone performing," she thought, "where, very often there's this wall between the performer and the audience, why don't we just have one where song leaders pick the songs, we give everybody the words and we just start singing?"

The first Mid-Winter Singing Festival was at the Hannah Community Center in February 2003, with sings in the auditorium on Friday and Saturday evenings, and workshops on Saturday afternoon.

"I think it's been a big shot in the arm for the Ten Pound Fiddle," Blackman said about the community sings, "and for the Great Lakes Folk Festival, where (Potter has also done) this wonderful community sing for the last few years. It really brings the Fiddle back to some of those early roots; people doing not necessarily traditional songs, but songs that everybody knows in a group format, as opposed to 'I am a performer, I am doing songs that I have written; and you are sitting in the audience listening,' which had sort of become the dominant notion of what folk music was all about in terms of performance. So I'm really happy to see that."

More than a song

The Ten Pound Fiddle isn't only about songs and singing. In 1976, Bob Stein moved to East Lansing from Boston, bringing with him over 30 years of experience in and a pas-

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sion for contra dance, a form of traditional folk dance similar to square dancing, led by a caller. Having seen a column by Blackman about the Fiddle in Sing Out! Magazine, a national folk music magazine, Stein made sure to look them up soon after he arrived.

At that time, there were only a couple of small contra dances in Detroit and Ann Arbor, neither of which were very well attended, as well as some traditional square dances in Webberville and Dimondale, which were waning in popularity. So, with the assistance of the Fiddle volunteers, the first Ten Pound Fiddle contra dance was held in the MSU ballroom in 1977. The Fiddle dances drew around 200 people from around the state in the early years, and more clubs gradually formed in Michigan, which now boasts around 20 dances monthly.

Stein's wife, Laura, who joined him in East Lansing two years later, took a job at Elderly Instruments. Soon after that, Bob convinced her to use her talent at the piano and form a band to play the dances. Joel Mabus was teaching guitar at Elderly, so Laura approached him about playing in the newly formed band. As it turned out, he was learning the fiddle and was happy to have the opportunity to play solo fiddle along with Laura's piano, and a banjo player.

Over the years, the Steins have remained closely involved in the Fiddle, not only doing the contra dances, but also taking up the tradition of housing visiting musicians Rogers had been hosting until she moved away, and the post-concert gatherings that took place in the earlier years, "when the performers were young," Laura Stein said. "Now, they're all too tired after gigging all over the place, so we just feed them quietly."

The dances, now on the first Saturday of the month at Lansing's Central United Methodist Church, draw all ages.

"It's fun," Laura Stein said. "People who have any kind of interest in it should show up. There are lessons before the dance. Just pick the best dancer on the floor, ask that person, male or female, to dance with you, and you'll have a good time and you'll learn how to do it."

Several years ago, a group of contra dance enthusiasts who didn't think one dance a month was enough formed the Looking Glass Music and Arts Association. Looking Glass holds dances on the third Saturday of the month, also at Central United Methodist Church, and shares many members with the Fiddle. The two



groups celebrate New Year's Eve every year with a potluck and contra dance at the church.

40 years is a long time

So, how does an all-volunteer organization manage to remain relevant and successful for four decades?

"I think the secret is that it's never been a one-person show," Bob Stein said. "So the people that are doing the organizing have continually changed. As people got tired, new people came in, and it wasn't all at once. So there's this continuity. People like Bob Blackman, who have been along the whole time kind of help with the history, as I have. Even if we weren't actively involved in organizing, there's still some institutional memory here."

With no permanent home, the Fiddle can also size its venue to fit the act, offering flexibility in both budget and intimacy. The Fiddle can bring high quality traditional acts that have a smaller following without the worry that ticket sales won't support the venue, but will offer the artist a full house of fans who know and love their music.

Without the overhead costs of a bricks and mortar, the board members can focus on their roles, which support the production of concerts and dances, rather than raising funds for overhead operating expenses. Early on, the Fiddle's board determined that the best way to support itself was to offer the artist a guaranteed amount, plus a percentage of the gate remaining after expenses were paid.

This simple, common-sense approach, along with membership fees being used for improvements such as a website and sound equipment upgrades within the organization, have served to keep it viable.

But maybe, when it comes right down to it, it's because it's a folk music organization.

"The whole folk music movement has always been based on community efforts and volunteers," Blackman said, "and since the heyday in the '60s when folk acts were playing huge venues, it's really gone way back down to the communal community level, and that's really where it still exists: in house concerts, small venues and churches, and on college campuses. In folk radio and folk festivals it's often the same. It's folk people who are passionate about it, who will devote time and energy to it."

Roxanne Frith/Photo provided

Above left: Sally Rogers is a nationally known folk singer who got her start with the Ten Pound Fiddle. Here she is leading a singalong in 2004 at the Mid-Winter Singing Festival. Left: Singer/songwriter Joel Mabus performing in 2013 at the Mid-Winter Singing Festival.



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ARTS & CULTURE

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Pinsonn-OUT

WLNS anchor, man-about-town leaves Lansing for Los Angeles

By **ALLANI ROSS**

In 1971, iconic Detroit news anchor Bill Bonds, who died last month, popped up briefly in “Escape from the Planet of the Apes.” Five years later, his station mate at WXYZ-TV, Diana Lewis, cameoed in “Rocky.” Neither strayed far from their field of expertise — they both played reporters — and they both returned to their real jobs when filming was complete. For them, apparently, showbiz was just a moonlighting gig.

But for local newscaster Evan Pinsonnault, the allure of national celebrity appears to be much stronger. And so in March, the morning anchor for Lansing’s CBS affiliate WLNS-TV will ditch the news desk, supposedly for good, and move to California to make a bid for an entertainment career in Los Angeles.

“I won’t quit ‘til I’m a star,” the 31-year-old sang last January on the first episode of his short-lived variety show, “The Evan Michael Show.” “I won’t quit ‘til I’m a star on Broadway.”

Broadway, Hollywood — for Pinsonnault, it’s just about performing. And taking risks, it seems; he doesn’t have a job waiting for him, which he says only adds to the thrill of taking the leap, conventional wisdom be damned.

“They say you should never leave (a position) until you’ve got something else waiting for you,” Pinsonnault said. “That’s why I’m excited. There’s no guarantee, but there are so, so many opportunities. And I can’t have them unless I’m there. That’s the way (the entertainment industry) works. If you show up and say you’re ready, people will plug you right in.”

Pinsonnault, a native of the Berkshires in Massachusetts, graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in broadcast journalism, and spent time as a reporter in Macon, Ga., before sliding behind the WLNS news desk in 2009. He wasted no time digging into the local arts scene once he arrived. A stage musical role here, a standup comedy appearance there and the next thing you know the tireless showman had succeeded in making himself a local celebrity.

“(Last year) the Greater Lansing Business Monthly had me on the cover with the title, ‘MR. LANSING,’” Pinsonnault said. “My dad wanted to show some relatives recently, and when he reached for it, part of the magazine was covered up so that it said ‘MR. LA.’ Everyone thought it was funny but



Courtesy photo

WLNS news anchor Evan Pinsonnault will move to Los Angeles this spring where he’ll try to jumpstart an entertainment career.

I thought, maybe it’s a sign.”

By the time the providential magazine prophecy happened, the wheels were already in motion for his departure, but he took it as a good omen. In November, Pinsonnault’s girlfriend, Rebecca Mueller, an IT analyst at Sparrow Hospital, was offered a position at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

“Rebecca got a wonderful opportunity, and it just so happened to coincide with my contract being up in April,” Pinsonnault said. “We both sat down and said this could be great. The timing is right, the station hadn’t really offered anything, and I thought, what a perfect place to take my career to the next level.”

