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May 20-26, 2015



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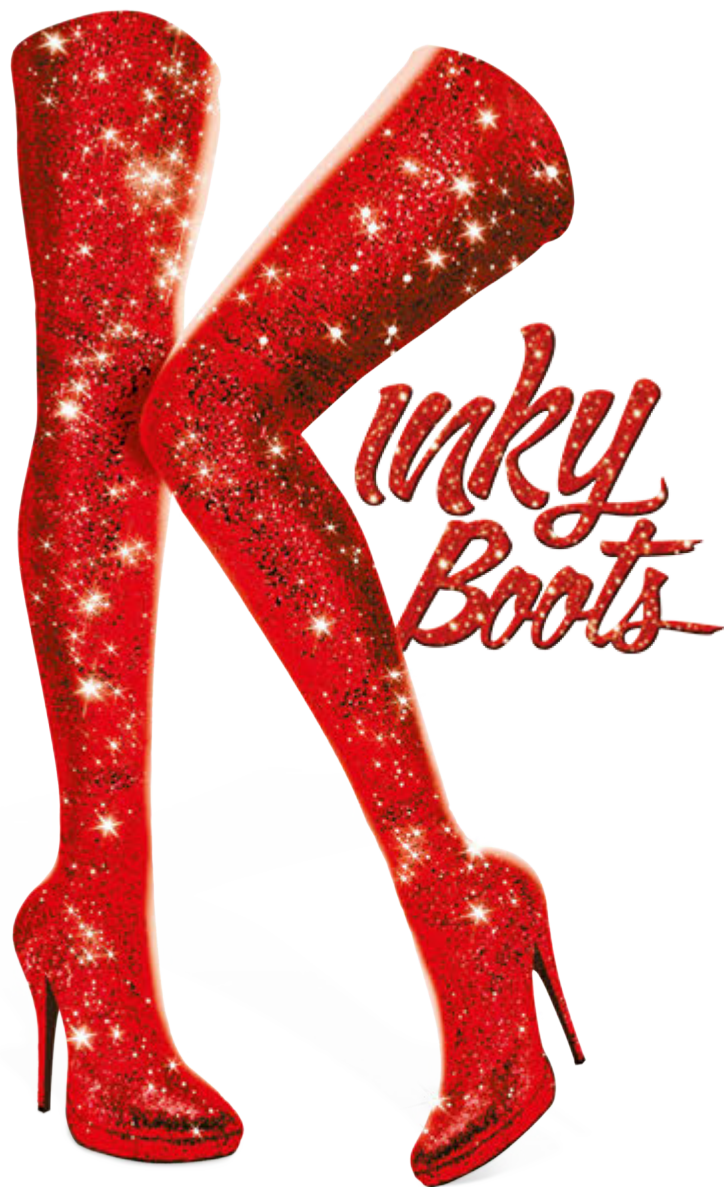
STORIED BUILDING

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Praise for LSO, Cosentino

Lansing Symphony Orchestra just concluded its 2014-2015 season to a lengthy standing ovation. I was there, having enjoyed yet another great performance.

Deserving of thanks is Lawrence Cosentino of Lansing City Pulse for his abundant gifts as a writer. Without his knowledgeable pre-concert writeups and insightful post-concert reviews of the LSO performances to draw me in, I wouldn't have been there. I had only been to one previous LSO concert several years ago but since then I have read every one of Mr. Cosentino's reviews of the performances, wishing I had been there.

In January I decided to become a regular attendee at the LSO concerts, and I'm so glad I did. If Mr. Cosentino's skills as a writer drew me in, Timothy Muffet's vision and abilities as the conductor of a talented orchestra are responsible for keeping me there.

At each performance, even with high expectations, I have come away impressed. Timothy Muffet's programming makes the breadth and history of classical music appealing and accessible. The remarkable guest talents he brings, and Lansing's skilled symphony musicians, broaden my horizons and open doorways into the world of music for the cost of a couple movie tickets. And what a unique experience to see works performed with their composers in attendance, with the musicians they collaborated on. To be present for a world premiere. And to meet the guest artists and the composers themselves. I'm already counting the months to the 2015-2016 season.

Those of us who enjoy life in the Greater Lansing area each have reasons why we find this to be a vibrant and rewarding community to live in. Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Lansing City Pulse are at the top of my list.

— Dennis McGeen
Mason

Feedback

Brewery ad offends

On page 11, the graphics on the left column show The Brewery ad of two naked women walking in boots, advertising "no cover tonite" (City Pulse, May 13-19). At risk of appearing not to appreciate a good bit of 70's nostalgia, I feel the need to say something. It struck me that a debasing cartoon or advertisement depicting a person of color or a gay/lesbian person (pick any demeaning characterization of your choice) would not be printed in the City Pulse, unless it was to make a pointed and political statement.

Herein lies my discouragement and bafflement that the The Brewery ad of the naked women advertising no cover charge was included in the article, apparently to show the good old days of the Brewery and how much fun it was. I would like to believe that the City Pulse is neither ignorant nor unconcerned about the continual degradation of women that occurs on a daily basis. Perhaps it's that this type of imagery of naked women, whether from 30 years ago or in the present, to sell or advertise any old product or event imaginable, is so commonplace and pervasive, that it goes by unnoticed.

It's not that I'm trying to beat a dead horse (this is the third time I've written to the Pulse about the way women's bodies are portrayed). The reality is, this horse ain't dead yet.

— Kathy
Hollister
East Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor:
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 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.)

CityPULSE

**VOL. 14
ISSUE 40**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



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Lansing Symphony announces 2015-16 season

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Dave Menzo goes electric

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE" by ANGUS McNAIR

COVER ART

CITY PULSE THIS WEEK



- Auto dealer Leo Jerome
- Lansing Symphony conductor Timothy Muffitt
- Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister
- Sparrow COO Joseph Ruth

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on **IMPACT** 89 FM



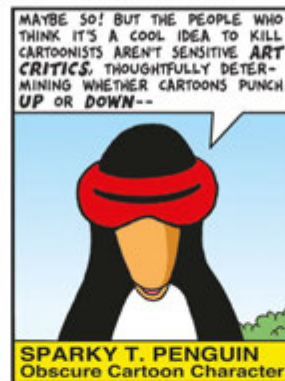
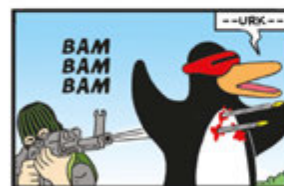
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2015

End of Story

Historic Lansing car dealership to be demolished to make way for housing

Leo Jerome wants to be there the day the wrecking crew levels Story Oldsmobile. Last week, Jerome announced he'd sold the eastside Lansing property to a market rate housing developers. There's no demolition date yet, but with construction planned to start in November, Story Olds will probably come down sometime this summer.

"I think my mother-in-law will want to be there, so I'll bring her, too," Jerome said. "It'll be a sad day, but it just feels right to be there. That business was good to our family and a lot of other families. It put a lot of kids through college, made a lot of careers."

Jerome, 73, took over the dealership, on Michigan Avenue between Ranney Skate Park and Sears just south of Frandor, from his father-in-law, Karl Story, in 1996; Story died the following year. Then Jerome watched as Oldsmobile folded in 2004. It was an ignominious end for a business that had once been a crown jewel of local industry.

"We sponsored baseball teams, the MSU cheerleaders rode in our cars for homecoming, we had our own Christmas parade that went up and down Michigan Avenue in front of the store," Jerome says. "And we were selling a product that was made right here in town. It was almost sacrilegious not to buy an Oldsmobile."

When it closed six years ago, the building first served as a makeshift auto museum after Jerome parked a few classic Olds in the showroom window. When those were removed, it simply became a warehouse for old office furniture. It also became a target for vandals. But whatever you do, don't call it abandoned.

"That would be unfair," Jerome says. "I didn't abandon it — I lost my franchise. I kept the grass cut and paid my taxes on it, but I couldn't keep people from breaking the windows. I was there for 50 years, but Michigan Avenue is no longer a logical place for a dealership. It's an ideal spot for (housing and retail). That's progress."

The property was bought by Ambling University Development Group, which intends to build a nine-story, \$77 million mixed-use facility called SkyVue on Michigan. It will have retail space on the ground floor, athletic facilities and over 350 apartments. For over 20 years, Ambling has specialized in student housing development; recently, however, it started catering more to young professionals.

"We're morphing into a market rate developer (targeting) areas that have a higher education and health care infrastructure," said Ambling vice president Matt Marshall. "Areas with

both of those elements in place result in a professional need for housing. Lansing interested us in particular because of all the development going on."

Indeed, SkyVue arrives on time to benefit from a flurry of new jobs in the area: MSU's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams will create hundreds jobs when it opens, the new Chevy Camaro will add 145 jobs to the Grand River Assembly plant, Jackson National Life is undergoing a major expansion and Sparrow Hospital will soon begin work on a new five-story cancer center. Those are all new jobs, possibly bringing new people to town who are going to need places to live.

And then there's the Red Cedar Renaissance project, the "high-end village" planned across the street from SkyVue. That project is being shepherded by local developer Joel Ferguson and Ohio developer Frank Kass. Jerome and his son, Chris Jerome,

were once attached to the Red Cedar Renaissance with Ferguson, but a falling out between the two camps resulted in a dissolution of any type of partnership and the launch of a lawsuit. (None of the three men would comment on the split or on the case, but Ferguson said, "We're going to make the city better, and we hope they do the same thing.")

When Story Olds is bulldozed to make way for SkyVue, it will be an ironic confluence of Ghosts of Michigan Avenue Architecture Past and Future. It may not look like much now, but Jerome said the dealership, which was built

in 1954, was fashioned by design studios inside the GM Tech Center with an award-winning showroom.

"It was actually very futuristic, years ahead of its time," Jerome said. "GM used to send graduates from (Kettering University in Flint) here to tour the dealership as part of their graduation. There were all kinds of innovations built in. We had one of the first drive-up service centers in the country."

Jerome still has to get all that furniture out of the showroom for an upcoming auction, so he has a few trips left yet to make to the old building. He said he'll miss the view ("That golf course was so peaceful in the summer first thing in the morning"), but carries with him something his father-in-law told him years ago — a prescient blessing.

"He called me Jeromey, and he told me once, 'Jeromey, there may come a time when you feel you need to bulldoze this dealership to the ground,'" Jerome says. "And when you do, don't think old Karl is going to feel bad. I know that Karl would approve of this. And if (SkyVue) is something that convinces these young people to stay in Lansing instead of moving to Texas or Chicago, even better. A place where they can live and work and buy the Cadillacs that are made here in Lansing."

— By Allan I. Ross



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Leo Jerome owned and operated Story Oldsmobile on Michigan Avenue in an avant-garde building scheduled to be replaced by a \$77 million apartment and retail complex.



Property: 1548 E. Grand River Ave.
Owner: Ingham Co. Land Bank

Owner says the house is scheduled for demolition

Looking beyond the obvious problems caused by the vegetation that has enveloped this simple house, it seems to be sited particularly close to the busy public way. The east-facing front porch would make for pleasant evening gatherings, sheltering its users from the setting summer sun. Outside but still covered, people can interact and strengthen neighborhood connections.

However, when a porch is too far away from the street, its users are less likely to connect with the passersby. If it is too close to the sidewalk, like this example, people can feel too exposed.

The porch's height might be raised to move its occupants above and away from the sidewalk. Additionally, if the guardrail is fabricated with wide boards and narrow gaps, the nearness can be moderated with a semi-opaque, yet neighborly screen.

— Dan Bollman, AIA

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

Two different cities

Disparity stark in Baltimore's side-by-side neighborhoods

Just three weeks after rioting in some of Baltimore's poorest neighborhoods, this past weekend's Preakness Stakes, the city's premier sporting event, happened without incident.

I was there and as in years past, it was normal for the 2015 Triple Crown race. Baltimore is two very different cities, particularly three weeks ago. They intersect at events like the Preakness or Orioles' games at Camden Yards, but only briefly.

Compared with Lansing, the racial divide is stark, more pronounced even than the line of demarcation between Detroit and Grosse Point.



MICKEY HIRTEN

Having lived in Baltimore in the 1970s and '80s and returning regularly, the transformation of the city or "cities" explains some of the frustration that lead to the rioting. One is shining; the other is crumbling. While the immediate cause of the riots was the abusive policing in black neighborhoods, the underlying issue is the ongoing collapse of communities: bad schools, unemployment, drugs, incarceration and the other social ills found in cities.

But what's different in Baltimore, certainly when compared with a city like Detroit, is the wealth and success of glittering new neighborhoods adjacent to those of the poor. Detroit is attempting along Woodward Avenue the type of gentrification that supports high-income Millennial and GenX neighborhoods. But it's a steep climb compared with Baltimore. The hole is deeper and its waterfront isn't as open.

The disappearance of manufacturing jobs that once supported middle-class lifestyles and aspirations has been hap-

pening in the Northeast and Midwest cities for decades. I covered business for the Baltimore Evening Sun, a journalistically rich beat in a city that in '70s and '80s was a manufacturing powerhouse. There were really big businesses like Bethlehem Steel, whose massive Sparrows Point mills employed as many as 31,000. It also had a shipyard. General Motors build cars at its Broening Highway assembly line employing 7,000 UAW members. Western Electric manufactured cable — jobs for 4,000 workers. All have closed.

And there were smaller solid businesses manufacturing clothing, hats, umbrellas, brooms, food products and more. Also, gone.

It's a familiar pattern in other cities, to be sure, but what has happened in Baltimore is in-your-face gentrification that is creating an Oz-like landscape of towering hotels, condos, apartments and entertainments along the city's waterfront where companies like McCormick & Co. once manufactured spices or Proctor & Gamble produced Ivory soap.

