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March 5-11, 2014

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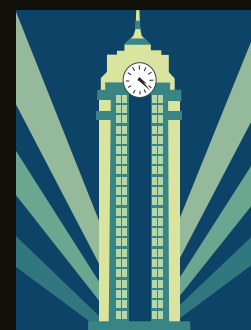
MOVING LPD

Why is Bernero rushing to move the police from the North Precinct to the far South Side? | page 6



PIA TOSCANO

'American Idol' finalist, partner to perform Friday at Dart Auditorium | page 14



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IS EASTERN HIGH DOOMED?

SEE PAGE 9

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Feedback

In defense of Cynthia Ward

Mickey Hirten makes valid points about the BWL management team ("Lark's missing emails," 2/19/14) but his implicit criticism of Commissioner Cynthia Ward is out of line. In the interests of full disclosure, I was a BWL commissioner from 2000-2005 so I am familiar with what it is to be a BWL commissioner. I also work with Commissioner Ward and I, like her neighbor, contacted her when we were without power for several days, confused by BWL directives, and unable to get information from the BWL. Unlike the BWL management, Commissioner Ward attempted to keep us apprised of developments relative to the restoration of power and she also corrected Peter Lark's misapprehension (shared in a public announcement) that those with underground lines had power.

Mr. Hirten implies that by contacting Mr. Lark about the status of power to specific addresses, Commissioner Ward was somehow just taking care of her own friends. I can't speculate about whether

house several miles away in another town. Maybe some clarification is needed about the role of BWL commissioners. They are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. They generally don't have specific expertise regarding utility operations. They are appointed for their willingness to volunteer time and energy to serve as members of a policy board. It's a sacrifice, especially for commissioners who are employed full time at other jobs, as most of our commissioners are.

Moreover, in his zeal to cast negative connotations on Commissioner Ward's attempts to serve her constituents, Mr. Hirten overlooks an important step Commissioner Ward took in response to Mr. Lark's claim that he deleted all his e-mails and therefore he could not respond to the FOIA request by supplying them. Commissioner Ward did what every other person within the BWL system, including commissioners, should have done and that is, she shared the e-mails between her and Mr. Lark in an attempt to honestly and fully comply with the FOIA request. Many people don't customarily delete e-mails, particularly about an extant investigation. But Commissioner Ward sees her responsibility as going beyond the "circle the wagons" mentality that seems to be characterizing the BWL management response. I think we are lucky to have someone with her integrity on the BWL Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hirten missed that.

— Nancy A. Wonch
Lansing

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 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) 371-5600 ext. 10

(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.)

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION

NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 1423-GA

In the matter of James Young

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 03/20/2014 at 10:30 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Economy for the following purpose(s):

Hearing to appoint a guarding.

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

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Deann Moreno
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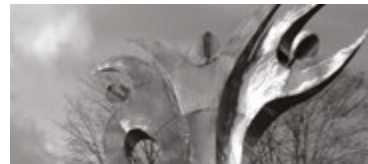
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Ingham County Democrats at odds over award given to Meridian Township trustee who voted against nondiscrimination ordinance



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Lansing plans new board that would oversee public art policy



PAGE 22

New Lansing 'micro-roastery' keeps the focus on coffee beans



COVER ART

THE QUAKE by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE



THIS WEEK

- HIV activist and author Sean Strub
- Matt King, Elvis impersonator
- 'American Idol' alums Pia Toscano and Jared Lee
- Journalist John Seigenthaler



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

ONE RECENT AFTERNOON...
--SO, THANKS TO OBAMACARE--I CAN FINALLY QUIT THIS PLACE!

UH OH! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR--

I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU FROM A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, CITIZEN! DON'T DO IT--DON'T FORSAKE THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF WORKING!

AT THE JOB YOU CURRENTLY HAVE.

BUT I HATE IT HERE! I'VE ONLY BEEN STICKING IT OUT FOR THE INSURANCE!

SO YOU'VE BEEN DISINCENTIVIZED BY OBAMACARE! CREEPING BIG GOVERNMENT SOCIALISM HAS SAPPED YOU OF YOUR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED AMERICAN WORK ETHIC!

ACTUALLY I'M HOPING TO START MY OWN BUSINESS--

--INVISIBLE-HAND-OF-THE-FREE-MARKET-MAN! AND YES, I KNOW YOU CAN SEE ME.

STOP BABBLING AND THINK, MAN! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THIS COUNTRY-- TO OUR VERY WAY OF LIFE--IF EVERY PERSON STUCK IN A TEDIOUS, SOUL-CRUSHING JOB JUST DECIDED TO UP AND QUIT?

NOW BE AN ADULT--AND A PATRIOT--AND GET BACK TO YOUR CUBICLE!

UM, NO, REALLY-- I'M OUT OF HERE.

GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO HIRE SOMEONE ELSE.

SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

The 'fast track'

The Bernero administration wants to close the police department's North Precinct and spend \$1M to move to the South Side

The Bernero administration has been quietly planning since the summer to move police operations out of the North Precinct to a community center owned by the Lansing School District on the far South Side.

But the latest chapter in the ongoing story of where to put the Lansing Police Department — which could involve spending \$1 million to move the department temporarily into another leased space — appears to contradict the administration's stated goal of a long-term, city-owned home for the LPD in a central part of the city.

For at least four years, the city has been looking at consolidating all of its police operations into one building. It has paid local architecture and engineering firm C2AE \$187,000, according to the city's internal auditor, for a study that has remained in draft form for the past two years. The city has leased 24,000 square feet since 1997 from local private developer Harry Hepler for the LPD's North Precinct, which it's leaving by Aug. 31. It leases the space for more than \$300,000 a year near the Saginaw/Larch streets intersection.

The draft study contemplates a police/courts consolidation at the city-owned South Washington Office Complex south of REO Town — which could cost between \$2.8 million and \$43 million depending on the extent of renovations, according to the draft study — and also staying at the North Precinct. Hepler said two years ago he was willing to sell the North Precinct portion of his Prudden Tech Centre for \$3.4 million. The city jail and LPD's administrative offices are in City Hall, while its investigations bureau and patrol unit are at the North Precinct. The city closed the South Precinct in 2012 to cut costs.

Chad Gamble, Lansing's chief operating officer, said in an email Tuesday afternoon that the draft study "will continue to be important to our ongoing assessment of long-term options for the city's law enforcement facilities."

As for the move, Gamble said the city was "unable to secure a short-term lease" with Hepler at the North Precinct and that the Hill Center was one of "several alternatives" explored.

But Hepler said he's been willing to work with the administration — if only it would meet with him.

"We have always been prepared to meet with the City, and with a clear understanding of their short-term needs and long-term plans offer extension terms that would create a savings and flexibility to exit as new, permanent facilities are developed," Hepler said in a statement Tuesday. "Although we are now planning to fill the LPD's space with private sector tenants upon the expiration of their

nally studied by C2AE. Documents provided by the city's internal auditor show a purchase order for \$14,900 to pay C2AE for an analysis of moving into the Hill Center. A letter from C2AE to the city shows conversations about the Hill Center started before July 30.

In his presentation, Gamble said the city is proposing to spend over \$1 million in building improvements at the Hill Center, including new paint, carpeting, ceiling tiles and light fixtures. The city would share the space with the school district, which uses the other half as a community center. The 152,000-square-foot space to be leased at Hill is also six times the size of the North Precinct. After the lease expires at the North Precinct on Aug. 31, Gamble told the school board the city is exploring a four-year lease with the school district. "There's a lot of discussion about what the future of the police department will hold. Perhaps it will be this location," he said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood knew "very little" about the proposal, aside from what she's read in the media. She questions where the money for renovations would come from and she's concerned about the location.

"To me, I'm thinking that far south defeats some of the information we've already been given" about the importance of a centralized location, she said. "Second of all, I'm not a fan at all of us leasing buildings.

"It doesn't make sense to use \$1 million of taxpayer dollars to renovate a building we don't own to walk away from. ... To me, that's a big issue."

Councilwoman Jody Washington, whose 1st Ward constituents will lose a significant police presence when LPD moves out of the North Precinct, said she's suggested to the mayor opening a smaller substation in her ward.

"I'm OK with it," she said of the plan. "For sure it's been nice having them in the 1st Ward."

Superintendent Yvonne Caamal

District/city partnership

The Lansing School Board is scheduled to discuss the Hill Center lease proposal at its meeting Thursday 6:30 p.m. Administration Building 519 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing



Illustration by Rachel Harper/City Pulse

The Bernero administration is developing a formal proposal to move police operations from the North Precinct seven miles away to the Lansing School District's Hill Center on the far South Side of the city.

lease, we would stand by our commitment to the City and our surrounding neighborhoods should the City find a need in or economic benefit to extending their current lease."

Still, the administration is forging ahead with the school district. Lease details have not been disclosed. But the latest plan, which Gamble and Police Chief Mike Yankowski presented to the Lansing School Board on Feb. 20, is a break from both of the options origi-



Property: 211-19 S. Washington Square, Lansing — Strand Theatre and Arcade

Owner: Atrium Office Partners

Assessed value: \$1,292,800

Opened in 1921 as The Strand Theatre, this ornately detailed building is an example of Beaux Arts style, which offers fresh interpretations of classical Greek and Roman architectural elements. Paired Corinthian or Ionic columns — or, as here, fluted pilasters — are hallmarks of the style. The monumental arched window that dominates the Washington Square elevation is surrounded by human figures, swags and rosettes, fabricated in glazed, white terra cotta panels.

The building was designed in 1920 by the Chicago-based theater architect John Ebersson and was renovated in 1983 by the local firm of Hobbs+Black Architects. The latest renovations returned the pedimented cornice, dentils and triglyphs, which had been removed during earlier modifications. Fortunately, the garish marquee that had advertised movies can now only be found in historic photographs. In its place, visitors can appreciate the elaborate keystone and rusticated arch on the main entry.

The main central mass opens to a high-ceilinged arcade, lined with offices on two levels. The rich exterior detailing extends inside and continues to the two-story lobby near the east entrance. A view of the building from Grand Avenue reveals a stepped roof structure that once held the theater's balcony-level seats.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

Police

from page 5

Canul called it a “value-added partnership” that fulfills part of the district’s strategic plan for using vacant buildings.

Any proposal would be subject to school board approval. The administration appears to be in the final stages of making a formal proposal and board President Peter Spadafore has indicated a vote could be held this month after public meetings.

“We are on quite a bit of a fast track with this one,” Gamble told the school board.

— Andy Balaskovitz



And the award goes to ...

Milton Scales, the lone Meridian Township trustee to vote against a non-discrimination ordinance

Back in November, Meridian Township Trustee Milton Scales was the only board member to vote against an ordinance that prohibits discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While he supports equal protection for LGBT individuals, he thinks changes should come from the state level, rather than a local one.

On Friday, the Ingham County Democratic Party gave him an award for it.

While Scales received the Zolton Ferency award — named after the late liberal politician from East Lansing — for what he believes was for “taking a principled stance,” some local Democrats are puzzled by the choice.

“That doesn’t make sense to me,” said Meridian Trustee John Veenstra, who received the award in 2011 and supported the ordinance. “His position doesn’t make sense to me.”

Sandra Zerkle, chairwoman of the county Democratic Party, confirmed Monday that Scales’ position was “one of the final things the committee of past winners used as a catalyst to have him win this award.” Zerkle

said the final decision to award Scales was made by a committee of past winners and that she didn’t have a final say in whom the award went to.

“I know there was some disgruntlement,” Zerkle said. “The executive officers are going to relook at how the awards are given out. ... I know there has been some concern about not Milton as a person or as a Democrat, but for the stance he took and whether Zolton would have taken the same stance or not.”