The last month has seen two other high profile newscasters relocating to other cities: Last week, longtime WILX evening anchor Jason Colthorp left Lansing for WDIV in Detroit, and in December, WLNS meteorologist Jake

Dunne jumped to Flint. But WLNS’ News Director Jam Sardar says Lansing’s newscaster shuffle is all part of being a medium-sized market.

“Reporters come and go — it’s part of the game,” Sardar said last August when evening anchor Greg Adeline left for a morning anchor position in New Orleans. “We’re a market where we give a lot of reporters their first job. It’s kind of like grad school. They get experience and go on to bigger markets and get more money.”

But Sardar admits even he was caught off-guard when Pinsonnault dropped the bomb that he was leaving. Sardar thought the big announcement was that Pinsonnault was getting married.

“We would have loved to see Evan continue his career here, but I can’t begrudge someone following love,” Sardar said. “If you have to pick between love and a job, I’d like to think more people would make the choice Evan did.”

Sardar said no one has been hired yet to replace Pinsonnault, but a search is underway.

“Evan is a unique guy, with unique talents and energy, and there’s no way we’re looking for a copy of him,” Sardar said. “We’re thrilled with (meteorologist) Emily (Wahls) and (morning anchor) Chivon (Kloepfer), and we’re looking for someone to fit in, have good chemistry with them and take the show to new heights.”

Sardar credits Pinsonnault with being part of WLNS’ surge in ratings, which took the station from “a distant second” to occasionally winning time slots, including a win last month in the critical 5-6 a.m. slot.

“The way he made a name for himself in the community was good,” Sardar said. “He really put himself out there.”

Pinsonnault’s most recent project was the aforementioned variety show, which taped 10 episodes last winter. It featured local actors, musicians, filmmakers and leaders in the local arts scene, but he said his extracurricular activity was beginning to get in the way of his job.

“I wish I could have done 10 more episodes, but work didn’t want me doing the variety show anymore,” Pinsonnault said. “I understood where they were coming from, but I had been looking at it a little differently.”

That way of looking at things planted the seed for the West Coast move, which culminated in a cursory run to California when Mueller was offered the new job. Pinsonnault said he plans to pursue acting gigs, but his dream job is to work for himself.

“The goal is to end up hosting my own show, maybe a game show,” Pinsonnault said. “But I really won’t know what I want to do until I get there.”

And Pinsonnault said he’ll always have a connection with Lansing.

“It’s the longest I’ve ever called anywhere home since leaving Massachusetts,” he said. “It’s a very special place for me and I’m really going to miss Lansing. But any success I will have, a major reason will be because of the support from this community.”

“And just because you might not see me everyday on the morning show, doesn’t mean I’m not thinking of Lansing. I’m looking forward to staying connected. One of the things I really want to do is put the spotlight back on Lansing from one of the world’s biggest stages.”

The tuber mensch

Williamston artist puts potatoes in the spotlight

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

The world of culinary arts is replete with all sorts of accouterments featuring potatoes, the fourth largest food crop in the world, but it has seldom found a home within the confines of a frame. Sure, van Gogh painted “The Potato Eaters” in the late 19th century, but it’s more about the weathered subjects and their way of life, than the starchy tubers.

“Photography, Painting & Sculptures”

Works by Scott Van Allsburg
East Lansing Public Art
Gallery
6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday
Hannah Community Center,
819 Abbott Road, East Lansing
FREE
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Then along comes artist Scott Van Allsburg with his new show at the East Lansing Public Art Gallery, “Photography, Painting & Sculptures.” It features his abstract paintings and photo series that put the potato and its multitudinous eyes in the

spotlight.

“When I photographed the potatoes I didn’t think much about it,” Van Allsburg said. “I just thought they were cooler than you think they could be.”

While the initial response to an exhibit featuring photographs of potatoes might be



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

“huh?,” one glance at the creative twists Van Allsburg has implemented should convince you otherwise. One features several anthropomorphized tubers seated in foldout chairs. Another has a potato blown up to impossible proportions so that its craggy surface can be juxtaposed with a knotty tree. The scenarios seem oddly specific, but Van Allsburg professes his creative process flows with relative ease, right down to selecting which potato

to use.

“No potato is better than the other,” he said. “They’re all good.”

Van Allsburg’s original intent with working with potatoes was a tad more high concept: He bought 1,000 potatoes from the grocery store and subjected them to a variety of processes, including frozen, baked and aged to varying degrees. He wanted to alter their skins to various degrees, giving each spud a unique look. He then wanted to photograph all of them and compile the shots in the fashion of a high school

yearbook.

That idea never came to fruition, but the potatoes were all photographed and placed in a collage that was featured at last year’s ArtPrize, which he has participated in every year since its inception.

Van Allsburg, 61, picked up the camera in 1979 when he was inspired by the black-and-white photography his roommate adorned their walls with. The love affair

lasted throughout the decades, leading him to participate in several workshops to hone his craft. In 1990, Van Allsburg was stricken with depression, but rather than suppressing his creativity, he found it fueled his creativity in a new direction.

“I started drawing after I was diagnosed,” he said. “Drawing really helped me get centered.”

From drawing stemmed other creative outlets, including painting, which is also featured in Van Allsburg’s exhibit. He takes an abstract approach to his painted works, starting every work off with a base of pattern and colors. He then allows the works to dry and repeats the process, resulting in a dynamic image with a subject that sometimes surprises him.

“(It’s a repetitive process) when I make these paintings,” Van Allsburg said. “But I know they’re done when I feel like I don’t want to give them away.”

He admits that he has spent way more time creating than actually promoting his work, and said he hopes that the future holds just as much of the former as it does the latter.

His next photo series will consist of images of wet/ripped paper. While this may seem like another unconventional contribution to the art world, Van Allsburg just philosophizes that this is merely his way of setting his place at the vast table of creatives.

“There is room for creativity for everyone,” he said. “If you love something you can find a way to be successful that works right for you.”

‘Comedy is not for everybody’

J.J. Walker on Cosby, Ferguson and comedy’s role in race relations

By ALLANI ROSS

Don’t ask Jimmie Walker to say “Dyno-MITE!” Even though it’s the catchphrase of his breakout character, J.J., which made him a star on the groundbreaking ‘70s TV show “Good Times”— not to mention it’s the name of his autobiography — he won’t do it. At least not over the phone.

Walker, 67, still pops up on television and in bit parts in movies, but he spends most of his time touring comedy clubs — 300 dates per year, by his estimation. Last week he performed a New Year’s Eve show at the Comedy Zone in Charlotte. He declined a face-to-face interview, so we talked by phone. He opened up about the controversy surrounding renewed rape allegations against Bill Cosby and how comedy is playing a crucial role in the country’s fractured state of race relations.

(Note: Walker assumed he was talking to a white, straight person, and some of his answers were geared accordingly.)

What do you think about what’s going on with Bill Cosby?

It’s a difficult situation. I’m a huge fan.

He’s a great guy, (but) minority comics got tired of the Cos proselytizing, (telling them) “You should be clean.” That’s just not the way people are now.

You look at guys that have done bad things — Woody Allen, Roman Polanski, even Bill Clinton — they don’t hold themselves up as this great savior. That’s what (Cosby) did. I think the guys just got tired of it. The majority of minority comics are dirty, and they just didn’t want to hear it anymore.

It seems like you’re drawing a line between minority comics and regular comics. Do you feel that line?