U.S. Census tract income maps show the cavernous gap between adjacent neighborhoods. Along the waterfront, the 3,344-person neighborhood known as Fell's Point in 2014 has an estimated median income of \$94,814. There, 19 percent of the population is identified as minority. Directly north, just blocks away, is a similarly sized neighborhood that is 87 percent minority, where the median income is just \$21,693. And Fell's Point isn't the waterfront wealthiest neighborhood. Directly adjacent is the once industrial Canton district where the median income is \$155,920.

As an old, and once wealthy city, certainly Baltimore has it big-house neighborhoods. But it's the new wealth, the obvious money and the proximity to poverty that is so jarring.

In Lansing, for example, there simply isn't the same degree of high and lows. In the city, the neighborhood with the highest median income is the River Forest neighborhood on the west side north of the Grand River. The Census Bureau estimates the median income there at \$78,953

and the minority population at 33 percent. To its north is the neighborhood directly south of the airport where the income is \$33,782 and the minority population is 47. River Forest also abuts the long and narrow corridor that dips south along Larch and Cedar streets. But it is too gerrymandered to be a real neighborhood. Lansing's greatest income disparity is in the Moores River Drive neighborhoods where the 2014 estimated median income is \$77,111 and the racial makeup is 44.5 percent minority. It abuts the Pleasant Grove neighborhood, 61 percent minority, where the annual income is \$29,194. None of this is insignificant, but it's not flaunted.

For Lansing, the small scale helps. Everything from traffic to services is more manageable. And the municipal decline is less pronounced. Baltimore is tumbling into the second tier of cities. Lansing, too, is slipping, but the population is more stable.

In 1960, with a population of 939,000, Baltimore was the nation's sixth largest city. (Detroit, with 1.7 million people, was fifth). Baltimore dropped out of the top 10 in 1980 and currently has a population of about 620,000 — 26th in the nation according to the Census Bureau data gathered by biggestuscities.com. Its historical decline isn't as wretched as Detroit's, now ranked 18th with a population of 689,000. Still, Baltimore has 16,000 vacant houses.

As for Lansing, its population peaked in 1990 at 126,932. At the time, according to the website, it was the nation's 145th largest city. Now the population is 113,972, but the ranking has plummeted to 236th. Growth is nice. But sustainability is better, and many indicators in mid-Michigan are positive. The auto industry is growing. So is MSU. Jackson National Life is expanding. Downtown Lansing is more vibrant and inviting than ever.

Lansing is avoiding the racial politics that are ready to explode again in Baltimore. Nothing has changed there. But there are always triggers, even in Lansing. Policing, housing, education and jobs can be flash points if they aren't addressed, as events in Baltimore have demonstrated.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, June 11, 2015** 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 for the purpose of considering a request from MSU Student Housing Cooperative, for the property at 420 Evergreen Avenue to replace the roof, add a new deck at the same level of existing deck and new railing.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Eric Muska, for the property at 353 Division Street to install an egress window on the northeast corner of the house, improve entrance/exit to home from driveway and replace existing sidewalks with slate stone.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

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And tune in at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to hear **Berl Schwartz**
of City Pulse call him an ignorant slut... or worse.

New Niowave charges

Neighbors contend company is scamming LEAP, city

The Niowave pole barn saga continues with new questions raised by Walnut Neighborhood activists about expenses that the high-tech company has submitted to the city of Lansing for reimbursement.

"Looks to me like Niowave scammed LEAP and the City again for the \$62,000 Brownfield reimbursement, paying their own internal employees \$53,853.51 and provided no explanation or breakdown of this internal charge," activist Dale Schrader emailed other residents.

But Karl Dorshimer, director of the business development division of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), said he personally reviewed the documentation on the employee spending and found it legitimate.

"They did most of the work themselves," Dorshimer said in an interview. "They didn't include the documentation, but I went over and reviewed the records. That was enough to satisfy me."

Niowave Inc., which makes superconducting electron accelerators, built the pole barn adjacent to the old Walnut Street School, which it had rehabbed into its headquarters. After residents of the old neighborhood protested the pole barn, the city agreed to a deal negotiated by LEAP that made Niowave's tax breaks contingent on multiple improvements to the structure.

The agreement allows up to \$124,000 in reimbursements to Niowave from the Brownfield fund. Under such agreements, the work has to be completed and bills submitted for reimbursement. While the company has submitted over \$146,000 LEAP has only approved the \$124,000. In December, the agency reimbursed Niowave \$62,000.

Efforts to reach Niowave's CEO, Jerry Hollister, were unsuccessful. Niowave employees about 70 people and plans to add another 90 or so when work is finished on a \$79 million building near the airport.

In a report on the progress of Niowave's agreement, LEAP officials noted that of the nine items to be completed, four were done, while three were partially finished or will be finished and two more won't be done. The report said the company has not hidden the HVAC unit or painted the west and north walls to blend the building into the neighborhood. The report also said that Niowave had partially completed the installation of facing on the building — brick — to blend it with the historic Walnut Street School. And finally, the report said LEAP has determined that Niowave will install a gable and faux windows.

Dorshimer said that when the company

completes the remainder of the agreed upon improvements — which includes painting various parts of the building and installing faux windows on the building — it will be eligible for the other \$62,000.

"It's totally up to them now," Dorshimer said.

Activists also questioned a \$4,000 charge paid by Niowave to LEAP and submitted for reimbursement under the agreement. That fee was not approved for reimbursement, and Dorshimer said it is a standard fee his organization charges to assist businesses in negotiating tax deals with the city.

Neighborhood activists are challenging the Brownfield expenses submission in



City Pulse file photo

The fight goes on: Neighbors say Niowave Inc. has "scammed" the public for funds to be reimbursed for improvements to a pole barn it built next to its headquarters in the Walnut Neighborhood.

large part because the original deal was to address the pole barn — something they contend, and LEAP concurs with, has not been fully completed.

Another charge of \$9,500 was also questioned.

This was paid by LEAP to architects at C2AE. Niowave did not reimburse the agency for this expense, Dorshimer said. "That was a contribution we made up front," Dorshimer said. "We were willing to pay the fees to get some designs as part of the process to get an agreement."

Mary Keiner, a neighborhood activist, said some of Dorshimer's answers were "good info to know," but she said many questions still remain.

"Niowave's inflated dollar figures in their report make it appear that they have been magnanimous in their efforts," she wrote in an email to City Pulse. "They have said publicly that the requested finish would cost \$40,000 — as if that's prohibitive." To fund it, she said Niowave could sell one of the homes it has purchased in the Walnut Neighborhood that it maintains as rental units.

"It would appear that their continued

unwillingness to correct the facade has less to do with actual money than sheer stubbornness," she wrote.

While Niowave has not completed all of the agreed-upon improvements, Dorshimer said they were "substantially completed." As a result, LEAP does not support rescinding the underlying tax deal the led to the deal between the business and the neighborhood.

That underlying deal is a New Personal Property waiver. The waiver allows companies to invest in new equipment and not have to pay full taxes on them, said Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood.

In order for Niowave to get the Council to

The state's "Frequently Asked Questions" section related to this particular tax incentive was updated to reflect the commission's decision in August 2013.

"Can a New Personal Property Tax Exemption Certificate be revoked? If yes, who holds the authority to do so?" the website reads. "No. A New Personal Property Tax Exemption Certificate cannot be revoked."

Dorshimer said the update was "buried" on the website.

"It's not our job to check every little thing on the website," Dorshimer said. "It appears as though it was quietly inserted."

Wood called Dorshimer's response "a crock."

"That's what they are getting paid for," Wood said. "We've been told they are the best and the brightest, which means they would know about these changes."

State Treasury officials did not respond to questions.

To address the issue, State Rep. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, has introduced legislation to amend the law to allow for revocation of certain tax incentives.

"I thought this tool was no different than other economic development tools," Schor said in a phone interview. Schor used to work for the Michigan Municipal League, before being elected to the state Legislature. "It's a clarification. Every other economic development tool, you can revoke it if something goes wrong."

He criticized Treasury officials as well for failing to "reach out to locals."

The legislation will not be retroactive, meaning Lansing will still be stuck, in the eyes of economic development officials, with the terms of the agreement.

But Wood said she is preparing a resolution that would rescind the entire approved deal. In her opinion, Council passed the resolution authorizing the deal under misleading conditions. As such, she argues, the deal is no good because the Council was told repeatedly that it could revoke the deal if Niowave failed to complete the improvements outlined in the agreement.

"It's not a matter of rescinding it," she said, "it was not legally passed in the first place. We were assured we would have the ability to rescind the deal if Niowave failed to live up to the deal."

First Ward City Council member Jody Washington said she had no opinion on the proposed resolution, and would wait until she had a chance to read it before commenting.

If the resolution fails, Wood and Washington said they are willing to explore taking Niowave to court to enforce a portion of the development agreement signed by the city and Niowave. The provision specifically allows the city to revoke the tax breaks if Niowave fails to fulfill the agreement — something both Council members said is the case.

— Todd Heywood



ARTS & CULTURE

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Fields of bronze

Singer Joshua Davis finishes in third place on 'The Voice'

By TY FORQUER

Joshua Davis' improbable journey on reality TV singing competition "The Voice" ended Tuesday night, with the Traverse City-based singer ending in third place behind champion Sawyer Fredericks and runner-up Meghan Linsey.

Davis, a former Lansing resident and frontman of Steppin' In It, was in the mix until the show's final episode.

The songwriter did, however, have an opportunity to share one of his own songs before he exited the competition. On Monday's episode, Davis performed a rollicking rendition of "The Workingman's Hymn," a tune he originally recorded for his 2011 album, "Magnolia Belles." (The title is a sendup to Lansing's Magnolia Street, where he lived with his "belles," his wife and daughter.)

"You're a great songwriter, dude," said celebrity judge Blake Shelton. "That song is stuck in my head now."

"This isn't just you writing a song," added celebrity coach Adam Levine. "This is you writing a fantastic song."

Davis followed up that performance with a stunning arrangement of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

"That was so heart-warming," said celebrity judge Christina Aguilera. "It was right on."

Monday's show also featured duets by the contestants and their celebrity coaches. While those performances were mostly filler for the two-hour show and not part of the competition, Davis, along with Levine, used the opportunity to deliver a spirited version of Paul Simon's "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes" accompanied by legendary singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

The single for "The Workingman's Hymn" topped out at No. 9 on the iTunes charts, narrowly qualifying Davis for the iTunes bonus. Each iTunes purchase counts as a vote for that artist, and landing a song in the top 10 multiplies those votes by 10.

"Hallelujah" fell just short of the top 10, stalling out at No. 12. Sixteen-year-old folk rock phenom Sawyer Fredericks landed both of his songs in the top 10, with

back-to-back singles in the No. 2 and 3 spots. Country singer Meghan Linsey reached No. 5 with her original song, "Change My Mind," while her second single ran out of steam at the No. 14 spot. Fourth place finisher Koryn Hawthorne's singles peaked at 15 and 29.

Despite his impressive Monday evening performance, Davis couldn't overcome the formidable Internet following of Fredericks and Hawthorne, putting him in third place when the final votes were tallied.

While he didn't emerge as champion, the third place finish is an impressive capstone for an improbable run. While Davis has performed for years as a singer, he never considered his voice as his foremost musical asset.

"I was surprised when ("The Voice") approached me," Davis told City Pulse last month. "I've always thought of myself as a songwriter first, then an instrumentalist, then a singer."

Davis had a few brushes with elimination along the way. On the show's March 9 episode, Joshua Davis faced off against singer Brian Johnson, with the loser facing elimination. Shelton chose Johnson over Davis, but Levine jumped in and stole Davis for his team.

On April 21's results show, Davis found himself in the bottom three and in danger of elimination once again. Davis was saved by viewers, who cast their votes via Twitter,

and bounced back the next week with one of his strongest performances of the season, an intimate version of Sting's "Fields of Gold."

Being featured on a national platform like "The Voice" could be a game changer for Davis, whose musical future was uncertain after the break-up of Steppin' In It, the Lansing-based band he had fronted for 15 years.

Of course, it's hard to say if Davis will be able to parlay this exposure into long-term success. Even the show's champions have a spotty record in terms of commercially successful post-"The Voice" careers. Even so, Davis seems to be enjoying the moment as best he can.

"This has been a life-changing experience for my family and me," Davis wrote in a Facebook post addressed to his fans before the results show. "I've learned so much, made lifelong friends and had the opportunity to bring roots music to a wider audience, and it's all because of your support."



Photo by Jessica Cowles

Joshua Davis performs a hometown show in Traverse City.

Basking in the glow

Joshua Davis' run on "The Voice" gives a boost to local music

By TY FORQUER

While "The Voice" has landed Michigan-based singer/songwriter Joshua Davis firmly in the national spotlight, the reflected light of television stardom has also illuminated Michigan's formidable folk music scene. While his local musical exploits and connection to Michigan-based folk music collective Earthwork Music were never mentioned explicitly on the show, Davis has shown love to Michigan musicians on his Twitter and Facebook accounts, and eager new fans have harnessed the power of Google to discover the singer's past work.

Davis has released eight albums through Earthwork Music, comprising three solo albums, four albums as frontman of Steppin' In It and one album with Shout Sister Shout, a collaboration between members of Steppin' In It and vocalist Rachael Davis.

Earthwork Music also got an unexpected nod from "The Voice" competitor Sawyer Fredericks, who performed "Shine On" on the show's May 4 broadcast. The tune was written by May Erlewine Bernard, Earthwork Music artist and wife of Earthwork Music's founder, Seth Bernard.