But it’s not as if Scales is for discriminating against the LGBT community. Citing his reasons for voting against the ordinance, Scales believes discrimination protections should be built into state law, not local ones. He also thought the punishment for violating the ordinance wasn’t stiff enough. At one point late in the summer, Scales called the ordinance “feel-good legislation” and the overall effort a “misguided campaign.”

“Zolton Ferency was an advocate of principled stands,” Scales said Monday. “I voted against (the ordinance) for those very same reasons.”

Scales, who chairs the Meridian Democratic Club, also sent a letter last month to state House Democratic leaders supporting an expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include the LGBT community. “The fruit of hate is always rotten, and by expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act you will spread a message of inclusion, compassion and freedom from fear,” he wrote.

As for his critics, “I told them it’s a daunting task trying to go community by community when you have 1,773 municipalities in the state,” Scales said. “That’s why it needs to be pushed at the state level so we can cover the entire state all at once with significant penalties.”

But the coalition that’s worked to pass these local ordinances, One Capital Region, doesn’t see it that way. Meridian joined Delhi and Delta townships in passing these local protections in the past year. According to One Capital Region, more than 100,000 residents are now protected after these local ordinances passed. East Lansing and Lansing had similar laws in place. Statewide LGBT advocacy group Equality Michigan tracked 29 other communities that had protections in place before Meridian passed its own.

Advocates say passing such laws would be more effective at prompting statewide change than, say, writing letters.

Zerkle said she told Scales she “didn’t agree” with his position. “My position is that we have to start somewhere on these things,” she said in support of the local route.

Veenstra said his analysis is “totally different” from Scales’. “The more places that have a local law is entering a wedge to prove we ought to have a state law. I think the more local ordinances we have paves the way for state law” changes.

According to a New York Times obituary from 1993, Ferency was a “perennial crusader for liberal causes,” which started at the age of 11 when he marched in a protest alongside labor leader Walter Reuther. Ferency was former chairman of the state Democratic Party and an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate who lost to George Romney. He also served on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the East Lansing City Council.

Angela Wilson, the Meridian trustee who led the effort to pass the ordinance, countered Scales at the time by saying, “We are giving our community members that not only work in Meridian Township, but also live here, protections against discrimination that the state has failed to give them. ... It isn’t feel-good legislation by any means. It is what-we-ought-to-be-doing legislation.”

Still, Scales thinks his position and recognition is a “non-issue. I think there’s an attempt to put a wedge where a wedge doesn’t exist. I’m in favor of non-discrimination laws. At the end of the day, I do not disagree with my fellow Democrats: We need protection under the law for the LGBT community.”

— Andy Balaskovitz



BWL Watch

Line crews and labor contracts; CRT requests more information and schedules a get-together with BWL execs

At a community forum last month, Lansing resident Griff Canfield openly questioned why the Board of Water and Light required three line workers to clear downed wires after the storm hit.

Canfield, now retired, said he worked for Consumers Energy and a utility in Salt Lake City for over 30 years. In “more restoration efforts than I can remember,” Canfield said the job could have been done with two people.

He suggested the storm-restoration efforts were “handcuffed and hogtied” because of provisions in a collective bargaining agreement between the BWL and International Brotherhood of Electric Workers, the union representing BWL workers.

However, BWL spokesman Steve Serkaian said the union agreement is irrelevant to the number of required line crews. He said the BWL Safety Manual, last updated on Oct. 17, “addresses who can work on

downed lines. As few as one qualified line worker can clear a downed wire under certain conditions.”

“It’s totally related to the safety of the situation,” said IBEW business manager Ron Byrnes. He also said the three-person requirement applies to primary voltages, not secondary.

Dan Bishop, a spokesman for Consumers Energy, said restoring and clearing downed wires are “typically” done with two- or three-person crews for that utility. Consumers line workers are represented by the Utility Workers Union of America.

But whether the BWL collective bargaining agreement and safety manual negatively affected the utility’s storm response time is getting a closer look by the Community Review Team, the independent review team headed by retired Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel.

“That subject, we believe, is definitely in the scope of the Community Review Team,” said spokesman T.J. Bucholz.

Bucholz said the team is actively reviewing the union contract and “how did BWL implement it,” he said.

“Absolutely not,” Byrnes said when asked whether the agreement would have slowed efforts. “That wasn’t the case.”

CRT requests more info

Speaking of the Community Review Team’s investigation, it announced Tuesday morning a second request for documents from the utility. It follows an earlier request received last month that McDaniel originally said looked “incomplete.”

It asks for details related to training BWL employees on response plans, appendices to its Emergency Operations Plan that wasn’t received in the first request, notes and emails from 12 senior BWL officials between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3 and a compilation of mutual aid agreements, among others.

Additionally, the CRT will hold a five-hour meeting from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday at Fire Station No. 1 in Lansing. The team is scheduled to interview members of BWL’s senior leadership team. The meeting is open to the public, but there will not be an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly of BWL officials.

“It’s important for us to be able to talk to BWL about their (document) submissions,” Bucholz said. “It will be kind of like a legislative hearing structure.”

Meanwhile, the State Journal reported over the weekend that the team may not meet its self-imposed March 31 deadline for a final report. McDaniel told the paper that fact-finding is taking longer than anticipated. Bucholz said Monday that the committee should still finish its report in early April.

— Andy Balaskovitz



PUBLIC NOTICES

RFQP/14/069 2014 JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **MARCH 20, 2014** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or email: Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Brett Kaschinske, at (517) 483-4042, or go to www.mitn.info**. The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#14_051

BWL belongs to Lansing

Other communities haven't made their case for being represented on BWL's board

Even as the citizens' panel poking through the wreckage of the Lansing Board of Water and Light's sorry December ice storm performance, a likely recommendation when it all ends is a call for the utility to include non-city residents on its board of commissioners.



MICKEY HIRTEN

Why would the city agree to this? If he's feeling generous, perhaps Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero can toss communities like East Lansing or Lansing Township some sort of observer status on

the utility's board. But residents outside of the city are lucky they get their power from BWL.

First of all, electricity from BWL is cheaper than electricity from Consumers Energy, which serves most of the region. And the price difference for electricity between the two utilities widens as power usage increases.

Local politics is driving the demands for seats on the BWL board, leaving non-Lansing officials with this weak hand: "Give us seats on the board or we'll do all we can to get our more expensive electricity from someone else." Look forward to retirement on that campaign promise.

BWL's problems responding to the ice storm power outages are well known. But two of the larger issues — General Manager J. Peter Lark's vacation in New York and the inept communications plan — didn't really affect how quickly power was restored. Electricity in my neighborhood, served by Consumers, was out for five days. In fact, now that I have a generator, give me BWL's lower rates and I'll chance the next ice storm.

The monthly winter bill for a BWL residential customer using 900 kilowatt hours of power is \$123.58; for the Consumers customer, it's \$126.66. Granted, not a big difference. But the spread widens in the summer. Consumers bumps its unit rate to 11.9 cents after the first 600 KWH; Lansing goes to 9.9 cents after 500 KWH. If you have a big air-conditioned house, the rates make a difference.

Another gripe from customers outside of Lansing suggests that having their representatives on the BWL board will ensure attention to their interests. But their alternative, electricity from Consumers, hardly provides a customer-centric roster of directors.

Overseeing CMS Energy Corp.'s operations are people like Jon E. Barfield, president and chief executive officer of LJ Holdings Investment Company LLC, a private investment company, and Kenneth L. Way, the retired chairman of Lear Corp., a supplier of automotive interior systems to the automotive industry. There is nothing wrong with these gentlemen, who no doubt serve diligently and are very well

compensated for their efforts. Independent directors receive \$170,005 annually for a full-year term; David W. Joos, CMS Energy chairman, also a director, gets \$305,000. Customers pay for that.

Directors of publicly traded corporations like Consumers represent shareholders' interest in dividend growth and price appreciation for their stock. BWL's commissioners, drawn as they are from city neighborhoods and who are not compensated, are far more likely to see themselves as consumer advocates than the directors of Consumers.

Non-Lansing BWL customers have questioned the utility's annual payments to the city (\$17 million this fiscal year), suggesting that they have weakened BWL financially, which affected its ice storm performance. They also grumble that the payments help the city and its residents, not their communities. True enough.

But the payments made to Lansing essentially compensate for BWL's tax-exempt status. Consumers pays more than

See Hirtten, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AND

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 5, 2014

CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

316 N. CAPITOL AVE.

LANSING, MI 48933

(517) 483-4040

CONTACT: Dorothy Boone, Development Manager

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS: These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **March 21, 2014**, the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project located at 1113 -1119 N. Washington, known as the Saboury Redevelopment Project.

SMTS Group, LLC and Hometown Housing Partnership, Inc. intend to redevelop the currently vacant and underutilized property for mixed housing and commercial uses located on North Washington St. in Lansing's Historic Old Town Main Street district. The historic two-story store front building on the central parcel at 1115 N. Washington will be renovated. The existing building at 1119 N. Washington along the north side of the property and the warehouse at the back of the historic building located on the central parcel will be demolished. Infill housing development will add new affordable residential units at the site.

The initial phase of the project will be to demolish non-historic structures, remove lead and asbestos and renovate an existing historic structure for mixed residential and commercial uses. City of Lansing Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 will be used for acquisition, removal of hazardous materials in the existing structures (lead and asbestos), historic preservation, housing rehabilitation in the existing historic structure and redevelopment work on the residential component of the project. Private financing and owner funds will be used for the commercial component of the project.

A second phase of the project is planned for infill redevelopment which will add 22 newly constructed affordable rental units. The overall architectural design for renovation of the existing historic structure and new housing construction has incorporated consultation with State Historic Preservation Office and Michigan Main Street Design Services regarding conforming to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The overall project includes selective demolition of some non-historic materials, rehabilitation and new construction that will maintain the character of the existing historic building. The project will improve the visibility and appearance of the N. Washington St. storefronts

and retain and enhance Old Town's identity as a Michigan Main Street commercial district.

Total investment for the combined phases of the redevelopment project is projected to be \$4.9 million. Anticipated funding includes private bank financing, owner funds, Act 381 Brownfield Tax Increment Financing, EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant, Michigan State Housing Development Authority HOME funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The completed project will offer high quality, energy efficient affordable housing for families and store front redevelopment that will enhance Lansing's Old Town Commercial District.

Estimated Total Expenditures: \$4.9 Million

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Lansing, MI has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 N. Capitol, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied March 6, 2014 – March 20, 2014, M-F, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to: Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner, City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933, doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov All comments received by 5:00 p.m., March 20, 2014 will be considered by the City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development prior to authorizing submission to HUD of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lansing certifies to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Virg Bernero in his capacity as Mayor, City of Lansing consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Lansing to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Lansing, MI's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Mayor, City of Lansing; (b) the City of Lansing, MI has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (313) 226-7900 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Virg Bernero, Mayor, City of Lansing, MI

CP#14_056

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County seeks proposals from qualified and experienced vendors interested in entering into a contract to supply, install and service beverage vending machines at three (3) of its parks. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link.

CP#14_052

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of The City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 811 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by adding Section 811.03 to authorize a new Cable Franchise Agreement with Westphalia Broadband, Inc., a Michigan Corporation d/b/a Comlink, and to Establish Video Service Provider Fees in Conformance with, and pursuant to, The Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act

For more information please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, March 10, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_055

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee on Monday, March 24, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom #2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

The hearing will be for the purpose of reviewing the FY 14/15 Community Development Block Grant and FY 14/15 General Fund Human/Public Service Budget recommendations prepared by the Community Development Advisory Committee.