Very much so. It used to be in the old days comedy is comedy. And it’s not anymore. There’s (clean) comedy. There’s dirty comedy. And there’s minority comedy. There’s people that are big in the Hispanic community that white people have never heard of, like Gabriel Iglesias. Mike Epps, Katt Williams, they’re for the black crowd. Lea DeLaria, she’s for the gay crowd. We didn’t have that when I started. We used to have a universality. It isn’t that way anymore.

But don’t you think that’s beneficial, that it’s allowing niche comedians to get heard?

I don’t think Mike Epps or Katt Williams want any white people in their crowd. Same thing with the Hispanic crowd — they’re doing half their act in Spanish. It’s part of society. You see it manifest in the Ferguson thing or the New York thing. We’re more racially divided than ever before.



Courtesy image

Jimmie Walker, who performed on New Year’s Eve at the Comedy Zone in Charlotte, said he thinks comedy’s increasingly niche-driven material is contributing the nation’s racial problems.

As comedians or in society?

I think comedy leads the way. Comedy is a forerunner of what’s happening in America. As we go on, we’ll become even more polarized.

Is that a good thing?

That’s the way it is and it’s not going to change. It’s going to actually get much worse. Me, Sinbad, Cosby — we’re in the universality side of it, and there’s not many of us left. People have to take a niche.

If you look at Andy Kindler or Sarah Silverman, they’re in what I call the Jack Kerouac Beat Comedy. It doesn’t always

have to be funny, it’s just you have to get it. If you don’t get it, you’re not smart enough, not hip enough. And that’s too bad for you. Louis C.K., not for everybody. Paul Mooney, not for everybody.

There’s no universality anymore, and I think that’s led to our racial problems. (And) I see it getting more polarized.

Is it ever appropriate for a white person to do black humor?

You’ve got a couple guys. Ralphie May. There’s always guys doing that. Conversely, there’s black guys doing white comedy, or very generic stuff.

Do you ever feel it’s appropriate for a white person to use the n-word?

No. Never. You can’t explain it. It’s just the way it is and you just have to get over it. There’s no explanation.

Do you see any way to reverse it or to use it to get out of this?

The major cable networks play right into it. The (Shaquille O’Neal All-Star Comedy Jam) is just a black crowd. Suzanne Westenhoefer is just for the gay people. Watch it. See who it’s for. It’s not for you, it’s for that crowd.

Larry the Cable Guy. Amy Schumer. Louis C.K. They’re for the white people.

That’s too bad. I always thought comedy was for everyone.

No, comedy is not for everybody. And comedy is a young person’s game. There’s very few older people like myself around in the comedy racket.

'The Voice' by proxy

Cellist Bion Tsang sings with a cello at Saturday's Lansing Symphony concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Austin-based cellist Bion Tsang, guest soloist for Saturday's Lansing Symphony concert, coaches youth football, loves to roughhouse with his three young kids and has a great laugh. He sounds like a guy most people can relate to.

Yes and no.

On the cello, Tsang, 47, blends seamless technical mastery with a singing sound that seems to come from the center of the Earth. He's had the gift for a while. He made his debut with the New York Philharmonic and conductor Zubin Mehta at 11.

"I don't know how I did it," Tsang said in a phone interview. "The music just kind of flowed from within."

Tsang's oneness with his cello was

already obvious, but it wasn't the only way his life could have gone.

"Had I been born a foot taller and 80 pounds heavier, I probably would have played football," he said.

His parents barred him from the sport, but he snuck in a few games in college anyway. After breaking his left index finger and tearing a ligament in his right thumb, he hung up the cleats and bowed to the inevitable.

"I didn't want to pin myself down to any one thing, but playing with the Philharmonic when I was 11 gave me insight into what was possible," he said.

Tsang doesn't jingle his prizes at you, but he has a trunkful of them. He's one of six American cellists to get a medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition since it started in 1958.

On Saturday, he'll play one of his earliest musical loves, Tchaikovsky's



Photo by Scott Newton

Lansing-born cellist Bion Tsang will be the guest soloist for Saturday's Lansing Symphony concert.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Bion Tsang, cello
8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10
Wharton Center Cobb
Great Hall
\$15-50
(517) 487-5001,
whartoncenter.com

"Variations on a Rococo Theme." As a boy, Tsang rode home each night from Juilliard School's pre-college program to the family home in Poughkeepsie. His father would put on a CD of master cellist Mstislav Rostropovich playing the same piece.

Tsang rocked to sleep in the back of the car while the Russian master coaxed a dry, Haydn-ish seed of a theme into a gorgeous garden of variations.

"Each variation challenges the cellist in a different way," Tsang said. "Tchaikovsky is one of the greatest masters of melody, so the piece really shows off the singing quality of the cello."

Tsang loves his instrument's kinship to the human voice. He was in the choir at Juilliard, but it didn't last.

"Before my voice changed, they loved having me," he said with a laugh. "I think of myself as a singer in a way. I love what the human voice can do and in many ways I try to emulate that on my instrument."

Tsang was born in Lansing, but was still in diapers when he left. His father, Paul Ja-Min Tsang, was finishing up a doctoral degree in metallurgy at Michigan State University. When his dad got a job at IBM, the family moved to Poughkeepsie. He was only 6 months old.

"I somehow feel that I remember that drive, and the snow on the side of the road," he said. "I don't know if that's possible."

He can refresh his dim memory of Michigan snow this week.

As a guest soloist, Tsang has to adapt to a wide range of skill levels, from the blue-ribbon philharmonics of New York and Moscow to plucky small-budget outfits like Lansing's.

The never-ending problem for a cellist, he said, is simply being heard. Most cellos simply don't project sound the way trumpets, pianos or even violins do. But

recently, Tsang joined a small but growing number of cellists who are fighting back with more powerful hardware. For years, Tsang played an old Italian instrument from 1746, and got tired of coaxing the needed volume from it. Then he heard that a fellow cellist based in Texas, Andres Diaz, swapped his 1698 Matteo Goffriller cello, worth millions of dollars, for a new weapon of choice.

Tsang went to Dallas cello maker Wayne Burak and commissioned a new axe, with tungsten strings.

"I feel completely liberated," Tsang said. "No matter how loud an orchestra plays, I still have a chance. Not that I want to give (LSO Music Director) Timothy (Muffitt) carte blanche to let 'er rip."

Muffitt built Saturday's concert out of three tightly interlocking pieces. The "Rococo Variations" start from a melody Haydn could have written. A full-on Haydn symphony (No. 43, nicknamed "Mercury") is the perfect go-with.

Then again, Muffitt doesn't need much of a push to program Haydn, an underrated composer in modern times — at least when compared to his buddy Mozart — and one of the maestro's favorites.

"There were many important composers that developed the classical style, whose music is OK if we keep it on the shelf," Muffitt said. "But Haydn's music is still so fresh and so engaging."

The concert will end with Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, the "Pastoral," a cheap trip to a summer picnic, complete with dancing, beer (judging by the music's brio and verve) and a bracing thunderstorm. The Sixth harks back to the classical lines of Beethoven's teacher, Haydn, but also prefigures the drama and tunefulness of Tchaikovsky.

"It's fun to put it in a program like this, where there is a deep connection between all of these pieces," Muffitt said.

"Master Harold"

...and the boys
by Athol Fugard



Gavin Lawrence



Justin Dietzel



Shawn Hamilton

Friday, January 30, 7:30PM
& Saturday, January 31, 7:30PM

An ordinary day becomes a life-changing experience for young Hally and two black waiters in 1950s apartheid South Africa. This remarkable coming of age story explores the bigotry fostered by apartheid and the cruel power of language.