City Pulse caught up with Seth Bernard to talk about Davis' run on "The Voice" and its affect on Earthwork Music.

Have you seen a spike in interest in Joshua Davis' albums? Has his appearance on "The Voice" driven people to check out Earthwork Music?

There has been a wave of new interest and a lot of positive feedback from the community during Josh's run on "The Voice." We have seen a rise in web traffic, social networking likes and shares/retweets, more email coming in and a few more sales going out too. When you've been at it for a while, it is nice to have more folks pay attention, but we certainly did not see this coming.

I have been a huge fan of Josh's music for 15 years, and we are also very close friends. I am really excited for the folks who are just discovering Josh through "The Voice" because they still get to discover his whole world of music. He is incredible, and his own songs and his own show are where it's at. We are all excited for the return of the real deal JD beyond what they let him do on TV. I can't wait to hear Josh playing his own songs on Michigan soil again.

What was it like for you and May to see "Shine On" on a national TV broadcast?

Hard to describe or really wrap my mind around. We've had a challenging few years, losing friends, becoming parents and helping our baby girl through a tough surgery and a long recovery. We didn't expect that to happen and it did and we held hands and rode the wave. The song had meant a great deal to Sawyer for a long time, and he really wanted to perform it on the show from the very beginning. Apparently his popularity gave him the leverage to get permission to sing a song by an independent singer/songwriter.

When Josh told us that Sawyer was a fan of ours and was thrilled to learn that Josh played with us, we were surprised. It was a "small world" moment. Earthwork Music was created, in part, as an alternative approach to the world of commercial music and the mass media. This is a wave we have been riding, and, though it has been a little scary, it has affirmed that the musical community here is strong and supportive.

What does it say for the state of folk music that two folk artists (Davis and Fredericks) can make the top four on a national reality show?

I still don't look to "The Voice" for my cues on the state of music, but it does make sense to me that those handsome and talented folk gents are being embraced by the masses. Folks love to hear folk music! Singing from the heart, playing songs that mean something, expressing sincere gratitude — that stuff doesn't go in and out of style, does it?

BELOW LEFT: Claire Joseph, 5 of Mason, adds color to a paper-mâché fish at REACH Studio Art Center's table in the children's area.



BELOW RIGHT: Saxophonist and MSU jazz professor Diego Rivera takes a solo with Rodney Whitaker's Soul R Energy ensemble.



Arty party

Dark clouds drifted over downtown East Lansing, but the rain held off and thousands of Greater Lansing art lovers filled the streets for the 51st incarnation of the East Lansing Art Festival. 175 artists set up shop in a makeshift artistic village, and a selection of mid-Michigan's finest talent took the stage at the recently remodeled Ann Street Plaza.

PHOTOS BY TY FORQUER



CENTER LEFT: A selection of prints by Ann Arbor-based artist Terry Butler. ABOVE LEFT: Jenifer Kudulis, half of Chattanooga-based Kudulah, discusses an art piece with festival patrons.

CENTER RIGHT: Longtime festival volunteers Les and Katy Perino of Haslett manning the information booth. ABOVE RIGHT: Cloudy skies didn't deter Lansing-area art lovers, who descended on the festival in droves.

Usual and unusual

Cocktail list for 2015-16 Lansing Symphony season calms, piques and zings

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Lady walks into a bar.

Bartender gives her a drink called a Concerto for Four Saxophones and Orchestra.

Voo, voo, voo, wah! Lady's head expands.

"What was that?"

"The usual."

Slipping zing into classical music's dog-eared cocktail list of Mozart, Tchaikovsky and their cronies is a tried and true formula for Lansing Symphony Orchestra maestro Timothy Muffitt, and he's not about to change it for the 2015-16 season, announced this week.

It's the usual, but always with a twist. An over-the-top night of Gershwin music Sept. 18, with pianist Ralph Votapek playing four major works in a row, and the Lansing debut of incandescent violinist Rachel Barton Pine on Jan. 23 are two of the season's high points, along with the Brodvingnagian Fourth Symphony by Tchaikovsky as a season finale May 4.

The stampede of saxophones, rounded up by Ann Arbor composer William Bolcom, is the centerpiece of the most unusual night of the season, an all-American concert Nov. 7 featuring "our" three B's: Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein and Bolcom, an award-winning composer who taught composition for 25 years at the University of Michigan.

"It's exactly what one might expect from a concerto for four saxophones," Muffitt said, without apparent irony.

The concert goes like a bender in reverse, from the depths of two profound Barber works, the Adagio for Strings and the First Symphony, through Bolcom's reedy extravaganza to the exuberant dances of Bernstein's "On the Town."

"It's a real journey that follows a very decisive track from beginning to end," Muffitt said.

Votapek, an MSU piano legend, will team up with the orchestra for a marathon performance at the Sept. 18 season opener that will make a worthy career bookend to his historic Van Cliburn competition win back in 1962 —

or at least get him a citation for parking his piano on stage too long.

He'll play all four works on the program, from Gershwin's variations on "I Got Rhythm" through the famous "Rhapsody in Blue." True to form, Muffitt will sneak in the almost-never-heard Second Rhapsody (a.k.a. "Revenge of the Rhapsody") to give the night an extra twist.

In fall 2013, Muffitt imported Russian violinist Ilya Kaler to play both Prokofiev concertos in one concert in Lansing, but the maestro has never before worked with a soloist who camped on the stage all night.

Votapek floated the idea to Muffitt via email almost two years ago.

"I had time to digest it, and I realized that it's a no-brainer," Muffitt said. "It has all the perfect qualities for a concert here in Lansing. Ralph is one of our hometown heroes."

Next season's visiting soloists also pack some extra zing. Like most classical music lovers, Muffitt has been following the gripping story of Chicago violinist Rachel Barton Pine for years, and was elated to snag her to play the Bruch "Scottish Fantasy" for a Jan. 23 concert that ends with Dvorak's Eighth Symphony.

Pine has impeccable classical cred, but connects with audiences who don't like classical music. She plays in a heavy metal band and has a compelling backstory: She almost left this world in a horrific 1995 commuter train accident that cost her part of one leg. (A passing train snagged her violin strap.)

"That is, without a doubt, part of the inspiration factor with her," Muffitt said. "She's an extraordinary violinist. I've never worked with



Courtesy photo

Pianist and MSU faculty member Ralph Votapek kicks off the Lansing Symphony season with an all-Gershwin program.

her before but I've heard her on countless recordings."

Another compelling young soloist, Seattle cellist Joshua Roman, will play the Elgar Cello Concerto Oct. 9 in a concert that will conclude with Rachmaninoff's huge Second Symphony. Roman is the epitome of the post-modern classical performer, playing informal gigs on rooftops and in parks (check out his Bach series on YouTube) when the mood strikes.

"This will be a very traditional setting for him, to play standard repertoire in a concert hall," Muffitt said, "but he brings a fresh energy and a fresh vision of classical music."

Even that hoariest of orchestral rituals, an all-Mozart night (March 5), has a fresh angle. Anchored by the minor-key 40th Symphony, the evening will feature Muffitt's own hand-picked bouquet of blossoms from the exquisite — but very long — "Gran Partita," rarely heard in

symphonic concerts. The season rolls to a close May 4 with the emotionally draining juggernaut of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. It's a big end to a big night that also features a soloist yet to be named — the Gilmore Keyboard Festival 2016 Young Artist Winner — and another new element: a new work from young composer Mark Edwards Wilson, "The Phoenix."

"I like to make sure that opening and closing nights are highly charged," Muffitt said.

Tchaikovsky's Fourth is among the most complex scores in the repertoire, but Muffitt isn't worried about that.

"We are at a point where the level of playing is really fantastic," he said "I feel confident that the Lansing orchestra could handle anything you set in front of them."

Brand went on to serve as regional vice president for Clear Channel Entertainment before landing his gig at the Wharton Center.

While the award has Brand's name on it, he is quick to deflect praise to his staff. Part of his strategy for long-term success is building a team that he can rely on.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra 2015/2016 season at a glance

All MasterWorks Concerts are at Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall.

MasterWorks 1: Votapek Plays Gershwin
8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18
Guest Artist: Ralph Votapek, piano

Gershwin: "I Got Rhythm Variations"
Gershwin: Concerto in F
Gershwin: Second Rhapsody
Gershwin: "Rhapsody in Blue"

MasterWorks 2: Elgar & Rachmaninoff
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9
Guest Artist: Joshua Roman, cello

Elgar: Cello Concerto
Rachmaninoff: Second Symphony

MasterWorks 3: American Festival
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

Guest artists: saxophone quartet
(Griffin Campbell, Jim Forger, Joe Luloff, Chris Creviston)

Barber: Adagio for Strings
Barber: First Symphony
Bolcom: Concerto for Four Saxophones
Bernstein: "On the Town: Three Dance Episodes"

MasterWorks 4: Scottish Fantasy
8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23
Guest Artist: Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Berlioz: "King Lear Overture"
Bruch: "Scottish Fantasy"
Dvorak: Eighth Symphony

MasterWorks 5: Mozart Mania
8 p.m. Saturday, March 5

Mozart: Divertimento K. 136
Mozart: Suite from "Gran Partita"
Mozart: 40th Symphony

MasterWorks 6: Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4
8 p.m. Wednesday, May 4
Guest Artist: 2016 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival Young Artist winner

Mark Edwards Wilson: "The Phoenix"
TBD: Piano concerto
Tchaikovsky: Fourth Symphony

For the full schedule, including pops and chamber music concerts, go to lansingsymphony.org.

Bravo, Mr. Brand

Wharton Center executive director receives prestigious Broadway award

By TY FORQUER

At the Wharton Center, it is usually the casts of actors or the groups of musicians that get standing ovations. On May 12, however, the center's top man-behind-the-scenes received his own standing ovation when Mike Brand, Wharton Center's executive director, was awarded the Samuel J. L'Hommedieu Award at this year's Broadway League Conference in New York.

"It's a really special honor, and speaks well for the Wharton Center's efforts," Brand said.

The Broadway League is the national trade organization for the Broadway industry, comprising over 700 members ranging from theater owners and operators to pro-

ducers, presenters and general managers across North America.

The award is the highest award that can be given to an executive of a performing arts center affiliated with touring Broadway and recognizes excellence in management and leadership. While Brand had hoped to bring this award to the Wharton Center someday, he was not expecting it this year.

"It was a huge surprise," said Brand, who was not informed ahead of time that he would be the honoree.

It was such a surprise, in fact, that he was preoccupied during the introduction and didn't realize the speaker was talking



Brand

about him until "two seconds" before they announced his name.

Brand, 67, has worked in arts administration for 31 years and has spent 11 of those at the helm of the Wharton Center. Before crossing over to the administrative side, he enjoyed a career performing and teaching trumpet, including a position in the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and regular engagements with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

When famed conductor Pinchas Zukerman announced he would step down as music director of the chamber orchestra, Brand decided it would be a good time for a change in his life as well. He took an internship with the fledgling Ordway Music Theater in St. Paul. Within 18 months, Brand had advanced to vice president for programming and marketing within the organization.

"That started my career," Brand said.

Brand went on to serve as regional vice president for Clear Channel Entertainment before landing his gig at the Wharton Center.

While the award has Brand's name on it, he is quick to deflect praise to his staff. Part of his strategy for long-term success is building a team that he can rely on.

"Mike is a great leader, and really invests in the staff," said Bob Hoffman, the Wharton Center's public relations manager. "He sends us to trade shows and makes sure we're well informed. He wants us to be experts on what is going on in Broadway."

As Wharton Center looks forward to its 2015-2016 season, a season Brand has referred to as a "Broadway bonanza," Hoffman is excited by the extra credibility an award like this brings to the organization.

"This is really huge for the Wharton Center," Hoffman said "It shows that Wharton Center is a major player in Broadway."



TOP OF THE TOWN WINNERS SPECIAL SECTION



TOP OF THE TOWN 2015 AWARD WINNERS



CityPULSE



Clockwise from top left: Horrocks, Caitlin McSweeney, Golden Harvest, Rick Preuss of Preuss Pets, Fish Ladder Tattoo, Cara Nader of Strange Matter Coffee (photo courtesy of Debbie Carlos). Other photos by Ty Forquer/City Pulse.



TOP OF THE TOWN WINNERS PARTY

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AND THE TOP OF THE TOWN AWARD GOES TO...

It's a still night on Michigan Avenue. A crowd gathers in anticipation. They heard this could be the night. Wait a minute — is it? Could it be? Yes! A plume of white smoke emerges from the chimney of City Pulse headquarters. The people of Lansing have selected the 2015 Top of the Town winners.

(OK, the process actually involves a lot of spreadsheets, vote counts and long hours by our intrepid office staff. But the plume of smoke thing would be so cool, right?)

Top of the Town juggernaut Horrocks Farm Market garnered the most overall votes for a second year in a row, collecting a grand total of 9,124 votes spread across 10 categories and taking first place in Beer Shop, Florist, Gardening Center, Local Grocery Store, Michigan Made Products, Organic/Natural Shopping, Produce/Farmers Market and Wine Store.

The second place spot belongs to Top of the Town upstart Zoobie's Old Town Tavern. The bar, which reopened in 2013, has emerged as one of Lansing's hottest watering holes. Zoobie's received 4,676 votes in eight categories, and took first place in Happy Hour, Pub/Tavern, Cocktails and Bartender (Caitlan McSweeney).

(Its sister restaurant, the Cosmos, had a strong showing as well, despite opening just four months ago. The pizza joint racked up 2,414 votes, won the New Restaurant category and placed second in the Pizza category behind Lansing Italian stalwart Deluca's.)