Additional information on this hearing is available from the Department of Planning, Building, and Development Department at East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing or by calling (517) 319-6930. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_053

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Spencer Soka for a modified Special Use Permit approval for the property at 313 East Grand River Avenue to allow for outdoor seating at the existing Spencer's, a restaurant serving alcohol. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Trowbridge Village, LLC for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 920-940, 950-956, 962-968, 990, 1000, and 1020 Trowbridge Road to renovate the existing building and parking lot and construct a new, mixed-use building with 15,000 square feet of non-residential space and a total of 76 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from DTN Management for Site Plan approval for the property at 400 Gunson Street to demolish the existing Garten Haus apartments and construct five, three-story buildings in their place, with a total of 21 one- and two-bedroom apartment units. The property is zoned RM-14, Low Density, Multiple-Family Residential.
4. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2014-2020 Capital Improvements Program.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_054

Hirten

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\$500 million a year to federal, state and local governments.

Finally, there are many legal and financial issues that prevent customers from switching utilities. State law allows some utility shopping, but businesses have taken what's available. The system that supplies electricity to homes — wires, poles, transformers and the like — are owned by the BWL, not Consumers.

What people really want is for the light to turn on when they flip the switch. What its customers really want is for the BWL to learn from its mistakes.

(Contact Mickey Hirten at mickey@lansingcitypulse.com.)



Anti-Zionist speakers banned

As controversy entangles Hillel chapters, discussions of Israel-Palestine issues at MSU must happen elsewhere

The opportunity for students to assemble and speak freely among their faculty and peers is a time-honored tradition in university settings.

However, several Jewish student groups across the country say this right is being repressed, calling into question the openness and acceptance of Hillel, the largest Jewish campus organization in the country.

The controversy began at Swarthmore, a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania where the campus Hillel chapter rebelled against national leadership over the issue of allowing speakers to advocate on behalf of Palestinians. This caused Swarthmore's Hillel to distance itself from leadership; the group proclaimed itself to be the nation's first "Open Hillel."

"All are welcome to walk through our doors and speak with our name and under our roof, be they Zionist, anti-Zionist, post-Zionist, or non-Zionist," the group declared.

The president of the national Hillel organization issued a statement in response, saying that allowing anti-Zionist speakers violates the group's underlying principles.

Officially, Hillel refuses to support events that propagate an anti-Israel message, including any denial of Israel's right to exist, or any efforts to delegitimize or undermine the Middle Eastern country. With more than 1,200 signatures in support of Swarthmore and growing support at universities nationwide, the debate is far from resolved.

Will these opposing sides find themselves under the same roof in East Lansing?

Cindy Hughey, executive director of MSU Hillel, said that while the group is an open, accepting humanistic organization, it would not endorse any event with speakers who questioned the right of Israel to exist.

"Any actual request to use Hillel resources would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis," Hughey said. "However, as the leading Jewish student campus organization, it would be contrary to our basic mission to allow the use of Hillel resources to support anti-Zionist speakers."

Instead of prompting protest, Hughey said MSU Hillel works to build community and inspire social action among the more than 3,500 Jewish students on East Lansing's campus.

Outside of Hillel, numerous residential college groups on campus have taken up the debate, including James Madison College and the Residential College of Arts and Humanities. It is within these colleges where Nisreen Eadah, an international relations student, was able to inform others on the plight of Palestinians.

"Having been to the area twice and witnessing and experiencing this lack of freedom and harassment makes a person wonder how these policies can exist in a world today where treating inhumanity is a priority for the most influential countries within the international arena," Eadah said, recalling her trips to Palestine.

She added that once students begin to learn more about the lives of Palestinians, they can't help getting immersed in the stories and struggles of those living in Gaza or the West Bank. During her time as an MSU student, Eadah noted the lack of activity among Palestinian students, a widely apparent gulf when contrasted with the activity of other ethnic groups on campus.

While she understands Hillel's motivations, she said ignoring the issue isn't going to bring about any solutions.

"MSU Hillel should not foster an environment that ignores the natives and how they are treated by Israeli government and forces, who were displaced in order for Israel to exist. Doing so perpetuates blind biases in the 'peace process' and promotes an ignorant way of thinking in order to feel comfortable with celebrations of Israel," she concluded.

So where can individuals looking to hear from all sides of the story meet?

Aside from classroom conversations and restricted topics among religious organizations, Dakota Riehl, a student involved with the Campus Interfaith Council, said her group offers an open forum for discussion on topics deemed too controversial for other groups to address openly.

"These discussions create a safe space for questioning and prompt attendants to seek similarities rather than maintain differences," Riehl said. "Though a solution may be far at hand, discussions such as these remind people of the human element of violence."

— RJ Wolcott



Photo Courtesy of Courtesy Capital Area District Library

SUN SETTING ON EASTERN

EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
REPURPOSING AN EAST-SIDE GEM

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The arched windows of Lansing's Eastern High School are webbed with fine tracery that reads like cursive script on a ruled tablet of limestone and brick.

"It is a beautiful space," Lansing School Board President Peter Spadafore said. "It just doesn't meet the needs of the 21st-century learning environment."

"School's out forever," Alice Cooper whooped in 1972. "School's been blown to pieces."

Welcome to Nancy Finegood's nightmare. As Lansing's school district draws up a sweeping modernization plan, due later this month, Eastern's fate is unclear.

Finegood, director of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, said saving the massive 1928 landmark is "worth a fight."

"My organization has only sat in front of one bulldozer, but Eastern might be worth it," Finegood said. (That was the 1905 Madison-Lenox hotel in downtown Detroit, torn down in May 2005 and turned into a parking lot.)

No bulldozers are rumbling toward Eastern yet, but Spadafore made it clear that the clock is running on the

237,000-square-foot school that sits on a sprawling 48 acres. If anybody has any ideas on what to do with the building, it's time to "put pen to paper," he urged.

"No one on the board is opposed to re-purposing (Eastern), but we're at the point where we've got to do something," Spadafore said. "There's a lot of sentiment and a lot of good ideas out there, but this conversation has been going on for years. We're now at the phase where we need to start talking practical and real solutions."

If it's crunch time for Eastern, the district hasn't been beating the bushes for help.

"I don't think it's been promoted," Finegood said. "We're right here in Lansing. If there is a (Request for Proposals), I've not heard or seen it."

Spadafore said the district hasn't issued an RFP and is waiting for prospective buyers and developers to approach the district. He said no formal plan for re-using Eastern High School has crossed his desk.

Last week, Spadafore was busy scheduling a retreat for the board to consider its options for Eastern and its other buildings. Meanwhile, Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul is sifting through a Jan. 9 report from a facilities task force recommending that the school board "replace, liquidate and/or maximize" Sexton and Eastern high schools, along with the administration building at 519 W. Kalamazoo St., Otto Middle School and the vehicle maintenance center in Lansing Township.

At the Jan. 9 presentation, Caamal Canul said the task force's unofficial recommendation to place specialty campuses at Eastern and Sexton high schools was not feasible, nor is it possible to keep Eastern going as a

"comprehensive high school."

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, has heard from "several" people concerned about Eastern's fate.

"If Eastern High School were suddenly on the market, we would be 100 percent adamant that nothing happen to the school itself," Trezise said. "That is far too significant and beautiful a building to ever tear down. We don't make those mistakes anymore."

OPTIONS. POSSIBILITIES

But who would take on such a Herculean project?

Trezise is eager to get the building onto the tax rolls, perhaps as home to a high-tech company, a la Neogen or Niowave, or as housing for seniors or the oft-courted "young professionals."

Last October, Preservation Lansing held its awards ceremony at Eastern High, just to dangle the school in front of decision-makers like James Herbert, CEO of Neogen, one of the night's honorees.

Under Herbert's aegis, Neogen has rehabbed and occupied 13 old buildings on Lansing's East Side, including the 1916 Oak Park School, a few blocks east of Eastern High, and the 1913 Allen Street School at 1614 E. Kalamazoo St., now Neogen's Center for Microbiological Excellence.

In an interview before the awards ceremony, Herbert said the company has "just about filled" the Allen Street School.

"We're still growing in Lansing and will continue to look for similar buildings in nearby areas," Herbert said.

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Eastern

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A spokesman for Herbert said he hasn't yet looked into the feasibility of adding Eastern High School to the high-tech archipelago he is building on the city's East Side.

Eastern High School lies in the literal shadow of another big East Side player, colossal Sparrow Hospital, just across Jerome Street. As the hospital pushes the limits of vertical expansion, the sprawling grounds of Eastern must look inviting. But would Sparrow's health team resuscitate Eastern or pull the plug?

Lansing Schools spokesman Bob Kolt confirmed that Sparrow has expressed interest in the property.

John Foren, a spokesman for the Sparrow Health System, said Sparrow has invested \$250 million in community projects in recent years — “things like the build-out of the Sparrow Tower, opening of clinics” — but he didn't comment on whether preserving Eastern was a priority.

With a major hospital across the street, it might make sense to convert Eastern into an assisted living facility, or housing for relatives of hospital patients. Across Michigan Avenue from Sparrow, the Ronald McDonald House, a home for families of sick children, is often at capacity.

Then again, hospitals also need plenty



Photo Courtesy of Courtesy Capital Area District Library

State-of-the-art equipment helped Eastern High School students learn secretarial skills in the 1960s, but the district says the 1928 school is not ready for the 21st century.

of parking.

Foren declined to comment on any of these ideas.

“(The school district is) working through a process and we defer to that,” Foren said. “I'm from this area. I understand the importance of Eastern to this community. But there are no solid plans right now.”

Spadafore was circumspect, saying only that Sparrow is a “logical partner for that property.”

Developer Pat Gillespie grew up on the East Side. He completed a spectacular renovation of the Marshall Street Armory in 2011 and has big ideas for Eastern and its spacious campus.

“It's a cool site, a big site,” Gillespie said. “I'd love to have an opportunity to do some creative stuff with it.”

Gillespie envisions a “dynamic master plan community” combining housing for hospital visitors and others with a medical complex that includes “an academic component.” He pictures over 6,000 Sparrow employees ditching their loading dock cigarette breaks and using the huge indoor track next to Eastern, a new fitness center and surrounding green space.

“We'd love to have an opportunity to play around with something like that,” Gillespie said. He said he's been waiting for the district's final plan to be announced to approach the district. He wasn't aware they were looking for ideas.

REPURPOSING SCHOOLS

While Trezise pushes a private sector use for Eastern, there are precedents for public re-use of historic school buildings.

Last week, Valerie Meyerson, director of the Charlevoix Public Library, took a few minutes to ogle Lansing's Eastern High School online.

“It looks like my building — same era, same brick and stone work, same little bay window,” Meyerson said. “It's a beau-

tiful building.”

Nearly the same age as Eastern, the 1927 Charlevoix Grade School, about 20,000 square feet, was closed in 2002. It's now a state-of-the-art library and community gathering spot.

When Meyerson toured the Charlevoix school with a site selection committee, her first reaction was, “No way.”

“The school was in horrible, horrible condition,” Meyerson said. “The roof was bad, there were issues with the masonry. The school district knew they were going to build new, so they put no money in the facility.”

Eastern is in a similar spot. Preservation Lansing leader Gretchen Cochran said the building is already a victim of “demolition by neglect,” with crumbling plaster and exposed lath in some parts of the interior.

“Outside there are places where the grout has fallen out of the brick, and you know water damage is going to happen, if it hasn't already,” Cochran said. “Who knows what's happened where we can't see, like the roof.”

But public sentiment for the old Charlevoix school was strong.

“In Charlevoix, people love their history,” Meyerson said. “It's small-town America, it's all about the schools.”

In a leap of faith, the city bought the property before the library asked for a millage to fund the renovation. The library and the city made a deal to share parking space. The city paid for a five-figure feasibility study to see if the building could be saved.

“We had architects, structural engineers, environmental engineers,” Meryson said. Environmental cleanup alone amounted to a quarter of a million dollars.

A bond millage passed handily and raised \$7.5 million. Public and donor support was so strong the library raised \$1.5 million in a capital campaign.

The building was gutted to a shell. The



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Eastern

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entire exterior was re-grouted and cleaned. The library expanded from a “teeny library with old books” into a community gathering center. About 170,000 people visit every year to attend concerts, lectures, technology training, craft classes and so on.