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The perpetual optimist

Lansing sci fi author pays Z homage to 'Dr. Who,' 'Peanuts'

By BILL CASTANIER

Much like a professional athlete, Lansing-based science fiction writer Jim C. Hines has felt the buzz of performing at the highest possible levels in his profession. Hines, 40, has just published his 10th science fiction novel, "Unbound," the third in his "Magic Ex Libris" series. "It's almost like nothing else when you are writing and everything comes together," Hines said. "You say, 'Now I've got it. I've created something really good.'"

That something really good might just be a "goblin cannibal" or his favorite sidekick character, Smudge, the flaming spider who likes to play with fire. In "Unbound," Smudge once again joins up with the magic-wielding librarian Isaac Vainio as he seeks to save the world from evil. Joining Isaac is the dryad warrior, Lena Greenwood, along with his psychiatrist, Nidhi Shah, who shares Isaac's affection for Lena.

Hines' creativity reaches a new level in "Unbound" as the trio is in the middle of a battle between competing magical interests who will force a magical war that could destroy the world. On one side are the Porters who for more than 500 years have attempted to conceal the existence of magic from the world. And we're not talking street illusions or Las Vegas shows — the characters in "Unbound" levitate, jump, drink magic potions and disappear. The magic here, book magic, is much more deadly and infinitely more creative.

Isaac's crew faces Meridiana, a former queen in the body of a 14-year-old girl who once served as Isaac's intern. Stolen from Isaac, she is on a quest for a papal artifact



Courtesy photo

Lansing author Jim Hines once won a costume contest as a zombie hunter Charlie Brown.

that would give her the power to command an army of the dead.

Book magic can be traced back five centuries to Johannes Gutenberg, who has rewritten history and appears both as a bad guy and good guy in the series. Book magic allows certain magic practitioners to reach into a book and create a living person or even a special ray gun of the type Isaac keeps on his hip. Isaac, who once possessed the power of book magic, has lost it and must rely on the powers of his friends ... and his own wits.

Long-time science fiction fans will appreciate Hines' many references, often tongue-in-cheek, to popular books and movies in the genre. For example, Hines said Isaac is a big "Dr. Who" fan, and references the Doctor's "big pockets." Hines is just as likely to include "Star Trek" insider jokes in his books and short stories.

"I grew up reading pretty much nothing

but 'Star Trek' novels," he said. "There was a sense of possibility and a sense of optimism." He also admitted reading all the "Peanuts" books, the lore of which is deeply imbedded in Hines' writing. (Think: psychiatrist.) To proclaim his love of "Peanuts," Hines once went to a fan convention where he won "best costume" as an older, zombie-hunter version of Charlie Brown.

Hines said, Isaac, unlike many sci fi protagonists, is a "perpetual optimist." He said no matter how much Isaac gets beat down (or miniaturized, like a purse as he is in the book) he "still keeps running toward the football." The author said he purposefully chose a librarian and books as major points for his "Magic Ex Libris" series.

"Books have been a big part of my life, and this series featuring a librarian and book magic is a like a love letter to fandom books and magic," he said. "I purposely wanted to write a series that was more hopeful and optimistic and one that says we have magic and it is awesome."

Another marker of Hines' books is that he bends traditional gender roles, a common topic on his Hugo Award-winning blog. Hines' female characters as exemplified by Lena. She may be sexy, but she kicks ass with her pair of wooden swords.

Hines said the genre, overall, is getting more diverse and inclusive, moving away from "the young white dude hero." Hines also would like to see the industry move away from featuring the typical sultry damsel on the covers of books.

"I know the purpose of covers is to sell books, but it goes back to who you think your audience is," he said. "Slathering covers with women in the typical dress of early pulp novels is not my way."

The cover of his most recent novel features Isaac looking more like a sophisticated Indiana Jones. For Hines' taste, Isaac would be joined by his soulmate, Lena, who was born from the pages of a book. His previous "Magic Ex Libris" entry, "Codex Born," fea-

tured Lena in a warrior pose emerging from a book.

The series is set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where you are likely to run across a retired arthritic werewolf sitting on a porch swing sipping a beer. (A possible reference to Warren Zevon's werewolf drinking a pina colada at Trader Vic's.) Hines says it would be hard to adapt the series into movies, but his "Goblin" and "Princess Diaries" are both movie-friendly. Recent hit films "Into the Woods" and "Maleficent" both illustrate how fantasy can be creatively adapted to movies.

"(Making movies) is not something I live for," he said. "It's not why I write. It's something out of my control."

Hey, but wouldn't it be fun if Wil Wheaton, who provided the ultimate blurb for one of Hines' books, put a bug in the ear of the producers of "The Big Bang Theory." Imagine what Sheldon could do with a fire-starter Smudge replica that also is a great mosquito repellent.

Schuler Books & Music

Lansing Fantasy Author
JIM C. HINES presents
Unbound!

Tuesday, January 13. @7 pm
Meridian Mall

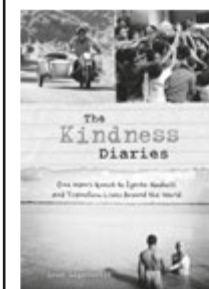


Join us in celebrating the release of the third book in the *Magic Ex Libris* series with one of our favorite local authors! Jim has developed a reputation nationwide as a cracking force in fantasy

— praised by authors like Patrick Rothfuss — as well as a widely followed blogger.

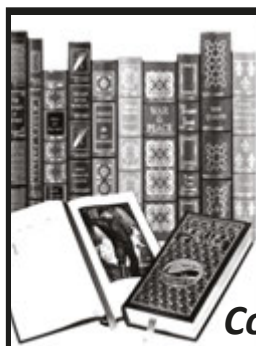
Talk & Signing with
The Kindness Diaries author
LEON LOGOTHETIS

Wednesday, January 14. @7pm
Eastwood Towne Center



Logothetis is the host of *The Amazing Adventures of a Nobody*, and has appeared on Good Morning America, CNN, Fox and the BBC.

For more information visit
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OUT ON THE TOWN

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, January 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

Oils For Life. Program on the health benefits of essential oils. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

New Years Resolutions. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-7434, PilgrimUCC.com.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fcgl.org.

EVENTS

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday Senior Discovery. Coffee and conversation. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Teen Crafternoon. Create Duct Tape Art to keep or give as gifts. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Drop In Writer's Workshop. 30 minutes of writing followed by discussion. 6-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 18



Photos by A.S. Freeman
Actors Heather Harper, Sineh Wurie, Amelia Rogocka, Joe Dickson, Charles Sartorius, Deb Keller, Michael Shalley and Marie Papciak in rehearsal for "The Sea Gull"

Chekhov, please

• • • Thursday, Jan. 8 • • •

Imagine a show combining the smart comedy of "Frasier" with all of the backbiting and name-calling of "Desperate Housewives." This is the vision director Alex Freeman brings to Riverwalk Theater's production of Anton Chekhov's "The Sea Gull."

"There is a perception that Chekhov is boring," Freeman said. "This play is not that." The play centers around four characters:

Story writer Boris Trigorin, ingénue Nina Zarechnaya, fading actress Irina Arkadina and playwright Konstantin Tréplyev. The story begins with the characters meeting at a lakeside estate to view an experimental theater production written by Konstantin.

This gathering blossoms into a tangled web of romance, intrigue and unrequited love. As the story develops, Chekhov reveals a deep sense of dissatisfaction in his characters' lives. Some desire love, some desire success and others desire artistic genius, but all are unable to achieve happiness.