Rounding out the top five vote-getters are punk-rock breakfast mecca Golden Harvest (3,973 votes, first place in Restaurant Wait Staff, Breakfast and Diner), burger and brew hangout Crunchy's (3,273 votes, first place in Burger and Karaoke), and Soup Spoon Café (2,868 votes), who wrested the Gourmet title away from last

year's winner, Dusty's Cellar.

In music, Starfarm and Root Doctor continued their reigns of Top of the Town domination. Starfarm has placed first in Cover Band every year since 2010, and Root Doctor has won Original Band (2013-2015) or Blues Band (2009-2012) since the contest's inception.

Weeklong music festival Common Ground has also won every year, but it may want to watch its back: the festival barely edged out the popular East Lansing Art Festival by a margin of just five votes.

In TV News Personality, the departures of perennial favorites of Evan Pinsonnault and Jason Colthorp left the door open for WLNS' Jane Aldrich to swoop in and claim the top spot.

Speaking of perennial favorites, Kwik Car Wash took first place in Carwash/Detailing for the third year in a row. While "Kwik" may not be the best adjective for the business — it's common to see a line of cars 10 to 15 deep on a nice afternoon — its attention to service and detail has earned it the top spot in the hearts of Lansing car owners.

Gov. Rick Snyder takes home his second Worst Politician title, while Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero — who regularly places high in both Best Politician and Worst Politician categories —

took third place in the category.

Bernero can console himself, however, with his first-place finish in the Comedian category, a title he wins much to the chagrin of Lansing's working comedians.



SEE PAGE 14 FOR COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

CELEBRATE YOURSELVES, BRING YOUR FRIENDS

CITY PULSE/WLNS WINNERS PARTY WILL BENEFIT THE MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

City Pulse & WLNS will fete the winners of the 2015 Top of the Town contest at a special event. On Friday, June 12, Top of the Town will commandeer the VIP tent at the second annual Grand American Fish Rodeo at Adado Riverfront Park in Lansing. Top chefs from around town will provide taste samples, and the Fish Rodeo will provide

the entertainment and a cash bar.

The VIP tent opens at 5 p.m., and winners will be recognized on stage from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Then stay as long as you want to enjoy the entertainment.

First-prize winners will each receive a free ticket through the mail. We encourage you

to bring your friends, who may purchase tickets at the entrance for \$10. Tickets include trips to the taste tables. All proceeds will benefit the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art, which sponsors the Fish Rodeo, Lansing JazzFest and Michigan BluesFest.



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TOP OF THE TOWN WINNERS



HANGOUTS

CHURCH

1. Riverview Church
2. Trinity Church (Jolly/Dunkel)
3. St. Gerard Catholic Church

COFFEE SHOP

1. Strange Matter Coffee Co.
2. Starbucks
3. Espresso Royale

BIGGBY

1. 2006 S. Cedar St., Holt
2. 120 W. Ottawa St., Lansing
3. 115 W. Allegan St., Lansing

DANCE BAR

1. Green Door
2. Spiral
3. Dublin Square

GAY/LESBIAN BAR

1. Spiral
2. Zoobie's
3. Sir Pizza Grand Café (Old Town)

HAPPY HOUR

1. Zoobie's
2. Houlihan's
3. HopCat

KARAOKE

1. Crunchy's
2. Sir Pizza Grand Café (Old Town)

3. Leroy's

LANSING AREA BREWERY

1. Midtown Brewing Co.
2. EagleMonk
3. Bad Brewing Co.

LANSING AREA DISTILLERY

1. Red Cedar Spirits
2. American Fifth Spirits
3. Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale

MOVIE THEATER

1. NCG Eastwood Cinemas
2. Celebration! Cinema

3. Studio C!

MUSIC VENUE

1. The Loft
2. Green Door
3. Wharton Center

OPEN MIC NIGHT

1. Dagwood's
2. Green Door – Comedy Night
3. Tripper's Comedy Club

PATIO

1. Waterfront Bar & Grill
2. Peanut Barrel
3. El Azteco

PLACE TO TAKE KIDS

1. Impression 5
2. Potter Park Zoo
3. Lansing Lugnuts

PLACE TO WALK DOG

1. Soldan Dog Park (Hawk Island Park)
2. Lansing River Trail
3. In my neighborhood

See Winners, Page 15

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Winners

from page 14

PUB/TAVERN

1. Zoobie's
2. Dagwood's
3. Crunchy's

SPARTAN SPORTS HANGOUT

1. Buffalo Wild Wings
2. Spartan Hall of Fame Café
3. Crunchy's

SPORTS BAR

1. Buffalo Wild Wings
2. Crunchy's
3. Nuthouse

VACATION SPOT IN MICHIGAN

1. Traverse City
2. Mackinac Island
3. Upper Peninsula

DINING ASIAN

1. Maru
2. Sansu
3. Ukai (Westside)

BAKERY

1. Roma Bakery
2. Bake N' Cakes
3. Great Harvest Bread Co.

BBQ

1. Meat
2. Famous Dave's
3. King of the Grill

BREAKFAST

1. Golden Harvest
2. Fleetwood Diner
3. Soup Spoon Café

BURGER

1. Crunchy's
2. Five Guys
3. Dagwood's

COCKTAILS

1. Zoobie's
2. Houlihan's
3. Soup Spoon Café



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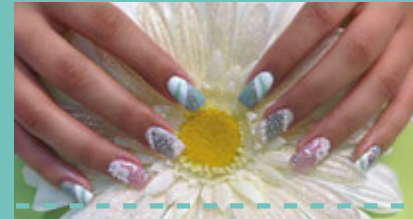


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CityPULSE 6 WLNS

Winners

from page 16

CRAFT BEER SELECTION

1. HopCat
2. Zoobie's
3. Crunchy's

DESSERT

1. MSU Dairy Store
2. Grand Traverse Pie Co.
3. Bake N' Cakes

DINER

1. Golden Harvest
2. Fleetwood Diner
3. Lou & Harry's

FISH FRY

1. Claddagh
2. Blue Gill Grill
3. Eastside Fish Fry

FRIES

1. HopCat
2. Five Guys
3. Dagwood's



GOURMET

1. Soup Spoon Café
2. Capital Prime
3. Dusty's Cellar

GREEK

1. Lou & Harry's
2. Zeus'
3. Olga's Kitchen

INDIAN

1. Sindhu
2. Sultan's
3. Swagath

ITALIAN

1. DeLuca's
2. Cugino's
3. Bravo!

MEDITERRANEAN

1. Woody's Oasis (Trowbridge Road)
2. Zaytoon
3. TIE between Aladdin's and Sultan's

MEXICAN

1. El Azteco
2. Cancun
3. Los Tres Amigos

NEW RESTAURANT

1. The Cosmos
2. Black Cat Bistro
3. Longhorn Steakhouse

PIZZA

1. DeLuca's
2. Cosmos
3. Jet's Pizza

SANDWICH/DELI

1. Jersey Giant
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Jimmy John's

SEAFOOD

1. Mitchell's Fish Market
2. Red Lobster
3. Sansu

STEAK

1. Capital Prime
2. Texas Roadhouse
3. Knight Cap

SUSHI

1. Sansu
2. Maru
3. Al Fusion

THAI

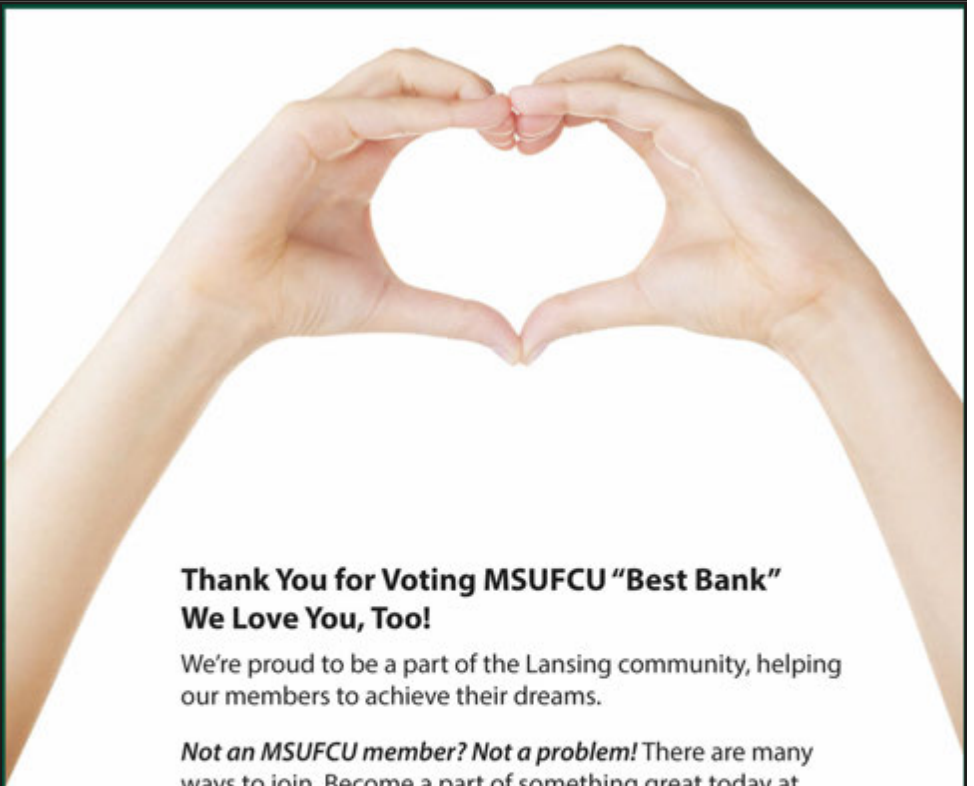
1. Bangkok House
2. No Thai!
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The Potent Potables Project

Thank You, Lansing!

We are so grateful for the all of the support that we've received over the last two years.

We cannot say enough about all of you truly awesome Lansingites, and how much we appreciate you.

Awards are a wonderful benefit of the hard work of a truly wonderful team and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff as well - without you none of this would be possible. To that end, we will be sending our patron-voted favorite staff members to Chicago on an all expenses paid trip.

To vote, stop in to Zoobies or Cosmos and fill out a card. While you are here, enjoy a free truffle sea salt popcorn on us.

Voting ends on June 15th,
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voted
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Winners

from page 19

LOCAL MUSIC

COVER BAND

1. Starfarm
2. Soulstice
3. Hot Mess

ORIGINAL BAND

1. Root Doctor
2. Frog & the Beeftones
3. Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle

CLUB DJ

1. DJ Rachael
2. DJ John Cruz
3. DJ Face

RADIO STATION

1. 97.5 NOW FM
2. 88.9 The Impact
3. 94.1 The Edge

PEOPLE

BARTENDER

1. Caitlan McSweeney - Zoobie's
2. Craig Poepker - Mac's Bar
3. Kevin - HopCat



Local cover band Starfarm.

LOCAL ADVOCATE/ACTIVIST

1. Rick Preuss
2. Barb Byrum
3. Carol Wood

COMEDIAN

1. Virg Bernero
2. Melik Brown
3. Dwayne Gill

LOCAL FM/AM RADIO PERSONALITY

1. Josh Strickland (97.5)
2. Banana Don & Stephanie McCoy (100.7)
3. Deb Hart & Joey Pants (94.9)

LOCAL TV NEWS PERSONALITY

1. Jane Aldrich (WLNS)
2. Andy Provenzano (WILX)
3. Sheri Jones (WLNS)

MASSAGE THERAPIST

1. Creative Wellness
2. Douglas J Salon & Aveda Institute
3. Angela Joseph

RESTAURANT WAIT STAFF

1. Golden Harvest
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Meat

SEAMSTRESS/TAILOR

1. Nu the Tailor
2. Liz's Alterations
3. Silver Thread Tailor Shoppe

TRAVEL AGENT

1. AAA Michigan
2. Kathy at Apple Vacations
3. Classic Travel

WORST LOCAL/STATE POLITICIAN

1. Gov. Rick Snyder
2. All of them
3. Virg Bernero

BEST SERVICES

ACCOUNTANT

1. Simplified Tax
2. H&R Block
3. Heather Cook



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AND TOP 3

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Happy Hour • Pub/Tavern

Spartan Hangout • Sports Bar



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Winners

from page 16

AUDIOLOGIST/HEARING

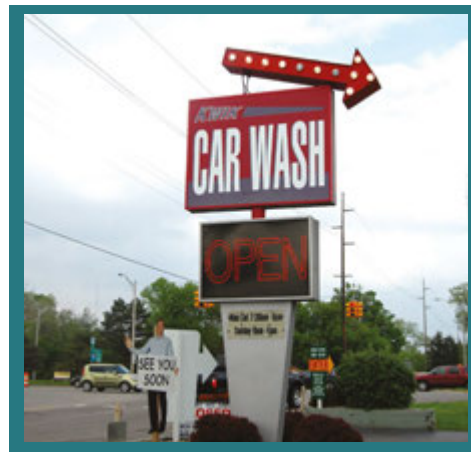
1. Fluke Hearing
2. Mid-Michigan Ear, Nose and Throat
3. Advanced Audiology, DeWitt