WHAT ABOUT THAT AUDITORIUM?

Meyerson got everything on her wish list, down to the Arts & Crafts light fixtures and wood detailing, but she envies Eastern’s exquisite auditorium.

“We have a community room with a portable stage and sound system, but we could do so much more if we had an auditorium,” she said.

Eastern’s auditorium raises the possibility of a community and/or performing arts center, a longtime Lansing dream. But Trezise said it would be an expensive proposition for the city.

Tim McCaffrey, director of East Lansing’s Hannah Community Center, said any city should go into such a venture with “eyes wide open.”

“There will be ongoing operating costs the community will have to face,” McCaffrey said. The 100,000-square-foot East Lansing High School, later John Hannah Middle School, was converted into the Hannah Community Center after a \$7 million bond issue was approved by East Lansing voters in 1998. The center has a 500-seat theater, a senior center, fitness and aquatics centers and hosts a wide range of classes and services.

With all its activities, the center’s third floor is still unoccupied.

“We had more building than we had money, in terms of all the things we wanted to do, but it’s still a vibrant facility in the areas we use,” McCaffrey said.

Lansing has a string of major architectural rescues under its belt, but Trezise worries about the shrinking toolkit for investors in old buildings. State historic credits and brownfield credits were eliminated in 2011.

“That’s the only way we did Knapp’s, the power station, Motor Wheel, the Mutual Building, all the others,” Trezise said.

However, it’s likely that any rescue of Eastern High School would qualify for grants and/or low-interest loans under the Community Revitalization Program,



Left: Photo Courtesy of Courtesy Capital Area District Library, Right: Courtesy Charlevoix Public Library

Left: Eastern High School's library as it looked in the 1970s. Right: The city of Charlevoix converted a crumbling school of the same vintage and architectural style as Lansing's Eastern into a public library and meeting space that attracts over 170,000 visitors a year.

which replaced the brownfield and historic tax credits.

Another substantial incentive, the federal historic tax credit, is a slam-dunk for Eastern.

Bob Christensen, National Register coordinator of the State Historic Preservation Office, said there is “no question” that Eastern is Federal Register material.

“The two old high schools, Eastern and Sexton, are fantastic architecturally,” Christensen said. “Both should be kept indefinitely, hopefully as schools, but if not, they should be kept and used for something else.”

Finegood said her organization would be glad to help the school district by adding Eastern or any other decommissioned school to its online listing of historic Michigan properties for sale. She also offered to pass along any RFPs to developers who specialize in historic preservation.

But Christensen is worried that the school board will consider Eastern and Sexton “expedient” and go for the quick sale. “They should be marketed deliberately, with a view toward getting them in the hands of people who will preserve them,” he said.

“I completely understand that concern,” Spadafore said. “It is a beautiful piece of

architecture.” But he didn’t say whether the board would be willing to hold out a few extra months and wait for a developer who would preserve the building.

Christensen suggested that it’s time for the conversation to heat up.

“People need to be talking to the school district now, not when they take a vote to sell it,” he said. “Get them warmed up to the idea that these are important landmarks that must be disposed of carefully, with a real view toward preserving them.”



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Commission accomplished ... almost Lansing City Council considering new board to oversee public art policy

By ALLANI ROSS

Last November, a 17-foot-tall stainless steel art sculpture was unveiled on a plot of unused green space in DeWitt Township's commercial district. The installation site on the northwest corner of the busy Sheridan Street/Old US 27 intersection could have been prime real estate for a new business, but municipal leaders put their hope in the idea that the sculpture, ambitiously named "A Great Place to Start" by local recycling artist Tom Sheerin (who grew up a block away), would do more to grow the local economy than a café or bike shop would.



Mikula

"This art piece ... is at the center of the plans ... to create a unique character and revitalization (for the area)," reads the township's Facebook page dedicated to the event. "In addition to creating a sense of place, the Township's goals ... include spurring economic development on this business corridor and enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood ..."

This art-forward thinking seems to contradict conventional logic that retail traffic drives a local economy. But Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, boldly suggests that public art pieces like this are key nutrients for fertile business soil.

"Arts and culture are critical to economic development," Trezise said. "A (public art plan) should be part of any municipality's strategic plan for retaining and attracting talent to a region. Arts and culture represent opportunity and wealth. Along with maintenance of parks, recreation programs and education, they all add up to job creation. The better they are, the better the jobs will be."

LEAP is a public/private coalition made up of dues-paying businesses and municipalities designed to make the region covering Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties an appealing place to build and grow businesses. Two years ago, LEAP used its general funds to establish a grant program that would award member municipalities \$10,000 each to purchase and install works of public art, with an emphasis on sculpture art. But there was a catch, sort of.

"We required the applicants to develop an art task force and a public art policy," Trezise said. "What we're really doing is putting in place a deep sustainable commitment to the arts. (The grant) was just the carrot."

The first year, LEAP awarded two grants, which went to DeWitt Township and Mason, each of which has a policy in place on managing its public art. The following year, the program was expanded to three, with St. Johns, DeWitt and Meridian Township getting the money. Trezise said this year he's had four applicants: Delta Township, Delhi Township, East Lansing and Lansing. All of them have public art policies in place except for one: Lansing. No art for you! To echo the oft-spoken frustrations of Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, the capital city is indeed the hole in the middle of this doughnut.

Last October, Debbie Mikula was named executive director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, a nonprofit

group that provides education, funding, resources and consulting services to capital area artists and arts and cultural agencies. She said one of the first things she did when she took over was meet with LEAP leaders about Lansing's public art policy — or, rather, its lack of one.

"When I asked (the board) why Lansing didn't have a public art policy in place, the answer was that nobody was concentrating on it," Mikula said. "It takes time to research ordinances and guidelines. So I stepped up to the plate. The City of Lansing should be eligible for that money."

Mikula started working immediately on a plan to develop a Lansing public art commission. She met with city staff earlier this year and started researching art commissions in other Michigan cities, including Ann Arbor and next-door neighbor East Lansing, which recently updated its 22-year-old guidelines. (Last September, the East Lansing Arts Commission facilitated the placement of the Mary P. Sharp sculpture next to its City Hall; in November 2012, it worked to get a mural on the Division Street parking garage.) Mikula also looked in other states, including St. Paul, Minn., and Columbus, Ohio.

"I took the best of the best of what I found and molded and shaped the language so we didn't have to start from scratch," Mikula said. She also met with Lansing Fourth Ward City Councilwoman Jessica Yorke about the next step: Adding a chapter to the Lansing Codified Ordinances to

"Arts and culture is critical to economic development. A (public art plan) should be part of any municipality's strategic plan for retaining and attracting talent to a region."

BOB TREZISE, PRESIDENT/CEO OF LEAP

"encourage and provide provisions for public art." She points out, however, that a potential Lansing art commission would be a separate entity entirely.

"We're just helping to create (the ordinance)," Mikula said. "It has nothing to do with the Arts Council — there's not enough time for anyone to take it on. Our job is to advance arts and culture in the region. This is something specific."

Last week, the issue was introduced at the city's weekly committee meeting; next week it is scheduled to be referred to the Ways and Means Committee. For her part, Yorke said she was surprised Lansing had been missing out on a chance for a little self-expression.

"This is something we need to have in place," Yorke said. "I just wanted to make sure Lansing wasn't disqualified (from getting the LEAP grant) again. Nobody stands in the way of public art on my watch."



Photo by Sara Graham

Workers install "A Great Place to Start" by recycling artist Tom Sheerin. It was purchased with money from a LEAP grant last year and installed in DeWitt Township on the corner of Old US 27 and Sheridan Street.

Yorke mentioned a building in Kalamazoo near where she used to live that used a public mural to initiate the renovation of a dilapidated building.

"Art can be a powerful tool for social change," she said. "Public art can accelerate inspiration."

Mikula anticipates the passage of the ordinance by the end of this month, which is coming up pretty quickly considering no one's been selected yet to be on the commission when it becomes an actual thing.

"Jessica made us work a little faster than we anticipated," Mikula said. "But it's OK, we're ready."

Although some municipal art commissions in larger cities include architectural guidelines for new construction projects, Mikula said the Lansing commission would focus on "art enrichment in the

forms of graphics, murals and sculpture for civic buildings and spaces." She said it's conceived as a five-member committee that would issue requests for proposals to artists, then take their recommendations to the mayor, who would take it to the City Council.

"It's not going to revolve around this money from LEAP, but it was a nice impetus," Mikula said. "There are other projects that could be envisioned. As long as they fit in with the environment and have meaning for that community, art can create a real sense of space and give that area a personality."

"Attracting and keeping high-end global talent here in Lansing is a real challenge when you're competing with London or Switzerland or even Chicago," Trezise said. "With the MSU teams and places like the Wharton Center, we have New York-level arts and athletics here. We're a damn good place."



Photo by Veronica Chantelois
 Matt King recently won the Midwest Tribute to the King competition. This summer, he competes in Memphis.

Precision Presley

Local Elvis impersonator hip swivels his way into international competition
 By KYLE KOEHLER

Sure, it's been 50 years since the dawn of Beatlemania, but a decade before the Fab Four took Americans by storm, a certain hip-thrusting rockabilly had all the poodle skirted chicks to himself. Sixty years ago, Elvis Presley made his first record — "That's All Right" — launching Elvis mania ... and the careers of a million impersonators.

And one of the best happens to be a local man, Matt Chantelois — better known by stage name, Matt King — an Elvis tribute artist from Leslie. Last month, he won first place at the Midwest Tribute to the King competition in Springfield, Ill., where he beat 20 other competitors for \$5,000 and a \$1,500 gift certificate for a professional Elvis jumpsuit. He also secured a spot as a finalist in the "King of the World" world championship in Memphis this August.

This wasn't King's first big win, though, according to his grandmother, Sandra Launstein. In 1998, King won the title of International Grand Champion in Ontario, where he beat over 100 other contestants from around the world. In 2006, King won a contest at Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant, where he received the grand prize of \$2,500.

King, 35, said he started his Elvis journey when he was just 14 years old while working at a costume shop in Dearborn.

"They had an Elvis jumpsuit upstairs, and I decided to buy it for Halloween that year," King said. He took this costume to a high school dance his freshman year where they had karaoke. After singing "Blue Suede Shoes," King said a teacher came up to him, commented on his likeness to Presley and suggested becoming an Elvis impersonator. After researching the topic, King realized he could make a living out of being an Elvis tribute artist, and started his journey.

"When he was a little boy, he saw an Elvis tribute artist that did a show, and he always felt he wanted to be an entertainer," Launstein said. "He sang in the church choir when

he was growing up, and he has a powerful voice." She said he has a vocal range of three-and-a-half octaves.

While a three-and-a-half-octave vocal range is impressive, even more impressive is the fact that King never had a vocal instructor.

"I trained myself," King said. "I've always been able to do vocal impersonations. I can do Joe Cocker, Conway Twitty and Paul McCartney." (Elvis doing the Beatles? Somewhere, someone's head just exploded.)

In order to train himself, King said that he would listen to live CDs and mimic what Presley said between songs, studying the way he moved, even how he laughed.

"I'm just an actor really, portraying a part I'm just really good at playing," King said.

Launstein has always supported her grandson through his journey, and just like King, she's taught herself a key element of the impersonation game: She makes most of his performance outfits herself, based on designs of actual outfits worn by Presley.

"I started sewing when I was a little girl and sewed for several years for my family growing up," Launstein said. "You just can't buy patterns or designs for these suits."

Aside from Launstein, other family members have worked with King throughout his career, making it more of a family business. King's wife, Veronica Chantelois, does all the photography for his shows; his brother runs the sound equipment; and his grandfather runs the spotlight with King's dad.