Despite the depressing arc of the story, Freeman said Chekhov sprinkles comedy into the dark subject matter.

"It's really funny, but it's a smart comedy," he said. Chekhov's script is loaded with incisive wit as well as a clever subtext, inviting the viewer to complete the punch line.

While Chekhov is considered one of the greatest writers of the 19th century, his career as a playwright almost ended after the disastrous premiere of "The Sea Gull." The 1896 performance was heartily booed by the audience, and the rejection led Chekhov to temporarily give up writing for the theater. Two years later the play was revived by the Moscow Art Theatre, despite Chekhov's initial resistance to the idea. This time, the play was a resounding success and was praised by critics. This renewed Chekhov's faith in theater, and he went on to write three more plays.

The play-within-a-play construct in "The Sea Gull" also allows Chekhov to wrestle with complex artistic ideas. When the viewer sees Konstantin trying to create a new form of symbolist theater, it is easy to draw parallels to Chekhov as a pioneer of literary

modernism.

Bringing a work as complex as "The Sea Gull" to the stage is a significant undertaking, but Freeman is up to the challenge.

"It's always thrilling to be able to tackle one of the classics

of modern theater," he said. Freeman's attention to detail can be seen even in the careful approach to the title. While most versions of the play condense seagull to one word, the Jean-Claude van Itallie translation used in this production splits the word into two.

While "The Sea Gull" is originally set in a grand Russian estate at the end of the 19th century, Freeman's production refuses to be anchored in a specific time or place. Taking a symbolist approach to set design, he has chosen elements that blend past and present. He even evokes the American South, which is not as distant as the geography would indicate.

"Both Russia and America were about 30 years removed from freeing their slaves," he explains. "Russian estates, like American plantations, were trying to find a new economic path."

Freeman has put together a formidable cast led by Sineh Wurie (Boris), Amelia Rogocka (Nina), Deborah Keller (Irina) and Joe Dickson (Konstantin).

This production is a homecoming for Freeman. A native of Holt, Freeman began his theater career with the Riverwalk Theatre as an actor in 2005. Since then he has acted in productions by the Scioto Society and Theatre Ensemble of Nashville. Freeman, who is pursuing an MFA in directing at Western Illinois University, where he lives, said he relishes the opportunity to return to the stage where he got his start.

"I love this space," he said. "It is one of the most versatile and intimate theater spaces in Lansing."

"The Sea Gull"

Riverwalk Theatre
7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8; 8 p.m. Friday Jan. 9 & Saturday Jan. 10; 2 p.m. Sunday, January 11 (continues Jan. 15-18)
\$15/12 seniors & students
Friday-Sunday; \$10/8 seniors & students
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-6700,
riverwalktheatre.com

—TY FORQUER

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. JAN 16TH

THE DUHKS AT TEN POUND FIDDLE

Hannah Community Center, 819 N. Abbot Road, East Lansing. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 members/\$5 students. (517) 337-7744, tenpoundfiddle.org., Friday, Jan. 16

The Duhks perform the first show of the Ten Pound Fiddle's winter season. The Canadian band, known for its energetic modern folk sound, formed in 2001 in Winnipeg. The five-piece group blends old-fashioned folk with French Canadian and Celtic music, while also dabbling in soul and Afro-Cuban beats. The group is Jesse Haye (lead vocals), Leonard Podolak (banjo/vocals), Kevin Garcia (percussion), Colin Savoie-Levac (guitar/bouzouki) and Rosie Newton (fiddle). Its debut album, "Your Daughters & Your Sons," was self-released in 2003. The next three discs were released on the notable Sugar Hill label, and earned the band a Grammy nomination and a Juno Award. Its latest LP, "Beyond the Blue," hit stores in June on Compass Records. This Fiddle show is just one stop on the band's expansive "Polar Vortex 2015" tour.

THE ARRANGEMENT PLAYS \$1 SHOW AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 6:30 p.m. All ages. \$3/\$1 advance, Thursday, Jan 8

This week the Loft continues its Dollar Thursday series, a monthly block of dirt-cheap rock shows with a six-band, all-ages show. The lengthy bill features Break the Edge, the Arrangement, Sprout, Big Empty Sky, For These Reasons I Believe and Inequities. Added bang for your buck is the debut performance from Kerry McCabe, a local standup comedian. The Arrangement is a Lansing-based band with a sound rooted in melodic psychedelic rock and laced with some paisley-underground pop and surf rock. The Arrangement comprises Chris Smith (guitar/vocals), Noah Ford (bass), Joe Guel (guitar) and drummer Josh Guysky. Fans of the Black Keys or the '60s Haight-Ashbury sound might want to check them out. The band is working on a self-produced 13-song LP and has its 2013 self-titled EP streamed at thearrangement1.bandcamp.com.



THU. JAN 8TH

TRIPLE DEKE RECORDS SHOWCASE

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. 6:30 p.m. All ages. \$10, Saturday, Jan. 10

Triple Deke Records, a Michigan-based independent record label, has released a mixture of limited edition CDs, cassettes and 7-inch singles over the past five years. On Saturday, the imprint will show off its roster at an all-ages show at Mac's Bar. Openers are the Fever Haze, Small Parks, Hampshire, Parkway & Columbia and Summerpunx. Headlining is Secret Grief, a Muskegon-based band formerly known as Tiger! Tiger! The indie/emo band formed in 2008 and developed a sound reminiscent of Cursive, Brand New and Built To Spill. Secret Grief self-booked over 10 tours across the Midwest and the East Coast, played hundreds of shows and released a stack of EPs and 7-inches. The band has been working on a full length album for the last two years and plans to release it in the first quarter of 2015.



SAT. JAN 10TH

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
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.			Ignite the Borealis, 9 p.m.	Bobby Knuckles B-day, 7 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darin Lerner, 7 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Sarah Brunner, 8 p.m.	Paulie O, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			Young Guns, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Broadburg Band, 9 p.m.	Broadburg Band, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Ashlyn Chambers, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 8 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Break the Edge, 6:30 p.m.	Dumela Project, 7:30 p.m.	Vandalay, 7 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				Mark Sala, 9 p.m.
Marc's Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.		Dan McLaughlin, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	D Frazee, 7 p.m.	Marvels, 9 p.m.	Betray the Prophet, 9 p.m.	Secret Grief, 6:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Sloan, 9 p.m.	Charlie Horse, 9:30 p.m.	From Big Sur, 9:30 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Showdown, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			New Rules, 7 p.m.	The Tenants, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Life Support, 8 p.m.	Jake Stevens Band, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Dave Floyd, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Steve Cowles, 8 p.m.	New Rule, 8 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Damn Van Cannibals, 8:30 p.m.	Full House, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5069
WHAT TO DO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 16

MUSIC

Open Jam. Join other local musicians and get heard. 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.

Thursday, January 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous.

Room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Senior Pet for Senior People. Info on adopting older animals. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Current Events. Discussion. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Preschool Science Exploration. Hands on science. Theme this month is "Rocks Rock." 1-2:30

p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

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

Alzheimer's Education Series. Learn the 10 warning signs. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Enhance Fitness. Designed for older adults. 9-10 a.m. \$2. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Sound Classes. Green Union teaches live sound,

recording and more, 6 p.m. FREE. 1200 Marquette St. Lansing. (517) 420-1873, thegreenunionmi.org.

EVENTS

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

Mid Michigan Republican Women. Discussion: 'All Politics are Local,' 5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 6 p.m. Dinner. \$20. Gilbert And Blakes Restaurant, 3554 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3550.