AUTO REPAIR

1. Belle Tire
2. Frankie D's
3. Brogan's

BANK/CREDIT UNION

1. MSUFCU
2. Lake Trust
3. LAFUCU



BICYCLE SHOP

1. SPIN Bicycle
2. Riverfront Cycle
3. Velocipede Peddler

CARWASH/DETAILING

1. Kwik Car Wash
2. Fast Eddie's
3. Showroom Shine

CHIROPRACTOR

1. Creative Wellness
2. Delta Chiropractic Center
3. Rassel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic

ELECTRICAL

1. Bohnet Electric
2. Hager Fox
3. Capitol Electric Co.

GYM/FITNESS STUDIO

1. Planet Fitness
2. YMCA

3. Michigan Athletic Club

HEATING/COOLING

1. Hager Fox
2. A-1 Mechanical
3. Applegate Home Comfort

HOTEL/BED & BREAKFAST

1. English Inn
2. Wild Goose Inn
3. Kellogg Center

LAUNDROMAT/DRY CLEANERS

1. Baryames
2. Sunshine Laundromat
3. Maurer's

See Winners, Page 25



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2011, 2012,
2013, 2014



Best Sushi
Top Three Seafood
Top Three Asian

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Winners

from page 23

LAWYERS

1. Abood Law Firm
2. Aaron Matthews at Clark Hill
3. Sinas Dramis Law Firm

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

1. Capital Area District Libraries
2. Delta Township District Library
3. East Lansing Public Library

MAID SERVICES

1. Molly Maid
2. Merry Maids
3. Helpful Hands

MOVERS

1. Two Men and a Truck
2. Your Friends Moving Services
3. U-Haul

NAIL SALON

1. Douglas J Salon & Aveda Institute
2. Jenny Nails
3. Polished Nail Salon

PET CARE/SERVICES

1. Preuss Pets
2. Doggy Daycare
3. Annabelle's Pet Station

PHOTOGRAPHER

1. McShane Photography (Jena McShane)
2. Decadence Dolls (Autumn Luciano)
3. Studio M (Marvin Hall & Mary Gajda)

PLUMBER

1. Michigan Plumbing
2. Meridian Plumbing
3. Hedlund Plumbing

See Winners, Page 26

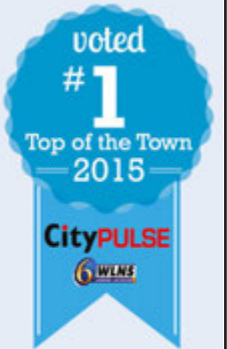
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BEST FISH FRY
IN THE TOP OF THE TOWN CONTEST

Winners

from page 25

SALON/SPA/BARBERSHOP

1. Douglas J Salon & Aveda Institute
2. Head Room Salon
3. Matthew Ryan Salon

TANNING SALON

1. J2 Tanning
2. Tanzmania
3. Pacific Tan

TATTOO PARLOR

1. Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.
2. Splash of Color
3. Liquid Tattoo

VET SERVICES

1. Patterson Veterinary Hospital
2. Miller Animal Clinic
3. Riverfront Animal Hospital

WEDDING VENDOR

1. Becker's Bridal
2. Fantastic Finds

3. David's Bridal

YOGA STUDIO

1. Just B Yoga
2. Hilltop Yoga
3. East Lansing Hot Yoga

SHOPPING

ANTIQUÉ SHOP

1. Mega Mall
2. Lamb's Gate Antiques
3. Antiques Market of Williamston

ART GALLERY

1. Broad Museum
2. Lansing Art Gallery
3. TIE – Absolute Gallery & Catalyst Gallery

BEER SHOP

1. Horrocks
2. Oade's Big 10
3. Big 10

BOOKSTORE

1. Schuler – Eastwood
2. Barnes & Noble
3. Curious Books

BUTCHER

1. Mert's Specialty Meats
2. Merindorf (Mason)
3. Horrocks

CANDY SHOP

1. Fabiano's
2. Peanut Shop
3. Horrocks

CONSIGNMENT/RESALE SHOP

1. Kellie's Consignments
2. Volunteers of America
3. 2nd Time Around

CONVENIENCE/LIQUOR STORE

1. Quality Dairy
2. Oade's Big Ten (Kalamazoo St.)
3. Big Ten (Grand River)

FLORIST

1. Horrocks
2. Smith Floral
3. VanAtta's

GARDENING CENTER

1. Horrocks
2. VanAtta's
3. Christians' Greenhouse

GIFT SHOP

1. October Moon
2. Kean's
3. Mackerel Sky

See Winners, Page 27

Thank You for Voting
Soup Spoon Café
in the City Pulse/WLNS Top of the Town Awards

FIRST PLACE
Best Gourmet Restaurant

TOP THREE
Best Breakfast • Best Cocktails,
Best Sandwich • Best Waitstaff
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Winners

from page 26

INDOOR GROW SHOP

1. VanAtta's
2. H2O
3. Capital City Grower Supply

JEWELRY STORE

1. Becky Beauchine Kulka
2. Medawar (Frاندor)
3. Su Casa Boutique

LOCAL CLOTHING STORE

1. Grace Boutique
2. Kohl's
3. Curvaceous

LOCAL GROCERY STORE

1. Horrocks
2. Meijer
3. Kroger

MICHIGAN MADE WINE

1. Chateau Grand Traverse
2. Horrocks
3. Leelanau Cellars

MICHIGAN MADE PRODUCTS

1. Horrocks
2. Old Town General Store
3. Grand Traverse Pie Co.

MUSIC INSTRUMENT STORE

1. Elderly Instruments
2. Marshall Music
3. Music Manor

ORGANIC NATURAL SHOPPING

1. Horrocks
2. Foods for Living
3. Better Health Store

PAWN / SECONDHAND

1. Dicker and Deal
2. Goodwill
3. Volunteers of America

PET STORE

1. Preuss Pets
2. Soldan's
3. Pet Supply Plus

PRODUCE/FARMERS MARKET

1. Horrocks
2. Allen Street Farmers Market
3. Meridian Township Farmers Market

RECORD STORE

1. Flat, Black & Circular
2. Record Lounge
3. Schuler Books & Music

WINE STORE

1. Horrocks
2. Dusty's Cellar
3. Vine & Brew

WHATEVER

ANNUAL EVENT/FESTIVAL

1. Common Ground Music Festival
2. East Lansing Art Festival
3. Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

EYE CANDY

1. MSU Campus
2. Old Town
3. Broad Art Museum

FIRST DATE PLACE

1. Old Town
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. DeLuca's

See Winners, Page 28



THANK YOU, LANSING for your continued support!

Dagwood's

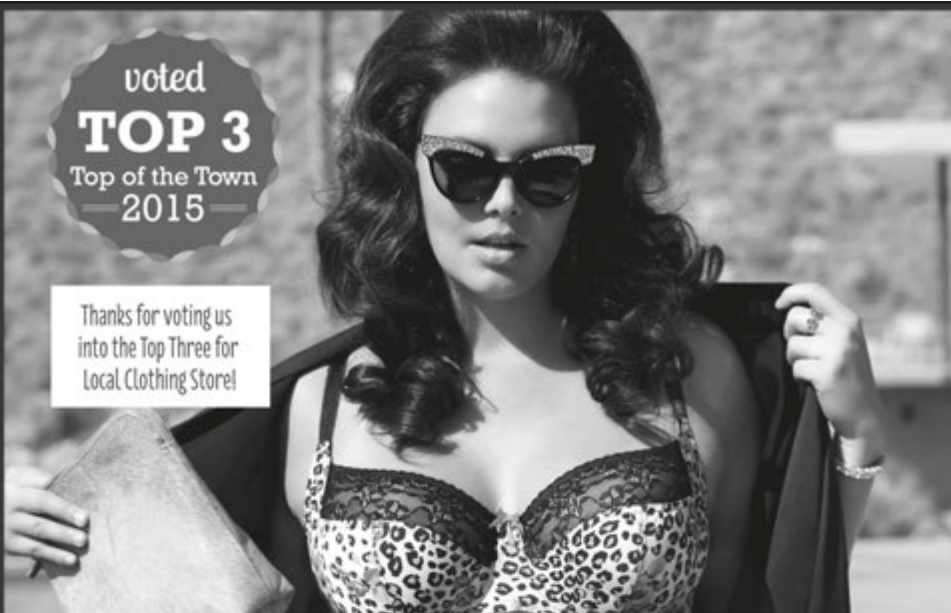
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Top Three Pub/Tavern
Top Three Fries
Top Three Burger

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Top of the Town
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Thanks for voting us into the Top Three for Local Clothing Store!

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*Women 18 and over only



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Winners

from page 28

LOCAL OUTING WITH FRIENDS

1. Lansing Lugnuts
2. Zoobie's
3. Painting with a Twist

LOCAL THEATRE GROUP

1. Riverwalk Theatre
2. Wharton Center
3. Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

MARIJUANA DISPENSARY

1. Best Buds
2. Danny Trevino
3. Emerald City

VANITY PLATE

1. MSU
2. EEK A BUG (on a VW Beetle)
3. DEEZNUTS

WORST EYESORE

1. Panhandlers on every corner
2. Potholes
3. All vacant, run-down houses

OLD TOWN BEAT DOWN

NORTH LANSING'S HIP DISTRICT DOMINATES 2015 TOP OF THE TOWN AWARDS

By **TY FORQUER**

Lansing's Old Town took the 2015 Top of the Town awards by storm, landing three businesses in the top six overall vote getters and snagging 19 first-place honors.

For years, the neighborhood has been known for shopping, boasting an eclectic collection of antique shops, art galleries and clothing stores. Recently, however, it has added a new weapon to its arsenal: top-shelf food and drink.

Zoobie's (first place in Happy Hour, Pub/Tavern, Cocktails and Best Bartender) keeps Old Town well watered, offering classy cocktails and a rotating menu of craft beers. Neighborhood newcomer Cosmos (first place in New Restaurant) serves up a high-concept take on pizza,

and BBQ hotspot Meat (first place in BBQ) has patrons lining up for ribs and brisket.

Speaking of lines, Golden Harvest is apparently worth the wait for Lansing residents, who voted it into first place for Restaurant Wait Staff, Breakfast and Diner.

Of course, Old Town's shopping options are still going strong. October Moon took the top spot in the Gift Shop category, and Grace Boutique took first in Local Clothing Store (with neighbor Curvaceous not far behind).

SPIN Bicycle Shop took first place for Bike Shop, and Elderly Instruments, Lansing's legendary purveyor of fine musical instruments, was named best Music Instrument Store.

Animal emporium Preuss Pets earned the top spot in Pet Care/Services and Pet Store (with owner Rick Preuss also voted best Local Advocate/Activist), while the body-artists at Fish Ladder Tattoo Co. took the top spot in Tattoo Parlor.

Turner Street gets pretty sleepy after 6 p.m., but Spiral Dance Bar (first place in Gay/Lesbian Bar, second place in Dance Bar) keeps the party going late into the night.

With all of these things going for it, it's no surprise that Old Town earned first place in First Date Place.

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voted TOP 3
Top of the Town 2015




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—John F. Kennedy

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NEW IN TOP OF THE TOWN

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

Entrepreneurship is in full swing in the capital city. It seems like a new business opens somewhere in Greater Lansing every week lately. Restaurants. Comedy clubs. Electronics stores. Specialty clothes shops. And the newest breed of watering hole: distilleries — so popular that they got their own category this year.

Although Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale isn't a brick-and-mortar tasting room (yet?), you can find their suds on tap at the Allen Market Place every Wednesday and Friday.

The name's a little misleading, however, since Sleepwalker is focused on beer for now. But there's plenty of hooch to go around in Lansing lately. Red Cedar Spirits in East Lansing has actually been distilling for two years, but it was only last April that the tasting room was completed. And last month, American Fifth became the first distillery to open within Lansing city limits. Its signature item, Hue Vodka, can be found behind local bars and on some shelves. Coming soon: white whiskey (aka moonshine) and gin.

Sam Aburashed opened Zaytoon Mediterranean Grill at the end of 2013, but it's already secured a place at the top of the list for many Middle Eastern cuisine fans. In only its second year of eligibility, it came in number two ... just ahead of Sultan's, which is owned by Abrushed's uncle, Bassam Mahmoud. (Hopefully it doesn't make the next family function too awkward.)

"I feel proud to be recognized," Abrushed said. "It's great to be able to watch it grow and succeed. Since we opened, it's just taken off. Our first year numbers were double what I originally projected."

Abrushed said it's way too soon for him to start thinking of expanding, but he hasn't ruled it out.

"I would rather be bursting at the seams than be big and look empty," he said. "But eventually I'd like to create something new:

A higher-end Middle Eastern restaurant. I think diners would really respond to that. And I have some very good chefs I'd like to challenge."

Fact: Starbucks will put stores on opposite sides of the same street because of a quirk of human psychology that makes us creatures of hopeless habit. And of all things, people are particularly fanatic about their coffee selections. Which is what makes it so wonderfully ... strange ... that the brand spanking new café, Strange Matter Coffee Co., beat out all other java joints in town to take the top prize.

"When I found out I was in the Top Five, that's all I could talk about," says owner/"chief coffee engineer" Cara Nader. "I am so honored that people voted for me. It's the coolest thing ever."

Each drink is brewed to order, which takes a few minutes. There are no free refills, and the coffee beans are sourced from specialty farms, making for a slightly pricier cup. So it ain't fast, cheap or plentiful. How did this win Best Coffee Shop again?

"I think Lansing was really ready for quality coffee," Nader said. "People here really seem to be into coffee, but it didn't exist like this yet."

A café is only as good as its baristas, and Nader is quick to share the spotlight with her employees.

"They work hard every day and are so dedicated to quality," Nader said. "They're in here on their day off, they volunteer to work (special events) when they know they're not getting paid. It just shows how much they care, and I really appreciate that."

She also gives a huge shout-out to her passionate customer base, who propelled her to the head of the class. And in answer to repeated requests to open another store:

"People have been asking me that since the first day, and all I can say is, 'possibly,'" she says. "But right now I'm just trying to meet the growing demand of our customers. I could see that in the future. Also, I'd like to have donuts."