"It really is a family thing, and it's blossomed into me making a pretty good living on it," King said. He's also the co-founder of the largest festival dedicated to Presley in the United States: The Michigan ElvisFest. The 2014 ElvisFest, marking the 14th year of the festival, will be July 11 and 12 in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. King said that the first year of the festival brought in 2,000 people, and by the second year, attendance had jumped up to 6,000; this year, around 23,000 attendees are expected to show for the weekend.

This year, aside from the concerts and impersonations, the festival will hold a candlelight vigil in honor of the 35th anniversary of Presley's death. Apparently imitation isn't necessarily always the sincerest form of adulation.

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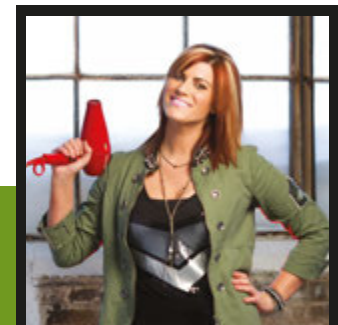
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Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Mar. 5-11

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Are you between jobs? Between romantic partners? Between secure foundations and clear mandates and reasons to get up each morning? Probably at least one of the above. Foggy whirlwinds may be your intimate companions. Being up-in-the-air could be your customary vantage point. During your stay in this weird vacationland, please abstain from making conclusions about its implications for your value as a human being. Remember these words from author Terry Braverman: "It is important to detach our sense of self-worth from transitional circumstances, and maintain perspective on who we are by enhancing our sense of 'self-mirth.'" Whimsy and levity can be your salvation, Aries. *Lucky flux* should be your mantra.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma once came to the home of computer pioneer Steve Jobs and performed a private concert. Jobs was deeply touched, and told Ma, "Your playing is the best argument I've ever heard for the existence of God, because I don't really believe a human alone can do this." Judging from the current astrological omens, Taurus, I'm guessing you will soon experience an equivalent phenomenon: a transcendent expression of love or beauty that moves you to suspect that magic is afoot. Even if you are an atheist, you are likely to feel the primal shiver that comes from having a close brush with enchantment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In my dream, I was leading a pep rally for a stadium full of Geminis. "Your intensity brings you great pleasure," I told them over the public address system. "You seek the company of people who love you to be inspired. You must be appreciated for your enthusiasm, never shamed. Your drive for excellence doesn't stress you out, it relaxes you. I hereby give you license to laugh even louder and sing even stronger and think even smarter." By now the crowd was cheering and I was bellowing. "It's not cool to be cool," I exulted. "It's cool to be burning with a white-hot lust for life. You are rising to the next octave. You are playing harder than you have ever played."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "My old paintings no longer interest me," said the prolific artist Pablo Picasso when he was 79 years old. "I'm much more curious about those I haven't done yet." I realize it might be controversial for me to suggest that you adopt a similar perspective, Cancerian. After all, you are renowned for being a connoisseur of old stories and past glories. One of your specialties is to keep memories alive and vibrant by feeding them with your generous love. To be clear, I don't mean that you should apologize for or repress those aptitudes. But for now -- say, the next three weeks -- I invite you to turn your attention toward the exciting things you haven't done yet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I recommend that you sleep with a special someone whose dreams you'd like to blend with yours. And when I say "sleep with," I mean it literally; it's not a euphemism for "having sex with." To be clear: Making love with this person is fine if that's what you both want. But my main point is that you will draw unexpected benefits from lying next to this companion as you both wander through the dreamtime. Being in your altered states together will give you inspiration you can't get any other way. You won't be sharing information on a conscious level, but that's exactly the purpose: to be transformed together by what's flowing back and forth between your deeper minds. For extra credit, collaborate on incubating a dream. Read this: <http://tinyurl.com/dreamincubation>.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "One chord is fine," said rock musician Lou Reed about his no-frills approach to writing songs. "Two chords are pushing it. Three chords and you're into jazz." I recommend his perspective to you in the coming weeks, Virgo. Your detail-oriented appreciation of life's complexity is one of your finest

qualities, but every once in a while -- like now -- you can thrive by stripping down to the basics. This will be especially true about your approach to intimate relationships. For the time being, just assume that cultivating simplicity will generate the blessings you need most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You Librans haven't received enough gifts, goodies, and compliments lately. For reasons I can't discern, you have been deprived of your rightful share. It's not fair! What can you do to rectify this imbalance in the cosmic ledger? How can you enhance your ability to attract the treats you deserve? It's important that we solve this riddle, since you are entering a phase when your wants and needs will expand and deepen. Here's what I can offer: I hereby authorize you to do whatever it takes to entice everyone into showering you with bounties, boons, and bonuses. To jumpstart this process, shower yourself with bounties, boons, and bonuses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "The art of living is more like wrestling than dancing," wrote the Roman philosopher Marcus Aurelius more than 1,800 years ago. Is that true for you, Scorpio? Do you experience more strenuous struggle and grunting exertion than frisky exuberance? Even if that's usually the case, I'm guessing that in the coming weeks your default mode should be more akin to dancing than wrestling. The cosmos has decided to grant you a grace period -- on one condition, that is: You must agree to experiment more freely and have more fun that you normally allow yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): For the itch you are experiencing, neither chamomile nor aloe vera will bring you relief. Nor would over-the-counter medications like calamine lotion. No, Sagittarius. Your itch isn't caused by something as tangible as a rash or hives, and can't be soothed by any obvious healing agent. It is, shall we say, more in the realm of a soul itch -- a prickly tickle that is hard to diagnose, let alone treat. I'm guessing that there may be just one effective cure: Become as still and quiet and empty as you possibly can, and then invite your Future Self to scratch it for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The world is awash in bright, shiny nonsense. Every day we wade through a glare of misinformation and lazy delusions and irrelevant data. It can be hard to locate the few specific insights and ideas that are actually useful and stimulating. That's the bad news, Capricorn. Here's the good news: You now have an enhanced ability to ferret out nuggets of data that can actually empower you. You are a magnet for the invigorating truths you really need most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you come up with an original invention, apply for a patent immediately. If you think of a bright idea, put it to work as soon as possible. If you figure out crucial clues that everyone else seems blind to, dispel the general ignorance as quickly as you can. This is a perfect moment for radical pragmatism carried out with expeditious savvy. It's not a time when you should naively hope for the best with dreamy nonchalance. For the sake of your mental health and for the good of your extended family, be crisp, direct, and forceful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In the 1997 film *Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery*, the lead character announces that "Danger" is my middle name. Ever since, real people in the UK have been legally making "Danger" their middle name with surprising regularity. I think it would be smart fun for you Pisceans to add an innovative element to your identity in the coming days, maybe even a new middle name. But I recommend that you go in a different direction than "Danger." A more suitable name might be "Changer," to indicate you're ready to eagerly embrace change. Or how about "Ranger," to express a heightened desire to rove and gallivant?



Courtesy photo

"American Idol" alum Pia Toscano (right) and Jared Lee perform Friday at LCC's Dart Auditorium.

This ... is Pia Toscano

A Q&A with the former 'American Idol' contestant and her partner

By NICOLE HALVORSEN

"American Idol" is more than just a reality TV singing contest. It's an incubator for rising musical talent that's given the

Duo Concert: Pia Toscano and Jared Lee

6:30 p.m. Friday, March 7
Dart Auditorium
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Lansing
\$10
lcc.edu/studentlife/piajared_concert

show's non-winners as much a stab at stardom as its finalists. Eighteen alumni have seen their debut records go at least certified gold, and nearly four dozen more have issued some sort of studio release. One of them — Pia Toscano (who came in ninth place in 2011's Season 10) — and her singer/songwriter/producer partner, Jared Lee, swing through Lansing this Friday as part of their DUO tour.

Lee, 34, and Toscano, 25, called from Los Angeles this week to talk about their tour, which brings them to the Dart Auditorium on the campus of Lansing Community College on Friday.

How did DUO get started?

Lee: "We met nine years ago in New York. A friend of ours who worked at Sony told us that we should do some writing together — (Toscano) was in her senior year of high school. I would go watch her performances and my friend thought we should collaborate. We did a lot of writing together and got to know each other. (Several) years later, I moved to L.A. to work on my solo stuff and she was in L.A. for 'Idol' and we decided to

do some stuff together for fun. It ended up sparking something for both of us — something more than just a onetime thing."

What are your goals from here?

Lee: I've been doing a lot more writing and producing. I wrote and produced a song for Jason Derulo; it's a duet called "Vertigo" with Jordin Sparks. I've been working more with other artists. Artistically we're working on DUO, for right now it's going to be our focus.

Toscano: I just do a lot of fashion stuff or anything with beauty. I recently did a fashion panel — that really interests me. I do auditions for musical theater and some acting, but for right now, our main focus is this project.

Lee: For DUO, we're excited to share what we think is a new and creative project with people. We don't have any strict expectations on the project. For me, I love being creative in music as a performer, writer and producer, I hope that I can continue to have success in those areas and work with people that inspire me and create something that I'm proud of.

Toscano: I think the same thing. A year ago, I would've said I want to win Grammys and go to these award shows, have a huge successful album. I think we define success a little differently now. We just want to continue what we're doing and have success with it. Just make music that we're inspired by that other people are inspired by. We're both in a great place right now. That's the long-term goal — to be able to keep doing what we love and keep inspiring people.

Opening the show for Toscano and Lee will be Lansing-based singer songwriter Taylor Taylor.

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CURTAIN CALL



Photo by Luke Anthony Photography

Rahman Shareef as John Newton Templeton, Jeff Boerger as Robert Wilson and Mara McGill as Jane Wilson in Riverwalk Theatre's "Free Man of Color."

Living 'Color'

Riverwalk show depicts early American movement to advance freed slaves

By TOM HELMA

History is sometimes a strange stew of colliding ideas that can form the foundation for a highly entertaining story, as is the case with Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Free Man of Color." Writer Charles Smith takes on the complex tale of former slaveholders in the early 1820s who had a "second sight" of guilt and shame for owning slaves. They created the American Colonization Society, which established the west African colony that would become the nation of Liberia. Smith distills this convoluted notion into a meaty broth, richly brought to life by three characters at the center of the controversial movement.

Central to the drama is John Newton Templeton (Rahman Shareef), a slave who was freed in his childhood and became the first black student at Ohio University. Templeton is clearly educated, but is naïve to the ways of the world into which he is entering. Shareef begins his characterization portraying Templeton as having the earnest innocence of a child, but as the play unfolds, troubled lines of concentration and confusion begin to appear in his face as he begins

to understand the plan his mentor, Robert Wilson (Jeff Boerger), has in mind for him: ascension to the governorship of Liberia.

The third thread woven into the tapestry of the play is Jane Wilson (Mara McGill), Robert's wife. She appears at first to be no more than a cynical devious counterpoint to her husband's fractured idealism. Her seeming contempt for Templeton upon his arrival is at first confusing, but as she becomes Templeton's ally, it becomes clearer.

Transformation of character is at the heart of this saga. Each of the three characters, in turn, displays a wide range of emotions and thoughts, showing surprising elements of depth and complexity. Wilson, the president of Ohio University, is a character of classic intellect laced with a heavy moralistic religiosity. Wilson treats Templeton like a son, yet is blind to his own condescension. Boerger has a knack for acting presidential, a certain kind of elegant walk, a manner of speaking that suggests thoughtful reflection; It serves his character's development well, especially as Wilson unravels a bit near the end and he becomes aware of his transgressions.

McGill is the unexpected element in this play, both articulate and earthy, Southern charm steeled in bitter irony. Her character showcases the sexism that was as prevalent as racism in the minds and hearts of 1820s men. Her story is as important to know as Templeton's.

Kris Maier's costuming, particularly of McGill, is noteworthy, conveying a strong sense of the times. Bob Nees' simple three-piece set provides an intimate focus to the black box stage.

"Free Man of Color" enlightens, educates, and entertains, from beginning to end.