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

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-

See Out on the Town, Page 19

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Round Figures"--the circle is complete.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Mix those ingredients
- 5 Carried
- 10 Totally dominates
- 14 Holder of scoops
- 15 County of New Mexico or Colorado
- 16 Go on a rampage
- 17 Turing played by Benedict
- 18 "The Last Supper" city
- 19 ___ Romeo (nice car)
- 20 Proof you paid
- 22 Frying pan
- 24 Palindromic girl's name
- 25 King, in Quebec
- 26 Extremity
- 27 "Lost" actor Daniel ___ Kim

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21			22		23				
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52					53	54		55	56		57			
					58	59				60		61		
62	63				64					65	66	67		
68					69					70				
71					72					73				


- through it
- 57 Magazine inserts
- 58 Prime minister from 2007-2010*
- 62 Chatty show, with "The"
- 64 Most of the Earth's surface
- 65 Affixes
- 68 Plot of land, often
- 69 Rows on a chessboard
- 70 Michael of "Superbad"
- 71 Word often misused in place of "fewer"
- 72 Rough weather
- 73 Sign, or an alternate title for this puzzle?

Down

- 1 Beetle-shaped amulet
- 2 Ohio city
- 3 Riding with the meter running
- 4 Descartes or Magritte

- 5 He played George Utley on "Newhart"
- 6 Inflammation of the ear
- 7 ___ Aviv
- 8 Blackboard need
- 9 "The Andy Griffith Show" co-star*
- 10 Like some vaccines
- 11 "Sure thing!"
- 12 What a hero has
- 13 Put into words
- 21 Make a shirt look nicer
- 23 "___ delighted!"
- 29 Tell the teacher about
- 31 Forgeries
- 34 Find a way to cope
- 35 Magazine with a French name
- 36 Post-industrial workers?
- 38 Like shrugs and nods, as signals go
- 39 "Law & Order" spinoff, for short
- 40 Early oven manufac-
- 42 Working together
- 43 Applied henna
- 44 Answer with an attitude
- 49 "Paradise City" band, briefly
- 51 "Music for Airports" composer Brian
- 54 Dumpster emanations
- 56 Bond foe ___ Stavro Blofeld
- 59 Has to pay back
- 60 "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" star ___ Leakes
- 61 1993 Texas standoff city
- 62 Kilmer who chunked out in the late 2000s
- 63 Word in cheesy beer names
- 66 Beats by ___ (brand of audio equipment)
- 67 ___ Bernardino

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SUDOKU

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

ADVANCED 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

Out on the town

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2420, elpl.org.

Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Capital Area Audubon Society. CAAS member Ron Eggleston: "History of Fenner." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

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.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.

6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

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.

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.

Howl at the Moon Guided Walk. Enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10 >> GAMMAGEDDEN

Gamers of all varieties are invited to meet up at the Green Union for a celebration of gaming culture. Some gaming systems will be available, but experienced gamers are encouraged to bring their own gaming laptops. There will be fun for non-digital gamers as well; tabletop game enthusiasts are invited to bring their own games and gear. The event will also feature a swap meet where gamers can buy, sell or trade used gear, as well as a live video game tournament. The Green Union is a nonprofit focused on strengthening the community through arts, education and entertainment. 1-8 p.m. FREE. 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. thegreenunionmi.org.

MONDAY, JAN. 12 >> PROJECT 60/50 FILM SERIES PRESENTS 'CRASH'

A joint program with East Lansing Public Library and Michigan State University's Project 60/50, this film series explores issues of racial healing in America. Project 60/50 refers to two landmarks of civil rights in America: The desegregation of public schools in 1954, and the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; these events occurred 60 and 50 years ago, respectively. Project 60/50 has partnered with community members and organizations to host events that look back on the progress we have made and plot a course for the future. This program will feature a showing of the 2006 Academy Award-winning film "Crash," followed by a discussion led by MSU Professor Dorinda Carter Andrews. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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.

THEATER

"The Sea Gull." Classic drama by Anton Chekhov. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Friday, January 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Friday Flicks. Featuring "And So it Goes." Running Time: 94 min. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorecenter.weebly.com.

Enhance Fitness. Exercise for older adults. 9-10 a.m. \$2. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorecenter.weebly.com.

Weekday Science. Science education. This month: Michigan fossils. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church,

THEATER

"The Sea Gull." (For details, see Jan. 8.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, January 10

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

Vision Board Workshop. Set goals for 2015 with a personal vision board. 1-4 p.m. \$35. Grove Gallery & Studios, 325 Grove St. # A, East Lansing. (517) 333-7180, grovegalleryandstudios.com/workshops.

EVENTS

Gammadegon: Gaming Event. Monthly gaming celebration event. 1 p.m. FREE. 1200 Marquette St. Lansing. (517) 420-1873, thegreenunionmi.org.

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

Michigan Eyes Wide Open. "The Human Cost of War." 12:30-4:30 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 410-1243, ow.ly/GOIRy.

T-Shirt Pillow Workshop. Bring a T-shirt and sew it into a pillow. 2-4 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Lansing Symphony MasterWorks 4. Featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and more. 8 p.m. \$15-50. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

THEATER

"The Sea Gull." (For details, see Jan. 8.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, January 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Family Special: Crafternoon. Have fun on a snowy afternoon making nature crafts, 3-4:30 p.m. \$3/\$7 a family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

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.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance &

lesson/students FREE. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

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.

THEATER

"The Sea Gull." (For details, see Jan. 8.) 2 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

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Out on the town

from page 19

Monday, January 12

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.

Newly Organized You. Seminar on efficient means of organization. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Documentary: "Iron Jawed Angels." HBO docudrama. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Tai Chi Fundamentals. Gentle exercise method. 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$6/\$8 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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. 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.

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.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.

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.

Teen Movie Mania. Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Project 60/50 Film: Crash. Viewing of 'Crash.' Discussion to follow. 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Monday Movie Matinee. Movies intended for an adult audience. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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.

Saints, Sinners & Cynics. Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

MUSIC

Karaoke. Hosted by DJ Lipgloss. 9 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Spoonful. Live performance. 9 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Tuesday, January 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

French Basics. Class size limited to 12. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Guided Meditation. 30 minute seated class. 4 p.m. \$2/\$1 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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.

Enhance Fitness. Exercise for older adults. 9-10 a.m. \$2. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow

CHINA FLAVOR

Photo by Jonathan Griffith/City Pulse

China Flavor opened last week on Lansing's east side.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Lansing's east side gained a new restaurant last week when **China Flavor** opened at 2033 E. Michigan Ave. It joins



Asian Gourmet on that busy block, giving diners yet another cause for pause for Asian cuisine between Michigan State University and the Capitol.

It's a return to form of sorts for the space. In the '70s and '80s, the building was home to Eddie's Chinese Restaurant, a diner that featured Asian and American cuisine. Most recently, it was Lamai's Thai Kitchen, which closed in 2013. It sat vacant for nearly two years.

The owner of China Flavor, Mei Wan, did a massive overhaul to the interior, which included tearing out the signature diner counter that gave the place an old-timey feel. Wan also installed new floors, bathrooms and a new kitchen. The new space is clean, sleek and modern looking, without feeling cold. Kitchen manager Kim

Lu estimates at least \$70,000 in work went into upgrading the restaurant.

"It needed it," Lu said. "But it's a whole new restaurant now."

Lu said he has over 30 years of experience in the kitchen. He comes from the Guangdong province of South China, which specializes in Cantonese cuisine, the type of food emblematic of the American-style Chinese.