Pizza is another one of those food items that engenders loyalty, but this year the wood-fired pizzas at newcomer Cosmos put it ahead of many fan favorites.

"It reinforces what we thought when we were opening," says co-owner Sam Short, who opened the sci-fi-themed pizzeria. "It's one thing to think of something you and your friends think of as a good idea, and it's so rewarding when it takes off the way you hope it would."

Short also gives a tip of the hat to his staff ("The place doesn't run without them") and promises big things ahead for the fledgling Potent Potables restaurant group, which includes Cosmos, Zoobie's Old Town Tavern and the upcoming Creole.

For years, specialty clothing stores have been going the way of the mall, and even then the mall has been going the way of the Internet. Curvaceous Lingerie bucked that trend last year when it opened in Old Town adjacent to Grace Boutique. And this year it finished in the top three just after a national chain and ... Grace Boutique.

"It's pretty darn incredible," says Curvaceous owner/operator Lauren Long. "It's heartwarming that people feel strong enough to vote for us. Our mission is to empower people to feel better with themselves. Hopefully we're heading in the right direction."

Guess we'll find out in next year's Top of the Town awards.



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Electric oceans

Musician Dave Menzo goes electric with 'Shhh...'

By TY FORQUER

Ann Arbor-based musician Dave Menzo found inspiration for his latest album, the synthesizer and drum machine-heavy "Shhh..." in an unlikely place: his local library. In addition to traditional library fare, the Ann Arbor District Library is home to the Music Tools collection, an impressive assortment of drum machines, analog synthesizers, effects processors, microphones and other music-making equipment that can be checked out by cardholders.

After learning about this collection, Menzo set out to make an album created entirely with instruments from the library. The only foreign element he introduces is his own voice, and even that is often manipulated or affected by equipment checked out from the library.

A multi-instrumentalist who studied music education at MSU, Menzo is most comfortable with a guitar in his hands. Taking advantage of the library's electronic music equipment presented him with a challenge.

"Using these instruments (and no guitar) undoubtedly gave the album a more electronic sound, which I was both nervous and excited about," said Menzo in the album's notes. "As a classically trained composer and musician, it has always been a goal of mine to tastefully use electronic instruments in a way that still sounds natural and musical when added to a mix."



Dave Menzo
"Shhh..."
Independent release • davemenzo.com

The first track, "Ocean Turned Blue," kicks off the album with a keyboard and vocal introduction dripping with "Sgt. Pepper's"-esque psychedelia. The song builds into a climax of swirling synthesizers, autotuned vocals and electronic drums that envelop the listener in a sea of digital sound.

The second track, "Nice and Easy," continues the oceanic assault.

"I woke up to the sound of waves crashing on my head," Menzo sings, his voice drifting between a fat synth bass line below and doorbell chimes above.

For a change of pace, Menzo transforms his voice into an other-worldly choir for the next tune, the mellow "Interstellar Love Song."

Menzo returns to liquid metaphors with "Rain," showering the listener with cascading, Steve Reich-ian arpeggios while a queasy bass line pulsates underneath like an unset-

Alas, Aldridge's music, cannily crafted and played with verve and precision, already sounded middle-aged in its cradle.

Aldridge is in a growing group of American composers to move into a cozy cul-de-sac in the suburbs of the sprawling, towering symphonic Babel of old, complete with Neighborhood Watch on the lookout for jarring noises.

When a composer is as sure of his idiom as Aldridge, and an orchestra as game as Lansing's, there is pleasure to be had. The titular theme of "Variations" is a plaintive, call-and-response cry John Coltrane might have picked up and carried to the far horizons. Pianist Melissa Marse avoided the huffing and puffing and banging that would have sunk the enterprise. She kept a light touch, darting, hovering and surging up the stream of variations like a supple rainbow trout.

One of the variations, a thundering gallop driven by a terrific timpani tantrum, kicked at the barn door of the familiar neo-romantic formula.

The rest were saturated in honeyed tones and surging waves of drama, the symphonic equivalent of comfort food. Classic film music, a passion of Aldridge, often came to mind. One variation seemed to send the main melody out for drinks at Sardi's to

tled sea. The introduction of an electronic beat propels the tune into a dancy climax before the song disintegrates into jumbles of synthesizer notes that fade into the sound of sampled rainfall.

The contrast of natural sound in the middle of this electronic onslaught is a nice palette cleanser before launching into the sample-heavy "Voice Force."

"Use your voice. Be a force for good," Menzo sings over a cleverly crafted bed of vocal samples and beatbox percussion.

The composer reaches into his psychedelic toolbox once again on "Where Wildflowers Grow." A slithering bed of keyboard glissandi shifts like audio quicksand underfoot.

Where wildflowers grow, the piano notes are out of tune," Menzo sings. "There in that room, you'll find me."

The album's final track, "Ballin' Out," bristles with glitchy electronic beats that would make Thom Yorke smile. (Wait — does

Thom Yorke smile? He seems too distant and disaffected to bother with something as trivial as smiling. But I digress.)

Waves of synthesizer ebb and flow over driving bass and drums, lulling the listener into a voltaic trance.

With this album, Menzo has created a potent mix of electronic pop and indie rock, laced with a dose of psychedelia. But this is no sprawling, mid-'60s concept album. The eight-song album clocks in at a tight 31 minutes. In addition to showcasing Menzo's

make moon eyes at Audrey Hepburn. You knew a vigorous major-chord hosing would be followed by a delicate after-tinkle, even before the tinkle tinkled.

A cynic might say that the world has gained another new work that can be programmed in middle-town symphony orchestras without pissing off older subscribers.

But I'm not a cynic. It helped me to think of "Variations" as finely wrought film music, a once-honorable art that in the past 20 years has swirled straight down a toilet of turdfully beating drums and Carl Orff-ish devil chanting. Aldridge's craft comes into dramatic relief when set against cinematic wreckers like Brian Tyler, say.

But he hasn't chosen that company, and he wasn't in it Friday.

Instead, he had the bad fortune of being upstaged by the most formidable showman/innovator of 20th century music.

Count the home team's rampage through Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird" Suite as one of its finest hours, ever. The sheer shock and awe, even in one of Stravinsky's more crowd-pleasing and child-friendly scores, slapped your face all the more after the mothball smell of "new" music.

The symphony's strings may have never sounded so velvety and lush, but they kept



Photo by Benjamin Weatherston

Dave Menzo explores new sonic territory with the help of the Ann Arbor District Library.

musical talents, the album is also a glowing advertisement for the Ann Arbor Public Library.

"I have been looking for a way to use my musical talents to give back to the community, and I thought this new album would be a great way to do just that," said Menzo. "Not only will it bring awareness to the Music Tools program itself, and the great resources that the library has to offer, but I aim to inspire the local youth to dream new possibilities for music, art and expression."

End-ish times

Dead Russian dances with a live American at Lansing Symphony season closer

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

By now, people expect rapture — if not The Rapture — from Lansing Symphony Orchestra season finales.

Friday's splendid concert, the final salvo of the 2014-15 season, brought rapture, all right, but with a touch of unease. After an evening of old-sounding "new" music and new-sounding "old" music, you have to wonder whether we are living in the symphony orchestra's end times — or at least its end-ish times.

Which piece of music, do you suppose, rocked the audience with off-kilter shocks, arrestingly fresh sonorities, daring rhythmic displacements, rug-pulling mood shifts and overall what-the-hell-is-coming-next-ness?

Hint: It wasn't the evening's world premiere of "Variations on a Folk Tune for Piano and Orchestra" by American neo-romantic Robert Aldridge. (It wasn't the "William Tell" Overture either, although Rossini's famous romp gets second place in Friday's fresh tomato contest.)

the texture under fine control, thinning themselves into a billowing gossamer borealis when the music called for it.

To coordinate the music's pinballing course, Maestro Timothy Muffitt made enormous double circles with his arms I'm not sure I've ever beheld before. In slow build-ups, he rode the brakes in a maddeningly methodical manner, delaying and heightening the orgasmic fireworks to follow. Many soloists were exposed, and all of them delivered the goods — most notably, principal cellist Hong Hong, whose tender stillness perfectly set the stage for the tumult to come.

Of course, it's grossly unfair to compare any mortal, living or dead, with Stravinsky. "Firebird" is the cat-and-mouse play of a genius, with fakeouts and sucker punches that make its straight-up wonderment all the more overwhelming. The LSO took it all on, from the tricky to the taxing, with the aplomb of a big-city symphony, minus the jaded air of entitlement. ("Rite of Spring," anyone? They seem ready to me.)

So what if Babel's new subdivision is a dead end. You can always go back to Tomorrowland. By the time the final chords of "The Firebird" bashed the walls of the Wharton Center Friday, Stravinsky still sounded like the music of the future.

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DOWNTOWN EAST LANSING

Gone to the dogs

David Olds draws from his photography experience in his novel, 'Bulldog Blues'

By BILL CASTANIER

Author and photographer David Olds certainly subscribes to the maxim "a picture is worth a thousand words," and he mixes that maxim in his recent book, "Bulldog Blues," with another: "Write what you know."

"Bulldog Blues" is a farcical and fictional romp about a crazy Pulitzer prize-winning photographer, Dennis Wright, set in contemporary Detroit. Dennis, who is in the twilight of his career as photographer for a daily newspaper, is not only fighting some of his own demons, he's also locked in a fierce battle against a wayward newspaper industry.

Olds, 61, has been a professional photographer for more than 40 years. So when it comes to photography, he's pretty much seen and done it all — like using a little plastic Kodak camera to shoot his first "assignment" when he was 8 years old.

"I shot photos of my twin brother giving our pet dog a bath," Olds said. "I treated it like a fashion shoot and shot a roll of film. My mom wasn't happy I shot a whole roll of film."

After studying sculpture high school, he enrolled at Lansing Community College, where he took a photo class that changed his life's trajectory.

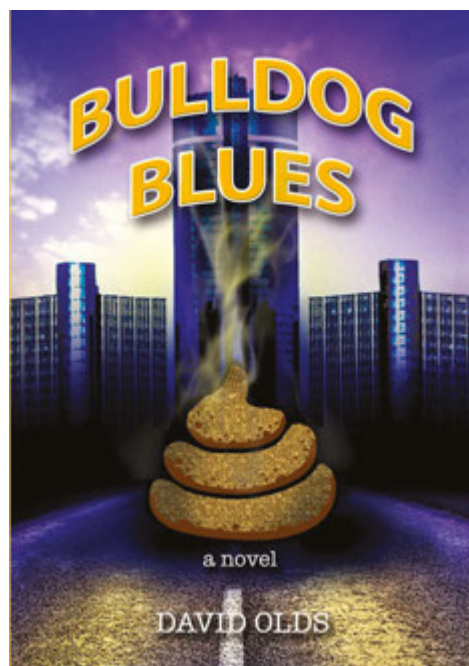
"I was seduced by the darkroom," Olds said. "The alchemy of photo chemistry was like giving birth."

While at LCC, he worked for the campus newspaper, the Lookout, as photo editor with his twin as chief photographer.

"At that time photography required a skill set that is all gone now. All you need now is a cell phone," he said in a non-complimentary way.

After LCC, he moved on to Michigan State University and The State News and then, after a short stop at Arizona State University, he pulled up his stakes and moved to Wales where he trained with British photo historian Bill Jay.

"(Jay) turned me on to the image as a communication tool," Olds said.



Courtesy photo

David Olds, author of "Bulldog Blues," is crowdfunding support to publish his next novel, "Dog & Pony Blues."

His next stop was at United Press International, where he worked from 1982 to 1988. At its peak, UPI provided news-wires, photos and film to over 6,000 media subscribers.

"That was when news mattered and we covered big stories," Olds said. "It was both the most challenging and demanding job I ever had. It was vigorous."

Olds went on to work for the Lansing State Journal and The State News before landing a job as Director of Photography for

the Michigan House of Representatives in 2002.

It was when he was laid off from this job in 2009, Olds said, that the idea to write a book came to him. Using his experiences and loosely basing his crazy character on a real-life photographer he worked with, his book, "Bulldog Blues," began to take shape. He said he also took inspiration from two Florida writers, Carl Hiaasen and Tim Dorsey, both former newsmen, who rely on crazy outsiders as their chief protagonists.

Olds said all of the fictional photographic assignments he describes in the book are based on assignments he actually covered as a news photographer. He makes one minor exception: "I didn't wear a tuxedo to cover a football game."

But there are several things in his book that aren't autobiographical, Olds said, including the bulldog, Churchill.

"Everybody asks me if I have a bulldog," he said. "I don't have a dog. I'm a cat person."

Olds pulled from his own fantasy world to invent a second career for his protagonist. When Dennis wants his editor to know how he feels about his job, he makes the point by sending his editor a photo of dog dung. As you might imagine, this does not go over well and gets Dennis suspended.

In one of the books many strange twists, Dennis' photos of poop become immensely popular and profitable. He becomes an instant celebrity in the world of avant-garde

art, and celebrities send him their dog's droppings to photograph.

Olds' next book will see Wright move to Lansing and will focus on a corrupt Michigan governor vaguely modeled on a recent Michigan governor. He also will incorporate some of the shenanigans of the old Capitol Press Corps, which at one time had a major presence in Lansing.

"I might offend some people," he said.

"Bulldog Blues" is a great romp for anyone who's ever put a camera to their eye. It has detailed, geeky descriptions of how to set up photo shoots and the appropriate equipment to use. And yes, there is even some nude photography involving an unusual dominatrix living upstairs from Dennis.