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Pontiac vibe

Local author details complex history surrounding Native American

By BILL CASTANIER

When I was a child, I always looked forward to our family's annual summer vacation in Sault Ste. Marie, pestering my grandmother in the front seat when we were going to see "real" Indians — not knowing at the time she was 100 percent Chippewa. The high point of the trip was the stop at Fort Michilimackinac. (I liked to sound out the melodic "mish-ill-a-mack-a-nac," with the definitive emphasis on the "nac," as in "nac attack.") There I learned about the massacre that happened there on June 2, 1763.

No matter how many times I saw the re-enactment (or "pageant"), I stood in awe as actors portraying an Odawan tribe, playing

a game of baggatiway (a form of lacrosse), allowed an "errant" ball to roll into the fort gate that had been left open. When they approached to retrieve their ball, the men were furtively weaponized by their women positioned near the gate who had hidden knives and hatchets under their clothes. The attack was swift and brutal; in short order, 16 British soldiers and an English fur trader who thought they watching a pleasant sporting event were slaughtered, allowing the fort to fall into the hands of the Odawans. Knowing this event actually happened magnified my terror.

Later on, I learned more about the history of the war on the western borderland in the 1700s. That history was mostly rolled into the generic name "Pontiac's War," named after the Odawa chief who sought to recapture Native American land occupied by the British following the French-Indian War in 1763. Although his role as leader of the insurrection may have been exaggerated, Chief Pontiac certainly rallied Native Americans across the frontier in an effort to expel the British, who had effectively ended French reign and the control of the economically important fur trade.

In the mid 1700s, the Straits of Mackinac, due to its geographical location at the center of several waterways, was the nexus of the fur trade for all of North America; the Massacre at Fort Michilimackinac threatened an all-out war between the Native Americans and the British in that important area. Ultimately, the British would squelch the rebellion, thereby settling in until the War of 1812.

That account pretty much summed up my knowledge of that time until I picked up Keith R. Widder's new book, "Beyond Pontiac's Shadow: Michilimackinac and the Anglo-Indian War of 1763." The 331-page tome, illustrated with scores of maps, drawings and photos of artifacts discovered at the fort, was recently named one of the 20 Michigan Notable Books for 2014. It is a combined publishing effort of MSU Press

and the Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Widder, 70, who lives in East Lansing, graduated from Wheaton College and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee before receiving his Ph.D. in history from Michigan State University. He worked for the Mackinac State Historic Parks from 1971 to 1997 where he created interpretive programs for the exhibits and helped build a research library focusing on the area's rich history.

"The (Straits of Mackinac) has always been a window into the bigger things going on," he said in a recent interview. After he retired, Widder took on the project of writing the definitive history of Michigan Agricultural College for MSU's sesquicentennial celebration in 2005. He focused on the 15-year history of British control in the Straits area, but he said he kept coming back to time surrounding the massacre. Widder draws the reader's attention to the very complex relationships that existed between the various Native American tribes, the French traders and the British occupying force.

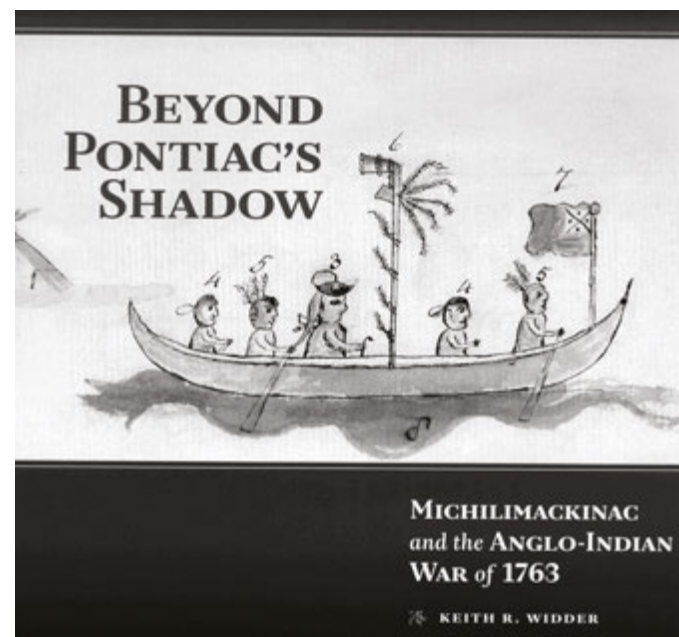
"The attack was significant, but the things that lead up to it and its aftermath was the most interesting," he said. In his book, Widder, for the first time, explains the confusing and interrelated dynamics of the time and explains why the massacre did not escalate into all-out warfare in the Straits as it easily could have. First, he explains why the massacre happened, attributing that to the Ojibwe's closer relationships with the French because of intermarriage, the French being more accommodating of Indian lifestyles and their attachment to the land contrasted with the British intent to rule the land.

Widder describes how it became clear very quickly that the massacre disrupted the lucrative fur trade, upon which Native

Americans across the continent had come to rely for supplies, especially manufactured goods. That was certainly Pontiac's intent when he sent "war belts" to the Ojibwe and the Odawa of the Straits area, ostensibly setting in motion the massacre.

Shortly after the massacre, Odawa from nearby L'Arbre Croche who were interested in reestablishing the fur trade freed the surviving British prisoners, enabling them to reoccupy the fort. The Odawa, Widder says, did this through diplomacy and tradition rather than an act of war. And that's what Widder does best in his book: Explaining how complex personal relationships and extreme diplomacy allowed for a peaceful settlement and avoided further violence on the western borderland, while to the south, especially around Detroit, violent battles nearly resulted in Native American dominance.

Widder will join the 19 other Michigan Notable authors at the gala reception Night for Notables on April 26 at the Library of Michigan, honoring them for their contributions to Michigan literature. Watch for details at michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.



Courtesy Photo

East Lansing author Keith R. Widder follows the events leading up to and following the Massacre at Fort Michilimackinac in his new book, "Beyond Pontiac's Shadow."

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Wednesday, March 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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.

Euchre. Join members for a game of Euchre. 1:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

MahJongg. Weekly MahJongg games on Wednesday. 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Pinochle. Weekly Pinochle games on Wednesday. 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Line Dancing. Learn popular country line dances with Emma Hill. 3 p.m. \$40 members, \$60 non-members, \$7 member drop-in \$10 non-member drop-in. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Dance Around The World. Learn traditional dances from around the world. 4:15 p.m. \$40 members, \$60 non-members, \$7 drop-in members, \$10 drop-in non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Spiritual Needs Discussion. What are spiritual needs from a progressive view? 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. Featuring locally grown, baked and prepared foods, live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

See Out on the Town, Page 19

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 >> ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY MEN'S CHORUS



Minnesota is a cold state, but it's also a hotbed of choral music. Among the most spirited of the state's many fine choral groups is the 43-voice St. John's University Men's Chorus, making a stop at First Presbyterian Church in Lansing as part of a spring break tour that takes them across the Midwest. Axel Theimer, one of the top choral directors in the country, has led the group since 1960. Born in Vienna, Theimer is a former member of the Vienna Boys' Choir and a legend in the nation's choral community. The group's repertoire runs the gamut from the Renaissance to the 21st century, with music by Carl Maria von Weber, Darius Milhaud, Ken Jennings, Stephen Hatfield and others. 8 p.m. FREE, with donations accepted. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. For information contact Sergei Kvitko at sergei@bluegriffin.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 7-8 >> 'BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE' AT STARLIGHT DINNER THEATRE

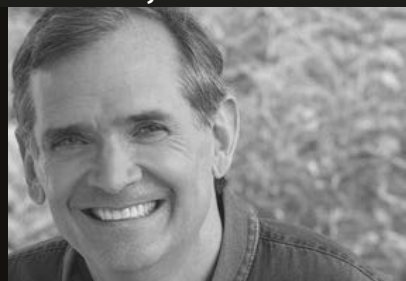
Breaking free from your parents usually comes with some parental pushback, but for Don Baker it's more than that: Don, a young blind man, has an overbearing and overcautious mother. Disregarding her worrisome ways, he moves into his own apartment to pursue songwriting, where he meets Jill Tanner, the free-spirited girl next door. Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m./show begins at 7:30. Dinner reservations are required 48 hours in advance. Show and dinner: \$33/\$28 seniors and students/\$20 children 12 and under. Show only: \$15/\$10 seniors, students and children. (517) 243-6040, starlightdinnertheatre.com. (Performances continue next Friday-Saturday, March 14-15.)



SATURDAY, MARCH 8 >> PANCAKE/BOWLING FUNDRAISER

The Lansing Spartan Youth Organization is a local nonprofit dedicated to fighting childhood obesity — literally. Retired boxer/MMA fighter Kolmarge Harris started the organization to offer free/low-cost fitness programs to encourage physical fitness with his boxing-centric workouts and diet recommendations. On Saturday, the group will hold a pancake breakfast/bowling fundraiser at Spare Time Entertainment across from Frandor Shopping Center. A \$15 wristband gets you all the bowling and pancakes you can handle. All donations will help the organization with its facility improvement plan and continuing its nutritional program support for low-income families. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15. Spare Time Entertainment, 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing Twp. (517) 894-8429, lsyo@lsyo.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 >> HIV ACTIVIST/AUTHOR SEAN STRUB



The AIDS epidemic is over 30 years old, and author and activist Sean Strub has had a front-row seat throughout. He founded POZ magazine, a full-color news magazine about people living with HIV, ran for Congress as the first openly HIV-positive candidate in American history and participated in several ACT UP actions, including placing a giant condom on U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms' Virginia home. He will be speaking about his book "Body Counts: A Memoir." FREE. 6-8 p.m. Location TBD. Call Lansing Area AIDS Network's Shawn Hunter at (517) 349-3560 ext. 29 for more information. Reception sponsored by Michigan Pride follows the conversation.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 >> CELEBRATING WOMEN AS COMMUNITY BUILDERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THREE WOMAN LEADERS

The Niagara Foundation is taking time during Women's History Month to act as Rosie the Riveter and remind women "We can do it!" The panelists of this discussion share their stories of success and challenges on their way to changing the community. Their goal is to encourage women to realize their potential. Panelists include Cindie Alwood, co-director of the Women's Center of Greater Lansing; Jannel Glennie of Lumen House; and Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of Honors College at Michigan State University. FREE. 6:30-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (734) 252-9476, niagarafoundation.org/michigan.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 >> MIA MCKENZIE: BLACK GIRL DANGEROUS

Award-winning author Mia McKenzie's blog, Black Girl Dangerous, is a devoted to topics pertaining to gay and transgendered people of color. McKenzie visits Michigan State University to discuss her work and to continue the discussion initiated last month with Project 60/50, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the civil rights act and the 60th anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education. FREE. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Union Building Ballroom, 2nd floor, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-1635, goo.gl/q2cr86.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



SAT. MAR 8TH

THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE LP RELEASE AT MAC'S

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$8, 18+, 9 p.m., Mar. 8.

Since 2007, The People's Temple has released LPs and 7-inches for a number of indie labels. Last year, the Lansing-based band travelled to Nashville to record a single for Jack White's Third Man Records. Saturday, the band releases its new "Musical Garden" vinyl LP/CD at Mac's Bar. Pitchfork Media gave the album a glowing review, saying: "Those Lansing boys in the People's Temple have become a reliable staple in the garage-pop landscape. On their third album, they're still ripping and stomping as well they were on 'Sons of Stone' and 'More for the Masses' ... Thus far, they're three for three and show no signs of letting up." Opening the show are Bad Dates and Dizzy Dearest.

FUCKFACE UNSTOPPABLE AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$25, \$20 adv., \$40 VIP. 18+, 8 p.m., Mar. 5.