In fact, Lu works from two separate menus entirely: One is your typical Americanized Chinese menu, with selections like Beef with Broccoli, General Tso's Chicken and Szechuan Shrimp. It also has combo dinners (with rice and an egg roll) and a \$4.95 lunch menu.

But it's the other menu, called Authentic Chinese Dishes, that adventurous diners should seek out. Where else in town are you going to find Spicy Mango Chicken Fried Rice, Braised Grouper in Hot Pot or Jelly Fish? (That last one is completely worth the trip, by the way — the jellyfish tentacles look like and have the consistency of thick rice

noodles, and are served cold in snappy onion salad.)

Starting next week, China Flavor will roll out separate lunch and dinner buffets. The weekday lunch version (\$6.95) goes from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and the dinner (\$9.95) goes from 5-8:30 p.m., with weekend prices a little higher. Lu said there will also be a \$15.95 all-you-can-eat sushi buffet, which will start soon after the students come back from break.

"This is a very good location, between downtown and MSU," Lu said. "Lots of traffic."

As for his neighbors at Asian Gourmet several doors down, Lu said he hasn't met them yet, but plans to eventually. With at least four other vacant buildings, that block has plenty of room for more Chinese restaurants — the area could become Far East Town. And a rising tide lifts all sampans.

China Flavor

2033 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. daily
(517) 721-1083

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and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership & presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Chair Massage. Call for an appointment. 9:40 a.m.-noon, \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Starting a Business. Costs, planning, financing. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, Suite 110, 309 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org

Blood Pressure Checks. Provided by Sparrow Hospital. 11:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-

5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

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

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

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.

Books on Tap. "Quiet" by Susan Cain. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

"Sporkle Live!" Trivia. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W.

Out on the town

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Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Game Night. Booze and board games. 7 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Wednesday, January 14

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.

Intro to Coiling in Basketry. Learn basic basketry techniques. 1-4 p.m. \$60. Grove Gallery & Studios, 325 Grove St. # A, East Lansing. (517) 333-7180, grovegalleryandstudios.com/workshops.

Painting Class: Asian Brush. 7 week class. 11-noon, \$15, supplies \$20-\$25. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Computer Club. The internet as a daily resource for older adults. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Line Dance. Beginner or expert. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$49/\$35 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045,

meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Free Photography Clinic. Free seminars for aspiring photographers. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church (Lansing), 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. mmphotoclub.com.

Suicide Laws and Euthanasia. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, PilgrimUCC.com.

Ask a Business Librarian. Market research and more. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, Suite 110, 309 N. Washinton Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fcgl.org.

EVENTS

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday Senior Discovery. Coffee and conversation. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Knitting and Crochet Group. All ages and levels welcome. Some supplies on hand. 5-7 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Crafternoon. Create Dimensional Charms to keep or give as gifts. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.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.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

Jan. 7-13

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In his novel *Breakfast of Champions*, Kurt Vonnegut describes a character, Ned Lingamon, who "had a penis eight hundred miles long and two hundred and ten miles in diameter, but practically all of it was in the fourth dimension." If there is any part of you that metaphorically resembles Lingamon, Aries, the coming months will be a favorable time to fix the problem. You finally have sufficient power and wisdom and feistiness to start expressing your latent capacities in practical ways . . . to manifest your hidden beauty in a tangible form . . . to bring your purely fourth-dimensional aspects all the way into the third dimension.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Novelist E. L. Doctorow says that the art of writing "is like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." This realistic yet hopeful assessment is true of many challenges, not just writing. The big picture of what you're trying to accomplish is often obscure. You wish you had the comfort of knowing exactly what you're doing every step of the way, but it seems that all you're allowed to know is the next step. Every now and then, however, you are blessed with an exception to the rule. Suddenly you get a glimpse of the whole story you're embedded in. It's like you're standing on a mountaintop drinking in the vast view of what lies behind you and before you. I suspect that this is one of those times for you, Taurus.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Most people have numerous items in their closet that they never wear. Is that true for you? Why? Do you think you will eventually come to like them again, even though you don't now? Are you hoping that by keeping them around you can avoid feeling remorse about having wasted money? Do you fantasize that the uncool stuff will come back into fashion? In accordance with the astrological omens, Gemini, I invite you to stage an all-out purge. Admit the truth to yourself about what clothes no longer work for you, and get rid of them. While you're at it, why not carry out a similar cleanup in other areas of your life?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Nothing was ever created by two men," wrote John Steinbeck in his novel *East of Eden*. "There are no good collaborations, whether in music, in art, in poetry, in mathematics, in philosophy. Once the miracle of creation has taken place, the group can build and extend it, but the group never invents anything. The preciousness lies in the lonely mind of a man." In my view, this statement is delusional nonsense. And it's especially inapt for you in the coming weeks. In fact, the only success that will have any lasting impact will be the kind that you instigate in tandem with an ally or allies you respect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I live in Northern California, where an extended drought led to water-rationing for much of 2014. But in December, a series of downpours arrived to replenish the parched landscape. Now bursts of white wildflowers have erupted along my favorite hiking trails. They're called shepherd's purse. Herbalists say this useful weed can be made into an ointment that eases pain and heals wounds. I'd like to give you a metaphorical version of this good stuff. You could use some support in alleviating the psychic aches and pangs you're feeling. Any ideas about how to get it? Brainstorm. Ask questions. Seek help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Actress Uzo Aduba's formal first name is Uzoamaka. She tells the story about how she wanted to change it when she was a kid. One day she came home and said, "Mommy, can you call me Zoe?" Her mother asked her why, and she said, "Because no one can say Uzoamaka." Mom was quick to respond: "If they can learn to say Tchaikovsky, Dostoevsky, and Michelangelo, they can learn to say Uzoamaka." The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned: This is no time to suppress your quirks and idiosyncrasies. That's rarely a good idea, but especially now. Say NO to making yourself more generic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Doug Von Koss leads groups of people in sing-alongs. You don't have to be an accomplished vocalist to be part of his events, nor is it crucial that you know the lyrics and melodies to a large repertoire of songs. He strives to foster a "perfection-free zone." I encourage you to dwell in the midst of your own personal perfection-free zone everywhere you go this week, Libra. You need a break from the pressure to be smooth, sleek, and savvy. You have a poetic license to be innocent, loose, and a bit messy. At least temporarily, allow yourself the deep pleasure of ignoring everyone's expectations and demands.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "I dream of lost vocabularies that might express some of what we no longer can," wrote Jack Gilbert in his poem "The Forgotten Dialects of the Heart." Judging from the current astrological omens, I'd say that you are close to accessing some of those lost vocabularies. You're more eloquent than usual. You have an enhanced power to find the right words to describe mysterious feelings and subtle thoughts. As a result of your expanded facility with language, you may be able to grasp truths that have been out of reach before now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "If you have built castles in the air," said philosopher Henry David Thoreau, "your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." That may seem like a backward way to approach the building process: erecting the top of the structure first, and later the bottom. But I think this approach is more likely to work for you than it is for any other sign of the zodiac. And now is an excellent time to attend to such a task.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Songwriter RB Morris wrote a fanciful poem in which he imagines a smart mockingbird hearing rock and roll music for the first time. "When Mockingbird first heard rock / He cocked his head and crapped / What in the hell is that? / It sounded like a train wreck / Someone was screaming / Someone's banging on garbage cans." Despite his initial alienation, Mockingbird couldn't drag himself away. He stayed to listen. Soon he was spellbound. "His blood pounded and rolled." Next thing you know, Mockingbird and his friends are making raucous music themselves -- "all for the love of that joyful noise." I foresee a comparable progression for you in the coming weeks, Capricorn. What initially disturbs you may ultimately excite you -- maybe even fulfill you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do you recall the opening scene of Lewis Carroll's story *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*? Alice is sitting outside on a hot day, feeling bored, when a White Rabbit scurries by. He's wearing a coat and consulting a watch as he talks to himself. She follows him, even when he jumps into a hole in the ground. Her descent takes a long time. On the way down, she passes cupboards and bookshelves and other odd sights. Not once does she feel fear. Instead, she makes careful observations and thinks reasonably about her unexpected trip. Finally she lands safely. As you do your personal equivalent of falling down the rabbit hole, Aquarius, be as poised and calm as Alice. Think of it as an adventure, not a crisis, and an adventure it will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are positively oceanic these days. You are vast and deep, restless and boundless, unruly and unstoppable. As much as it's possible for a human being to be, you are ageless and fantastical. I wouldn't be surprised if you could communicate telepathically and remember your past lives and observe the invisible world in great detail. I'm tempted to think of you as omnidirectional and omniscient, as well as polyrhythmic and polymorphously perverse. Dream big, you crazy wise dreamer.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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Wine and dine