Olds has a Kickstarter campaign going to raise \$3,200 to pay for editing of his new book, "Dog and Pony Blues," which, like his first, will be self-published. The online fundraising campaign ends Thursday. To donate to the campaign or learn more, go to: davidoldsbooks.com.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, May 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. Discuss "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

Allen Market Street Farmers Market. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

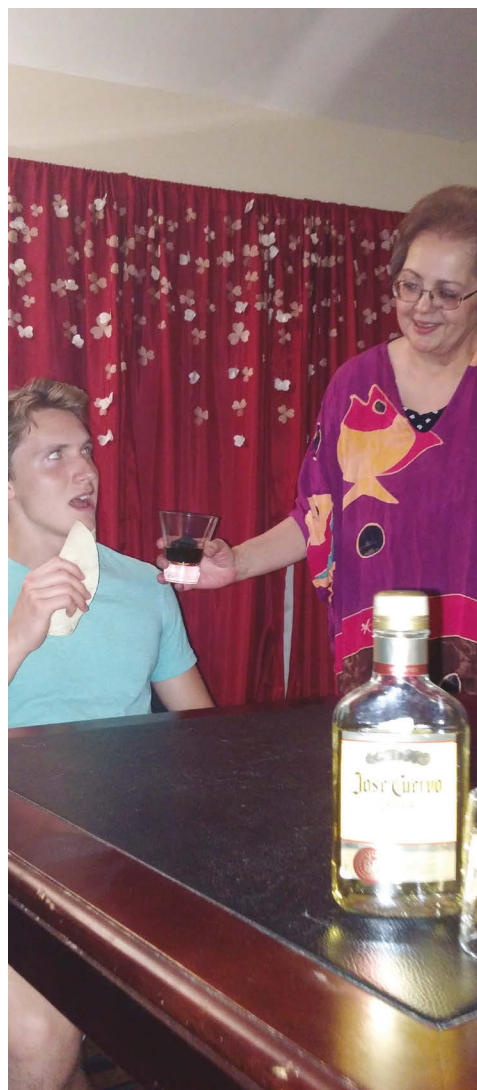
Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpi.org.

Senior Discovery. Coffee and presentation with guest speaker. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

One-Room School Houses. Authors of "Rural Schools of Eaton County, MI", 6-7:30 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 36



Courtesy photo
Jacob Crosby
and Oralya
Garza in "Family
Tradition" (top)
and Rachel Wilder
in "Generations"
(Bottom).

Force of nature

• • • • • Saturday, May 23 • • • • •

Ixion Theatre is preparing for its upcoming premiere of "Mother's Nature," a collection of three original one-act plays penned by Lansing writers. The women-centric theme will be portrayed through O.G. Ueberroth's "Family Tradition," Terry Palczewski's "Enough is Enough" and Andy Head's "Generations."

Ixion Theatre is a relatively new, Lansing-based theater ensemble that performs most of its productions at REO Town's AA Creative Corridor. The group launched in 2012 with a mission to encourage creative collaboration and to produce stories for diverse audiences. Ixion asked for submissions from the Lansing community for Mother's Nature, and three storytellers stepped up to the plate.

"Family Tradition" is the story of a young woman who brings her fiancé home to meet the family, but she soon finds out about a dark family tradition. "Enough is Enough," set in Greece, presents a meeting between a clueless tourist and the Oracle of Delphi. "Generations" explores the aftermath of a tornado and how it uproots the lives of three women: a grandmother, a mother and her daughter.

Head, an Illinois native, recently received his master's degree in theatre and acting from MSU. He also holds a degree in theater arts from Bradley University.

While Head wrote "Generations," his primary theater experience is in acting. His interest in theater began when he was a sophomore in high school, he said, and his interest has grown throughout his college career. When he saw the call for submissions, he decided to try his hand at writing for Ixion Theatre.

"I've done playwrighting here and there, so why not see what I can come up with?" Head said. "If I like

it then I can go ahead and send it to him. And so I did."

Head is well-rounded in many aspects of theater, and Jeff **"Mother's Nature"** Ixion Theatre
May 23-31
8 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday
\$15
AA Creative Corridor
1133 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 775-4246,
ixiontheatre.com

Head's take of the theme is a fantasy-twisted struggle.

The original theme for this project, Head said, was Goddesses. After Ixion selected the three writers, however, the shared maternal themes of their work evolved into the idea of Mother's Nature.

Head was able to incorporate aspects of both themes into "Generations."

"Mother Nature is maybe starting to fight back a little bit against us, whether that be a drought or earthquakes or tsunamis, all of these really massive ways," Head said. "In itself, Mother Nature is an act of a goddess."

Each writer incorporates their personal relationships with the women in their lives into their work. Though Mother Nature's features three separate productions, the writers still worked together.

"One of the things that this theater company really exercises is collaboration, which is such a huge part of theater as an art form," Head said.

Ixion is actively recruiting storytellers of all forms, such as actors, writers, directors, choreographers, filmmakers and musicians, for its 2015-16 theater season.


—MICHELAI A. GRAHAM

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

JIMI KANKLEZ OPENS FOR LIL WYTE AND JELLYROLL

Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar, Lansing. \$15, \$30 VIP. 8 p.m., Friday, May 22



Opening Friday's Lil Wyte and JellyRoll concert at Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge is Lansing-based rapper Jimi Kanklez, among others. The concert is the only Michigan date of the "Pour Another Tour." Kanklez, a Roach Records artist, has four releases to date, his latest being 2013's "The Mutt." A new Kanklez disc, "Alien Muzik," is in production. He described his sound as "silly fun with a dash of wickedness." Fans of Twiztid might want to check him out. As for the headliners, Tennessee-based rappers Lil Wyte and JellyRoll are frequent collaborators. Their 2010 "Pop Another Pill" video has scored over 3 million YouTube views. The pair also joined forces on 2013's "No Filter" LP. The disc, produced in part by DJ Paul of Three 6 Mafia, hit #17 on Billboard's Top Rap Albums chart.

FRI. MAY 22ND

MINDGUARDS ALBUM RELEASE SHOW

The Avenue Café, 2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$5. 18+, 8 p.m., Thursday, May 28




MindGuards, the Lansing-based "electro-punk/rocktronica" outfit, releases its new album Thursday at the Avenue Café. The duo is made up of guitarist Richard Keyes and bassist Jeremiah Gager, who also share vocal and drum machine duties. The band interlaces breakbeats and loops with raucous guitars and punk sensibilities — or what "Black Flag writing songs for Beck" would sound like, according to the pair's bio. Opening is a batch of local fixtures, including Stargrazer, Cat Midway and Nocturnal Aviators in Action. This is the first Stargrazer show in nearly two years. Meanwhile, Cat Midway is the solo project of local songwriter Berry Noxon. As a one-woman band, she delivers quaint, avant-garde freak-folk tunes. In June 2013 GTG Records released the remarkable self-titled Cat Midway LP on 200 slabs of vinyl.

THU. MAY 28TH

BLEDFEST 2015 IN HOWELL

Hartland Performing Arts Center, 9525 Highland Rd., Howell. All ages, \$32 general admission. 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 23



Each year, local-booking champs Fusion Shows hosts BLED Fest, a one day, all-ages music festival. The event features a mixture of amped-up genres under one roof at Howell's Hartland Performing Arts Center. This year's roster includes Real Friends, Touché Amoré, Modern Baseball, Modern Life Is War, the Early November, Small Brown Bike, Fisherking, Flint Eastwood and Way to Fall, to name only a few. In full, the bill features over 70 bands spread across six stages. Last year's event sold out, so those considering attending might want to order tickets in advance. Heads up to smokers: This venue is on school grounds, so smoking is not permitted. Also, no outside food is allowed, but food vendors will be on hand and empty or sealed water bottles are allowed in. The last band wraps up around 10:30 p.m.

SAT. MAY 23RD

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, 3 p.m.	Open mic, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	MPV/Mad Moon, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darian Larner Sr., 6 p.m.	Greg Smith, 6 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 9 p.m.		Blue Hair Bettys, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.		
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.		Cheap Dates, 10 p.m.	Mark Warner, 5 p.m.	Mark Warner, 5 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 9:30 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
Henry's on the Square, 229 S. Washington Sq.		Rob K., 7 p.m.		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Surfer blood, 7 p.m.		The Groove Project, 9 p.m.	Sandy Hooks, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.				Inebriated, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Cash O'Reilly, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Kathy Ford, 8:30 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	El Cablong, 6 p.m.	Bobby Standall, 6 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Halo Effect, 6 p.m.	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	Darian Larner, 6 p.m.	The New Rule, 6 p.m.	Chris Lasko, 6 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Steve Cowles, 7 p.m.	Dan McLachlan, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS! To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5069. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 34

Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtld.org.

Philosophy Town Hall. What is courage? Join Dr Emily Katz for discussion. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Crafternoon: Magazine Art. Teens create weavings with magazines. Grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Preschool Storytime. Engaging stories, songs, activities. Ages 3-6. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Drop-in LEGO Club. Kids love getting creative with our LEGOs. 4 plus. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

MUSIC

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

THEATRE

"No Noose is Good Noose." Group reading of

a play about capital punishment. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

Thursday, May 21 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Working for Yourself. Learn the basics of business ownership. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtld.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.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore,

2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessbookstore.net.

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

Working for Yourself. Explore business ownership and working from home. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, Suite 110, 309 N. Washinton Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1921,

Free Help for Adults. Drop in to get help with letters, job apps, etc. 1:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 >> BEER AND GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PAIRING

I'm a Beer Hound continues its mission to prove that beer goes well with pretty much everything with its Beer and Girl Scout Cookie Pairing event. For the first of two Lansing-area beer/cookie pairing events, the festivities will be held at Front 43 Pub and will feature brews from Cranker's Brewery. The price of admission includes five pairings which features Bulldog Red Irish Red paired with Samoas, Big In Japan IPA paired with Trefoils, Fifth Voyage Coconut Porter paired with Do-Si-Dos, Irish Breakfast Oatmeal Stout paired with Thin Mints and Esteban the Terrible Russian imperial stout paired with Tagalongs. 7 p.m. \$25. Front 43 Pub, 3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. imabeerhound.com.

sbdcmichigan.org.

Celebrate Recovery. For all types of habits, hurts and hang-ups. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

EVENTS

Baby Storytime (Ages 1 plus.) Stories and movement for our youngest readers. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

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

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

Story Time and Info Session. Celebrating National Foster Care Month. 10:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2693, cadl.org.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm because it is cancelled occasionally. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

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

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale, Lansing.

Teen Game Haven. Play a variety of games; board, card and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Beer & Girl Scout Cookie Pair. Pairing event featuring various craft beers and Girl Scout Cookies. 7 p.m. \$25. Front 43 Neighborhood Pub, 3415 E. Saginaw, Lansing. imabeerhound.com.

Just a thought Podcast LIVE. Comedy show. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717, tripperscomedy.com.

MUSIC

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014, dtld.org.

Thursday Morning Storytime. Three stories and



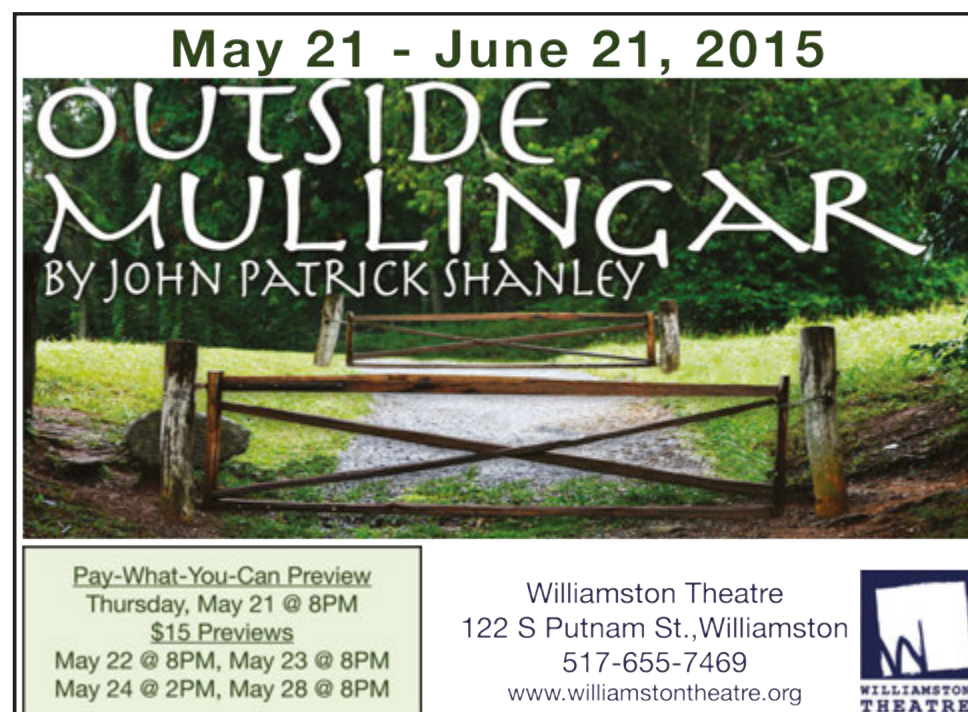
HENRY'S
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May 21 - June 21, 2015

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR
BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

Pay-What-You-Can Preview
Thursday, May 21 @ 8PM
\$15 Previews
May 22 @ 8PM, May 23 @ 8PM
May 24 @ 2PM, May 28 @ 8PM

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org




GROWLER DAY IS BACK

For a limited time, fill your Midtown growler with standard Midtown beer for only \$9* every Tuesday.

MIDTOWN
BREWING Co.

Kitchen open with full menu until 11:00 p.m.