Bam Margera earned a cult following after starring in MTV's "Jackass" series from 2000 to 2002. The prank/stunt show spawned four movies and a several TV spinoffs, including the Margera-centric "Viva La Bam." These days, Margera, 34, is concentrating on his band Fuckface Unstoppable, which performs tonight at The Loft. The metal/punk/comedy group features members of CKY and will release a debut album this year. The band's tune "Bend My Dick" has received over 500,000 listens on YouTube, and showcases Margera's vulgar, yet deceptively sharp sense of humor. When he was 13, Margera became a professional skateboarder. He later created the "CKY" video series, a pre-cursor to the "Jackass" franchise.

WED. MAR 5TH



BUBBA SPARXXX AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$15, \$12 adv., 18+, 8 p.m., Mar. 8.

Warren Anderson Mathis, aka Bubba Sparxxx, is known for chart-topping southern-rap hits like "Deliverance," "Ugly" and "Ms. New Booty." The Georgia native's latest album, "Pain Management," is his first disc in seven years and features the single "Splinter." As a teen, Sparxxx was introduced to hip hop through the music of N.W.A., Too Short and OutKast. In 2001 he achieved international fame with the "Dark Days, Bright Nights" LP, which featured ample production work from Timbaland. The album debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard Top 200. Opening the show are DJ Ruckus, Wavie P, Team Sway, D Boy, Wayn'o, Arentul Amuze and Smokehouse Junkiez.

SAT. MAR 8TH



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.	Service Industry Night, 9 p.m.	DC Fallout, 9 p.m.	Croatoine, 9 p.m.	Bob Wayne & the Outlaw Carnies, 8 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	5x5, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Flyte, 9 p.m.	Flyte, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.	Paul Mooney, 8 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Off the Ledge, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Gold Rush, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Jonestown Crows, 8:30 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	Squids, 9 p.m.
Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave.			Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Fuckface Unstoppable, 8 p.m.	Cello Fury, 8 p.m.		Bubba Sparxxx, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Laura Stevenson, 7 p.m.	The Peoples Temple, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Comedy Night, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Big Willy, 9 p.m.	Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Acoustic Jamz, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 8:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 7 p.m.	DJ, 7 p.m.	Eric Paslav, 7 p.m.	Dani Vitany, 7 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) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: 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 17

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Stand Up Comedy Night. Comedy featured the first Wednesday of each month. 9:30-11:30 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

MUSIC

Marshall 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.

The Arrangement. Live performance with special guest Matt Gabriel. 8 p.m. \$5. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

Thursday, March 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Education Day. FREE event for families and kids about nutrition! 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.com.

Understanding Low Back Pain. Avoid and manage low back pain. 6:30 p.m., FREE. Infinity Fitness, 1701 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 253-8123. midmichsportspine.com.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. www.stdavidslansing.org.

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.

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

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

Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous. Held in room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

Garbage Disposal Installation. Learn easy ways to do household chores. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin Class. Learn the language of the first people from this region. 7-9 p.m. Donation. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

Yoga. Taught by Marcy Howe. 11 a.m. \$7 members, \$9 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Mind Benders. Have fun while you stretch your memory. 11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Bingo. Weekly bingo Tuesday and Thursday. 1 p.m. \$2. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Party Bridge. Party Bridge weekly on Thursdays. 1 p.m. \$1 members, \$2 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Euchre. Weekly game of euchre, Tuesday and

Thursday. 1:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Craft Night Social. Work on projects, create a quill box, make a dance shawl or do a peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

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

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adult women. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

Capital Area Audubon Society. Backpacks and backyard bird count. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. capitalareaaudubon.

Consumers Energy Hiring Event. Consumers Energy is hiring 17 full-time positions. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Registration required. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500. camw.org.

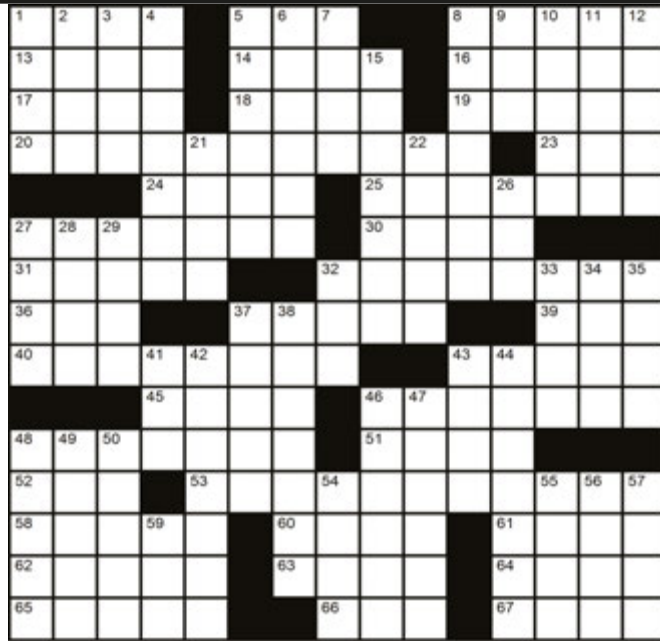
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Three in a Row"-- where have I heard that before?
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Many-___ (colorful)
- 5 Amtrak stop, briefly
- 8 Pile at birthday parties
- 13 Nelson Muntz's bus driver
- 14 Blaze a trail
- 16 Illusory painting genre
- 17 Looming choice
- 18 Industrial show
- 19 See 33-Down
- 20 Wind, cold, etc.*
- 23 Droid download
- 24 Like, total top choice
- 25 Baltimore ball team
- 27 Place to store your phone numbers (before smartphones)



- 30 People in a certain lounge
- 31 "This happens ___ time!"
- 32 Pup in the Arctic*
- 36 Roseanne's sitcom mom
- 37 "An Incomplete and Inaccurate History of Sport" author Kenny
- 39 Eggs at a sushi bar
- 40 Former Haitian president*
- 43 Wilson of "The Office"
- 45 Nets coach Jason
- 46 Won by a shutout
- 48 Country singer Harris
- 51 "And here it is!"
- 52 ___ Jo, o de Meriti (Brazilian city)
- 53 Group of three can be heard phonetically in the answer to each of the three starred clues

- 58 Standing subway passenger's aid
- 60 "___ the mornin' to ya!"
- 61 A wife of Charlie Chaplin
- 62 System with joysticks and paddles
- 63 Site of museums devoted to Ibsen and Munch
- 64 Swabs the deck, really
- 65 8-Down type
- 66 President pro ___
- 67 Place where "You can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal"

Down

- 1 Axton of "Gremlins"
- 2 Bryce Canyon National Park's location
- 3 Raison d'___ (reason

- for being)
- 4 Toast
- 5 Coffeehouse freebie
- 6 San Antonio cuisine
- 7 Neck's scruff
- 8 Full of dirt?
- 9 Copper-colored beer and paddles
- 10 Ruinous
- 11 Nonsense
- 12 Fitness tracker units
- 15 Mr. McNabb
- 21 Kenny Rogers hit written by Lionel Richie
- 22 "Survivor" grouping
- 26 CIA's predecessor
- 27 Self-titled country album of 1988
- 28 Walkie-talkie word
- 29 First name in denim
- 32 "I'm out"
- 33 With 19-Across, "Truly Flabby Preludes" composer
- 34 Best of the best

- 35 Front the money
- 37 Cramp-relieving pill
- 38 Total
- 41 The limit, proverbially
- 42 Fish served in filets
- 43 Contrary to Miss Manners
- 44 Body makeup?
- 46 Fastener in the corner
- 47 Explosive sound
- 48 Piece in the paper, perhaps
- 49 Photo finish
- 50 Erin of "Happy Days"
- 54 Jim Lange, for "The Dating Game," e.g.
- 55 Word after elbow or leg
- 56 Like some 1950s comedy material, today
- 57 Curiosity's launcher
- 59 Installation material

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 >> WARHORSES AT THE AVENUE

Warhorses, a Detroit-based heavy trance rock band, headline a night of murky guitar sounds at the Avenue Café. Opening are two Lansing bands: Hordes and Croatone. Warhorses plays a hypnotic brand of throwback psychedelic rock that touches on sludge and space rock. Some of the band's influences include Spacemen 3, the Jesus and Mary Chain and Laughing Hyenas. Croatone, an instrumental bluesy-hardcore punk band, released its debut disc in November on Silver Maple Kill Records. Meanwhile Hordes is writing songs for a new album. 9 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 >> WINTERLUDE 2014 CONCERT

The Lansing Concert band, an award-winning 75 piece all-volunteer adult ensemble, continues its season on Sunday with Winterlude 2014. The free concert will feature an afternoon of wind music featuring soloist Edward Goodman Jr. on saxophone. Pieces performed will include "Fantasia for Alto Saxophone," "Black Horse Troop" and "On a Hymnsong of Phillip Bliss." 3 p.m. FREE. Okemos High School Auditorium, 2800 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 655-8447, lansingconcertband.org.

SUDOKU

ADVANCED

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 20

Out on the town

from page 19

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

Lincoln County Process. Live performance. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

{REVOLUTION} at Tavern. A weekly electronic music event for ages 21 and up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Friday, March 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

Learning Keys & Mouse Workshop. Learn the

fundamentals of using a computer. 9-11 a.m. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500. camw.org.

Chalk Paint Painting. Help the Meridian Senior Center decorate. 11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

EVENTS

Land Use Lunch. Mid-MEAC Land Use Lunch, featuring Diana Flora. Noon-1 p.m., \$5 lunch available. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 292-3078. midmeac.org.

DUO Concert with Pia Toscano. With guests Jared Lee and Taylor Taylor. 7:30 p.m., \$10. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 927-7979.lcc.edu/duo.

MUSIC

Big Willy. Live performance. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz inspired original music and original compositions. 9 p.m.-midnight. Suits

Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

Singles TGIF Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 8 p.m.-Midnight. \$12. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

THEATER

"Free Man of Color." Depicts the early American movement to advance free slaves. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Butterflies Are Free." Retro comedy. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only; \$31, \$28 dinner students and seniors. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

Saturday, March 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Urban Chickens. Basic information on raising backyard chickens. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Are Vaccines Safe? Seminar with Mary Tocco. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 203-3333. childhoodshots.com.

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. Outside at Hunter Park during the warm season and inside at Allen Market Place during the cold. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Planting your herbs and veggie. Growing herbs and veggies in containers for fun! 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327. smithfloral.com.

EVENTS

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

Shiawassee Home Garden Expo. Featuring over 120 professional exhibit booths. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$5, \$4 ages 62 and up, FREE ages 18 and below. Owosso High School, 765 E. North St., Owosso. (989) 723-5149. shiawasseechamber.org.

Second Saturday Supper. Baked chicken dinner. Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8, \$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

MUSIC

Pat Zelenka Project. Live performance. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. Jazz-inspired original music and original compositions. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

THEATER

"Free Man of Color." Depicts the early American movement to advance free slaves. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Butterflies Are Free." Retro comedy. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only; \$31, \$28 dinner students and seniors. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

Sunday, March 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

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.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar with restrictions. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Greater Lansing Vegan Meetup. Bring a vegan dish to share. Open to everyone. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Clerical-Technical Union of MSU, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-7898. meetup.com.

MUSIC

Winterlude 2014. Concert band classics and

See Out on the Town, Page 21

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 7-9 >> MICHIGAN HORSE EXPO

"Hay," horse people, saddle up for this event. Learn to care for a horse through expert guidance from Michigan professionals and others around the country. Shop for yourself at the 200-plus vendors. \$7-13 individual tickets; \$11-26 three-day passes. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Friday (7-10 p.m. rodeo); 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday (Evening Show 7-9:30 p.m.); 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (231) 821-2487, michiganhorseexpo.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 7-9 >> 2014 MICHIGAN DEER & TURKEY EXPO

While the ladies test their aim at the Shoot like a Girl range (sorry guys, women only), the men can shop. Usually it's the other way around, but when there are booths stocked with guns and ATVs, it's hard to resist. Tour Remington's mobile exhibit, chat with experts or watch one of the 30 presentations given throughout the weekend, including a Q&A with Outdoor Life Editor Andrew McKean. Walk home proudly with a trophy for your prize-winning buck in the big game contest. 2-9 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. \$14-\$22/FREE for first year hunters with proof of hunters education course. The Summit Sports and Ice Complex, 9410 Davis Highway, Dimondale. (517) 319-1000, deerinfo.com/michigan.