Matching vino with local Mexican cuisine

By JUSTIN KING

Beer and burritos are truth. There's something magical about annihilating a fat chimichanga while throwing back some Bohemia pilsners. This simple and glorious decadence that has proven to resolve 70 percent of roommate disputes involving unwashed dishes and friends who sleep on the couch.

However, sometimes it's important to acknowledge there's room for discovery in the stars, or in this case the bottom of a stemmed glass. A decade worth of personal bias notwith-



standing, wine with Mexican cuisine is not only doable, it will solve the other 30 percent of roommate issues.

And so a game plan was formulated: Pair wine with fare from Lansing-area Mexican restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner. That's right, breakfast.

The first stop was eastside food truck El Oasis for two breakfast burritos: chorizo and eggs and steak and eggs. Admittedly, not many wines were great with the eggs, but one was just about perfect: Urban Riesling, 2013 from Mosel, Germany. The easygoing white peach, ripe citrus notes with a touch of sweetness made the world seem a little brighter. It's the most basic Riesling from St. Urbans-Hof (a producer of great quality wines at all price ranges), and you can find it for about \$10. Riesling is generally a great foil for many spicier foods because the higher acid counterbalances the heat, and does so without dumping higher amounts of alcohol on your tongue, which would notch up the fiery food attack.

Cancun Mexican Grill in Okemos was next on the docket with its tasty mole rancheros and burrito rancheros, both with chicken. The entrées needed a red wine with a just an edge of peppery spice and not too much tannin, and Perrin Cotes-du-Rhone rouge fit the bill. The 2011 vintage was juicy and only mildly earthy. Those cherry, plum and ever-so-slight rosemary/pepper flavors were precisely what was needed, especially considering it's also only about \$10 a bottle.

Cotes-du-Rhone is a red or white wine from Rhone, France, a valley



Justin King/City Pulse

The sharp acidity of some wines, such as Rieslings, can serve as a natural counterbalance to spicy Mexican food. Yes, really.

between Lyon and Avignon, along the Rhone River. The primary red grape is almost always Grenache, with the secondary grape of Syrah, although those roles reverse when you find the rare bottling from the northern part of Rhone. The Perrins are an iconic family in the south of France who own Chateau de Beaucastel. They also occasionally make wines with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

Round three: Pablo's Panaderia in Old Town. In theory, the chosen menu was lighter and leaner. But hey, research and development is not a place to skimp on sample size. Also, Mexican food is really, really good.

Pablo's garlic sautéed shrimp dish was maybe the favorite of the day, and it went perfectly with a white wine with an origin that's a touch off the beaten path: Alpha Estate's 2011 Sauvignon Blanc. Pairing Sauvignon Blanc and shellfish is nothing new, but Alpha Estate is from northern Greece, not exactly a bastion of modern viticulture. But there's been a sea change in worldwide perception in the last few years, partially because of excellent, high-acid assyrtiko from the idyllic

Santorini, but also because of recently modernized wineries interspersed on the mainland.

Alpha Estate is a true leader of the latter, and this Sauvignon Blanc is destined for food from the sea. Notes of lemongrass, green apple, and some serious dried-rock minerality leverage some real weight in its mouthfeel, yet makes it feel so effortless. It was the unexpected surprise of the day, and can be found for around \$20.

Pablo's veggie chimichanga also found an ideal partner: A Chilean Pinot Noir hit the bullseye. Quality Pinot is usually grown well in cool-to-moderate climates like Burgundy, Oregon and the South Island of New Zealand. Chile is known for its carmenere and cabernet sauvignon, but with some good elevation or moderation from proximity to water, Pinot can thrive in Chile. The 2011 Echeverria Pinot Noir (at about \$12) had some brooding plum, black cherry, rhubarb notes and had enough lively acidity to calm some slight heat. It's a light-bodied red, with very little tannin supporting it.

Through the (absolutely not) arduous journey of eating and drinking, a lot can be learned about the glory of Mexican cuisine. No one's about to assign blame if you say no to wine in favor of your Dos Equis. Just know there are some fun wine alternatives about just about the same cost.

All of these wines can be easily found or ordered from your favorite independent wine retailer. Just try and offer them some breakfast burritos when you go wine hunting. They'll be thankful.

In vino veritas.

Justin King is the sommelier for the Stand Gastro Bistro in Birmingham. You can tweet your favorite bottles at him @ PlonkAdvocate.

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WALK IN LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE!

While most stores don't want you to act like you own the place, WE DO!

At ELFCO, our owners are the bedrock of what we do. Our owners have access to special pricing on selected items each month, receive owner-only special offers by mail, can place special orders at reduced rates, and are eligible for patronage rebates. But most of all, they can experience the sense of pride that comes with ownership in a regional asset that has been part of the community for over 30 years. While you don't have to buy a share of the business to shop here, ownership does have its perks...



Shop Co-op!



4960 Northwind Drive, East Lansing 517•337•1266
 (One light east of Hagadorn off Grand River)
 Monday - Saturday • 9am to 9pm
 Sunday • 10am to 8pm
WWW.ELFCO.COOP

Average price per person, not including drinks:
 \$ Less than \$8 | \$\$ \$8 to \$14 | \$\$\$ \$14 to \$20 | \$\$\$\$ Over \$20

FB Full Bar **WB** Wine & Beer **TO** Take Out **OM** Online Menu
RES Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

Ten Pound Fiddle

Concert Series
EST. 1975

JANUARY 2015

Jan. 16 8 p.m.




THE DUHKS
Hannah Community Center
819 N. Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Jan. 17 10 a.m.



FIDDLE SCOUTS
WITH LAKE EFFECT
MSU Community Music School
4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing, MI

Jan. 23 8 p.m.



BLACK FATHERS OF FOLK MUSIC:
JOSH WHITE
AND **LEAD BELLY**
PORTRAYED BY **ROBERT JONES** AND **JOSH WHITE, JR.**
Unitarian Universalist Church
855 Grove Street, E. Lansing

Jan. 30 8 p.m.




MID-WINTER SINGING FESTIVAL:
JOEL MABUS, ANNE HILLS,
MARK DVORAK AND FRANK YOUNGMAN, SONG LEADERS
Hannah Community Center
819 N. Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Jan. 31 8 p.m.



DAN CHOUINARD
LEADS SONGS AT THE
MID-WINTER SINGING FESTIVAL
Hannah Community Center
819 N. Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Jan. 31 12 p.m.



SIX MWSF SINGING WORKSHOPS
Hannah Community Center
819 N. Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823