SUNDAY MARCH 9 >> GREEN DOOR ROCKS FOR LCC SCHOLARSHIPS

The LCC American Marketing Association hosts a five-hour band showcase on Sunday, with proceeds going toward scholarships and to help subsidize the cost of the association's competitions. The night features performances from the Pat Zelenka Project, McCoy and the Scratch Pilots, The Rotations (formerly known as Plan B), UnTamed and Persuasion. And if a Sunday night party sounds unappealing, there's a Monday morning freebie in store: The first 150 people in the door get a coupon for a free Biggby beverage. 4-9 p.m. \$10/\$7 students. (517) 420-6428

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 >> CAPITAL CITY TOASTMASTERS ANNIVERSARY

The Capital City Toastmasters club helps Lansing-area folks develop their communication and leadership skills, fostering self-confidence and personal growth. You can network before the event to hone in your communication skills, then hear from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and other Toastmasters, and see how leader are evaluated. Practice your leadership communication during Table Topics and stay for club awards. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 639.toastmastersclubs.org, facebook.com/capcitytm.

City Pulse Classifieds

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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HANNAH'S KONEY ISLAND

Katy Barth/City Pulse
Owner/operator
Bryan Van Curen
recently unveiled
his new menu at
Hannah's Koney
Island.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

It was bound to happen sooner or later. I've lived in Lansing for 13 years, and for the last five I've written about Lansing-area businesses that are either new or under new ownership.

Eventually it was going to wind up being someone I knew. But when my friend and college roommate Bryan Van Curen became the subject of this week's New in Town, it was something I wasn't prepared for — especially since neither he nor the business is particularly new in town.

Van Curen, 33, bought **Hannah's Koney Island** late last year. He's worked in several restaurants around the Lansing area, including Mitchell's Fish Market and Beggar's Banquet, but he said he was just as surprised as the rest of us when he took the plunge and bought his own place late last year.

"I never thought I'd be a restaurant owner," Van Curen said. "I've worked in restaurants since I was 14,

and every time I tried to get out, something pulled me back in. But this time I pulled myself in. I love it. I love working with food and with people. I just never admitted it."

Van Curen took over for Anton Prenaj, who owned the 20-year-old diner for the last seven years. (Prenaj moved across town in January to open **Athenas Diner**, 3109 S. Cedar St., Lansing, former home of **Jon's Country Burgers**.) Prenaj left behind some of his Greek-themed specialties — such as the rotisserie-cut lamb used on his gyros — but Van Curen has started seasoning the menu with his own twists on traditional coney items.

He's named many of the new additions after friends and family: Lisa's Mac & Cheese after his girlfriend's signature dish, Mark McMuffin after his dad's fast food taste-a-like and Allan Fries. (Yeah, those were my creation.) The biggest move was creating a more dinner-centric lineup, led by his Bryan's Spicy Pasta, which has a spicy tomato sauce he's spent the last 10 years perfecting.

Van Curen said he's

toying with the idea of extending his hours, but for now he's just getting used to the early hours and getting used to being his own boss.

"It's taken some adjustment, but I really like it," he said.

The Buffet is gone; long live the Buffet

Last week a sign appeared in the window of the former **Old Country Buffet**, 2301 W. Grand River Ave. in Okemos, which was renamed **Osake Buffet** last summer. It announced the restaurant's reopening in "late March, early April" with a rather logical new name: **New Country Buffet**. The owners also run the **Asian Buffet**, 4920 Marsh Road. To follow the opening, go to facebook.com/ncbokemos.

Hannah's Koney Island 4790 S. Hagadorn Road (in Hannah Plaza), East Lansing 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday (517) 333-3527 msuconey.com, facebook.com/hannakoneyisland

Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Out on the town

from page 20

something new, too. 3 p.m. FREE. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 641-4264. lansingconcertband.org.

Chamber Series 4. Chamber Series 4: String Quartets & Licorice Stick. 3 p.m. \$15 Adult, \$10 Student. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

THEATER

"The Teacher from the Black Lagoon & Other Stories." Children's stories on stage. 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. \$9. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Free Man of Color." Depicts the early American movement to advance free slaves. 2 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive,

HERO: Floating Floor Install. Seminar on installing wood floors. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

Gendered Language Conversation. Conversation about gendered language. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

Tax Appointments. Tax Appointments available by appointment only. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Lansing Clippers Monthly Meet. ASG Lansing Clippers Monthly Meeting. 6:15-9 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 641-6876. lansingclippers.com.

EVENTS

Monday Morning Movie. Popcorn and a movie. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

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

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. (517) 348-5728, 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org.

Saints, Sinners and Cynics. An open conversation to share about life, faith, etc. 6:30 p.m. FREE to attend, purchase own refreshments. Buddies Bar & Grill, 1937 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 882-9733. saintmichaellansing.org.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band and spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Suits Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

THEATER

"Four Disgracers." Staged reading of four original one-act plays. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246. ixiontheatre.com.

Tuesday, March 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

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.

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. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow 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 Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

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

HERO: Interior Decorating. Homeowner Education Resource Organization tutorial. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

Learn to Play the Ukulele. Learn to play the Ukulele

with Ben Hassenger. 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$60 members, \$75 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Today's Special Program. Free cooking demo and nutrition tips! 5-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of Scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600.

Red Wings Viewing Party. With retired Detroit Red Wing all-star Jason Woolley. 7:30 p.m. Applebees Restaurant (south), 270 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 882-8320.

Wednesday, March 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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.

Spiritual Practices Discussion. What are the options for a spiritual seeker? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.


EVENTS

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

Mother Son Dance. Includes photos, gifts and refreshments. 7-9 p.m. \$10-\$12 per person, pre-registration required. Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. 517-323-8555. deltami.gov/parks.

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Mia McKenzie Black Girl Dangerous. Speaking engagement with author Mia McKenzie. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-1635. wrc.msu.edu.



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Katy Barth/City Pulse

Jeremy Mason (left) and Eric Craft are the co-founders of DeWitt-based coffee bean roasting and distribution business Craft & Mason Roasting Co.

Java men

New Lansing 'micro-roastery' keeps the focus on coffee beans

By **KATY BARTH**

For some people, enjoying a fresh cup of joe is more than pressing the brew button on a coffeemaker — it's a daily sacrament. For those who take their coffee seriously, the Lansing-based "micro-roastery" business Craft & Mason Roasting Co., which produces locally roasted coffee beans, was launched late last year. Founding co-owners Eric Craft, 38, and Jeremy Mason, 31, say their goal is to provide caffeine junkies with farm fresh coffee.

"All of the flavors in the coffee are built at the farm level," Mason said. "If the coffee isn't good (or) it wasn't farmed well, there's no way to roast that into the product."

Craft and Mason research each farm thoroughly before sending their supplier to further inspect the product and buy it directly from farmers in Guatemala, El Salvador, Columbia and Sumatra. Mason admits they pay more for their beans than other coffee shops, but he said they're paying for the quality and care.

"The farmer was passionate about farming and processing the coffee to the best of (his) ability and I think we enjoy the taste of it because of that," Mason said of one of his bean suppliers. Craft & Mason is an on-line business only; the two roast the beans on Monday, ship their product on Tuesday

See Java men, Page 23



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Java men

from page 22

and if you're local, it will arrive at your door on Wednesday. Prices range from \$15 to \$20.50 per 12 oz. bag (5-pound bags are also available), with \$100 six-month memberships available.

The two geek out when looking for new coffee beans. Similar to wine, the taste of coffee depends on its location, elevation and how it's processed. This information, along with the farmers' names, is listed on every coffee package.

Craft and Mason work out of a residence north of Dewitt, with all retail done through their website, craftandmason.com. The two are looking into partnering with Lansing businesses to get their product on the shelves or at least samples to try.

Educating coffee drinkers is what excites Craft the most. He was unaware of the complex nature of home roasting before meeting Mason at Riverview Church in Delhi Charter Township.

"Jeremy is the reason why I became passionate about coffee," Craft said. "Coffee is like beer. You drink the popular stuff because you were blinded to the craft and specialty brews."

Craft and Mason didn't start out as coffee experts. They said that through experimentation, they opened their palates to the diverse flavors available. They want to introduce others to these flavors as well.

Their La Concordia roast presents a pleasant mixture of tart and sweet. The overall experience tastes like chocolate-covered raspberries. Initially it's sharp and acidic, yet it finishes with a lingering candid flavor, like molasses.

The coffee bean is the seed of a coffee "cherry." Freshly plucked, it's green and looks like a split pea. It doesn't turn the usual brown color we're used to seeing until after it roasted — and it turns out, you don't need anything fancier than an Orville Redenbacher popcorn machine, the first piece of equipment Craft & Mason had, purchased from a local Salvation Army. Similar to popcorn, coffee beans have a little moisture in them; when the seeds are heated, the moisture is forced out of it and the seed swells. Craft said this results in the caramelized beans that we're used to, from the usual suspects, such as Starbucks.

Unlike Starbucks coffee, however, Craft & Mason doesn't roast its beans as long, creating a lighter flavored brew. With the use of a computer, the pair tracks the amount of heat they're applying, when they're introducing it and for how long they applying it to the bean. These factors result in different flavors.

One request that Craft said he asks of his customers is to try their first sip "organically," without cream or sugar, because you might enjoy what it naturally has to offer.

"Sometimes its best to just let the bean to do the talking," Craft said.

foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail food@lansingcitypulse.com.

CAFES & DINERS

THEIO'S — Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open 24 hours daily. 2650 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-3955. TO, P, WiFi, \$

TOM + CHEE — Grilled cheese and soup. 123 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday. tomand-chee.com TO, OM, \$

TONY'S — Traditional diner with breakfast all day. 350 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. (517)

332-5553, tonsofeast-lansing.com, TO, OM WiFi, \$

ZEUS' CONEY ISLAND

— Greek classics and American favorites. 6525 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (517) 272-7900. OM, TO, WiFi, \$

EASTERN CUISINE

3 TIMES CAFÉ — Korean cuisine. 2090 Grand River Ave.,

Okemos. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-10 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 349-3122. TO, RES, WiFi, \$\$

AKAGI SUSHI — 1745 Central Park Drive, Okemos. Noon-8 p.m. Sunday; 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday. (517) 347-7333. WB, D, TO, RES, \$\$

ALADDIN'S EXPRESS — Middle Eastern cuisine. 208 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. (517) 346-8700. Alcohol, TO, D, P, WiFi, \$\$.

ASIAN BUFFET — Chinese, sushi and hibachi grill. 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos. 11

a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 381-8388. www.facebook.com/asianbuffetokemos. OM, TO, D, WiFi, RES, \$-\$\$

ASIAN GOURMET — Online ordering available. 2003 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; noon-10:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 367-6068, lansing-gasiangourmet.com, D, TO, OM, RES, \$\$

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food. 6443 S Cedar St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 393-1688. TO, RES, WiFi, \$

CHARLIE KANG'S — Chinese and Korean cuisine. 127 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 507-5275. charliekangschinese.com TO, D, RES, OM, WiFi, \$\$

CHINA EXPRESS — 1630 Haslett Road, Suite 2, Haslett. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday.

(517) 339-8318. TO, \$ **EAST CAFE** — Chinese cuisine. 1001 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-11 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. (517) 853-6828. TO, OM, WiFi, \$

EMONAE KOREAN BBQ RESTAURANT — Korean food cooked at your table. 901 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 488-0305. emoskoreanrestaurant.net TO, D, OM, RES, WiFi, \$\$



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