402 S. Washington Ave. (517) 977-1349
Sun-Wed 11 a.m.-midnight
Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.

*growler sold separately

Out on the town

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a craft. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Friday, May 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for babies. 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. \$12/\$15 drop-in. Willow Tree Family Center, 3333 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Salsa Capital. Salsa Dancing. Beginner, intermediate and open dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$5. 1133 S. Washington Ave., REO Town, Lansing. (517) 230-9018.

EVENTS

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

MUSIC

Concert on the Grand. Annual outdoor music event, 6 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St. Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1443, gloperahouse.com.

Saturday, May 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. For beginning and experienced tai chi players. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

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.

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop. Learn how to grow your own edible mushrooms. 12:30-2 p.m. \$15 Donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse.

How to Design a Spending Plan. A free, fun, educational, financial workshop. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Case Credit Union (West Saginaw Branch), 5611 W. Saginaw, Lansing. (517) 367-1001, casecu.org.

EVENTS

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

Fourth Annual World Goth Day. Cemetery crawl and more. 9 a.m. FREE. Mt Hope Cemetery, 1709 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 505-0877, facebook.com/WorldGothDayMidMichigan.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Wild Ones native plant sale. Attract birds and more. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Farmers Market, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 887-0596, wildoneslansing.org.

Capitol Memorial Run 5k. Family fun event

for runners/walkers alike. 9 a.m. \$25. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 488-2918, runningfoundation.com/Capitol_Memorial_Run.html.

Yoga at the Broad MSU. Stretch your mind, body, and spirit in the Sculpture Garden. 11 a.m. FREE with registration. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Craft Show and Sale. Craft show. Find that special something. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Light House Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing.

MUSIC

Deacon Earl. Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460 ext.234, lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

World Premiere: "Mother's Nature." 3 Original one-act plays by local writers. 8 p.m. \$15. 1133 S. Washington Ave. REO Town, Lansing. (517) 775-4246,

See Out on the Town, Page 38

THURSDAY, MAY 21 >> WINE & STEIN AT POTTER PARK ZOO

A sommelier may be able to tell you what wine goes best with a steak, but do you think they could tell you what wine pairs best with viewing a Chinese Muntjac? While the evening won't provide answers to such ridiculous questions, you can still enjoy a glass of wine while hanging out with Potter Park Zoo's residents at its annual Wine & Stein event. The adults-only fundraiser not only features wine, but also beer, a selection of tasty hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants and live music. Prospective attendees should be aware that Wine & Stein will take place rain or shine. 6-9 p.m. \$35/\$30 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 >> WKAR COMMUNITY CINEMA: 'LIMITED PARTNERSHIP'

MSU's Project 60/50 and WKAR present a screening and panel discussion of the film "Limited Partnership." The film tells the story of Richard Adams and Tony Sullivan, possibly the first same-sex couple to be legally married in the United States. "Limited Partnership" details how Australian-born Sullivan was denied a request for legal U.S. citizenship status, which he tried to gain through the marriage, and how federal officials met his request for citizenship with hostility and derogatory language. The evening will begin with the screening, followed immediately by a discussion lead by panelists Susan Reed, supervising attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center; Penny Gardner, president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights and Doak Bloss, health equity and social justice coordinator for Ingham County Health Department. Reservations required. 7 p.m. FREE. WKAR Studio, 404 Wilson Rd., Rm. 212, East Lansing. wkar.org.

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

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		2		1	6			5
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	7			5		2		

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 34

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"My TV is Broken"--so I'll do this puzzle instead.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Long stories
- 6 Bridge support beams
- 11 "I'm not feelin' it"
- 14 Communications officer on 49-Across
- 15 Not at all
- 16 Tatyana of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"
- 17 Manhattan area where punk rock took off
- 19 Drug dropped in the '60s
- 20 "Girls" creator/star Dunham
- 21 Rap's ___ Boys
- 23 Come together
- 27 Pirates' stashes
- 28 Seek water with a divining rod
- 29 Birthplace of Robert Burns
- 31 "___ Ho" ("Slumdog Millionaire" showstopper)
- 32 Turns brown, maybe
- 33 Obstruction in the night
- 37 Pinky, for one
- 38 More reptilian, in a way
- 39 Common Market inits.
- 40 Besting
- 42 Prefix on the farm
- 43 By way of
- 44 Tooth doc's deg.
- 45 Broadcast studio alert
- 46 "Northern Exposure" setting
- 49 See 14-Across

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60						61				62			
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- 51 "The Misanthrope" playwright
- 53 "Suits you to ___"
- 54 "The Family Circus" cartoonist Keane
- 55 What some goggles provide
- 60 "Able was I ___ I saw Elba"
- 61 Choice of words
- 62 Home of the Burj Khalifa
- 63 "Curious George" author H.A. ___
- 64 Hits with snowballs
- 65 Splitsville
- 5 Damsel in distress's cry
- 6 Out to lunch
- 7 7'7" center Manute ___
- 8 Obsessive whaler of fiction
- 9 Man of many synonyms
- 10 It accrues with unsavory language
- 11 Bottle handy with fish and chips
- 12 Borden's spokesperson
- 13 Lies low
- 18 Bach's "Mass ___ Minor"
- 22 Body wash, e.g.
- 23 Build on
- 24 "Just ___ know ..."
- 25 High school in a series of 1980s-'90s novels
- 26 They're closed, don't you see?
- 30 Puts back
- 33 Biol., e.g.
- 34 "___ + Cat" (PBS Kids show)
- 35 Chill-causing
- 36 "Put ___ in it!"
- 38 Stunned
- 41 Emphatic exclamation, in Ecuador
- 42 Gets in on the deal
- 45 Tater Tots brand
- 46 Color in "America the Beautiful"
- 47 Longest river in France
- 48 Get up
- 50 Off-road goer, briefly
- 52 Equal, in Cannes
- 56 Driver's lic. figure
- 57 Basketball Hall of Fame coach Hank
- 58 Lifeboat mover
- 59 Tiny complaint

Out on the town

from page 37

ixiontheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Release Party & Signing. "For Liberation Song," novel by Raelee May Carpenter, 2-4 p.m. FREE. Bestsellers Books and Coffee, 360 Jefferson St., Mason. (517) 676-6648, raeleemaycarpenter.com.

Dragons Love Tacos Storytime. Storytime and craft. 11 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Sunday, May 24

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) 371-5119, ruetenik@gmail.com.

Pokemon/Magic the Gathering Card Games. Tutorials for kids. Starter decks provided. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900, becauseeverybodyreads.com.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

Parents of LGBTQ kids. Weekly support group. All faiths are welcome. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. Diversity Psychological Services, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. (720) 401-4214.

EVENTS

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

THEATER

World Premiere: "Mother's Nature." (See May 24 for details.) 3 p.m. \$15. 1133 S. Washington Ave., REO Town, Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

Monday, May 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

FRIDAY, MAY 22 >> CONCERT ON THE GRAND

The summer outdoor concert season is upon us! The Grand Ledge Opera House hosts its annual Memorial Day Summer on the Grand Friday. Guests are invited to listen to an evening full of local musicians, all performed on the commons of the historic Grand River Opera House on the banks of the Grand River. The evening's entertainment will feature the Grand Ledge High School Band and the Grand Ledge Community Band. To round out the "summery" atmosphere, there will be concessions available to purchase, including a hot dog supper. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. 6 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1443, gloperahouse.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 23 >> WORLD GOTH DAY

The creatures of the night are encouraged to come spend a little time in the daylight with the fourth annual World Goth Day. The celebration starts with a potluck and cemetery crawl through the Mt. Hope Cemetery. Though the daytime component of the celebration ends at 5 p.m., the party continues well into the night at Old Town's Spiral Dance Bar. The terrace at Spiral will feature vendors, Goth music and a performance by the Lunatic Vagabonds, a dance troupe that blends traditional Middle Eastern dance with modern alternative music. While it's hard to imagine there will be a dress code enforced for World Goth Day, it's safe to assume you'll be fine wearing black. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mt. Hope Cemetery, 1709 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 6:30 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. facebook.com/worldgothdaymidmichigan.

THURSDAY, MAY 28 >> BOOK SIGNING/COOKING DEMO WITH VERONICA BOSGRAAF

Schuler Books in Eastwood Towne Center welcomes Veronica Bosgraaf, a health-food cook and author of "Pure Food." Bosgraaf made a name for herself in the food world with her line of Pure Bars, a healthy alternative snack bar she originally created for her daughter. With the help of local health-food store Foods For Living, Bosgraaf will give an in-store cooking demo featuring one of her easy vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free recipes. Bosgraaf's recipes are developed to nurture a healthier lifestyle free of processed foods. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music in Eastwood Towne Center, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495, schulerbooks.com.

Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

EVENTS

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.

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

Tuesday, May 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for babies. 4:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m. \$12/\$15 drop-in. Willow Tree Family Center, 3333 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitsoinsllc.

H.E.R.O.: Basement Waterproofing. Home improvement class. Email bruce@ghc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, ghc.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. To support you in your weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

Music Institute for Choirister. Learn to read music. 8 week course. 7-8 p.m. \$35. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 372-5830.

EVENTS

Speculative Book Discussion. This month: "Waking Engine," by David Edison, 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

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

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

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion. 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

Wednesday, May 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

See Out on the Town, Page 39

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 33

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 33

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

Out on the town

from page 38

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

Allen Market Street Farmers Market. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Senior Discovery. Coffee and presentation with guest speaker. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

Teen Crafternoon: DIY Comics. Teens create

their own comic books. Grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Knitting and Crochet Group. All ages and levels welcome. Now at the library. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. Family history: sharing your research online. 7 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. mmgs.wordpress.com.

MUSIC

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

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

You, Me, and Everyone We Know. With guests Future Crooks and Daisyhead. 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. fusionshows.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books to Love Reprise. Share titles that amuse, inform, inspire, motivate. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

May 20-26

ARIES (March 21-April 19): James McNeil Whistler was an influential painter in the latter half of the 19th century. He advocated the "art for art's sake" credo, insisting that the best art doesn't need to teach or moralize. As far as he was concerned, its most important purpose was to bring forth "glorious harmony" from chaos. But the immediate reason I'm nominating him to be your patron saint for the coming weeks is the stylized signature he created: an elegant butterfly with a long tail that was actually a stinger. I think you'll thrive by embodying that dual spirit: being graceful, sensitive, and harmonious and yet also feisty, piquant, and provocative. Can you manage that much paradox? I think you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Renowned author George Bernard Shaw was secure in his feeling that he did good work. He didn't need the recognition of others to validate his self-worth. The British Prime Minister offered him a knighthood, but he refused it. When he found out he had been awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature, he wanted to turn it down but his wife convinced him to accept it. The English government also sought to give him the prestigious Order of Merit, but he rejected it, saying, "I have already conferred this order upon myself." He's your role model for right now, Taurus. Congratulate yourself for your successes, whether or not anyone else does.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Aha!" is your mantra for the coming weeks, Gemini. Keep it on the tip of your tongue, ready to unleash. This always-ready-to-be-surprised-by-inspiration attitude will train you to expect the arrival of wonders and marvels. And that will be an effective way to actually attract wonders and marvels! With "Aha!" as your talisman, all of your wake-up calls will be benevolent, and all of the chaos you encounter -- or at least most of it -- will be fertile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do you chronically indulge in feelings of guilt? Do you berate yourself for the wrong turns and sad mistakes you made in the past? These behaviors may be sneaky ways of avoiding change. How can you summon enough energy to transform your life if you're wallowing in worries and regrets? In presenting the possibility that you might be caught in this trap, I want you to know that I'm not sitting in judgment of you. Not at all. Like you, I'm a Cancerian, and I have periodically gotten bogged down in the very morass I'm warning you against. The bad news is that right now you are especially susceptible to falling under this spell. The good news is that right now you have extra power to break this spell.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the TV comedy-drama *Jane the Virgin*, the fictional character known as Rogelio de la Vega is a vain but lovable actor who performs in telenovelas. "I'm very easy to dress," he tells the wardrobe supervisor of a new show he'll be working on. "Everything looks good on me. Except for peach. I don't pop in peach." What he means is that his charisma doesn't radiate vividly when he's wearing peach-colored clothes. Now I want to ask you, Leo: What don't you pop in? I'm not simply talking about the color of clothes that enable you to shine, but everything else, too. In the coming weeks, it's crucial that you surround yourself with influences that make you pop.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Are you willing to entertain an outlandish possibility? Here's my vision: You will soon be offered unexpected assistance, either through the machinations of a "guardian angel" or the messy blessings of a shape-shifting spirit. This divine intervention will make it possible for you to demolish a big, bad obstacle you've been trying to find a way around. Even if you have trouble believing in the literal factuality of my prophecy, here's what I suspect: It will at least come true in a metaphorical sense -- which is the truest kind of truth of all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Glory" is the theme song of the film *Selma*. It's an anthem about the ongoing

struggle for equal rights by African Americans. I want to borrow one of its lines for your use in the coming weeks: "Freedom is like a religion to us." I think those will be good words for you to live by. Are you part of a group that suffers oppression and injustice? Are you mixed up in a situation that squashes your self-expression? Are you being squelched by the conditioned habits of your own unconscious mind? It's high time to rebel. The quest for liberation should be your spiritual calling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you're planning on breaking a taboo, sneaking into a forbidden zone, or getting intimate with an edge-dweller, don't tell boastful stories about what you're doing. For now, secrecy is not only sexy; it's a smart way to keep you safe and effective. Usually I'm fond of you telling the whole truth. I like it when you reveal the nuanced depths of your feelings. But right now I favor a more cautious approach to communication. Until your explorations have progressed further, I suggest that you only discuss them sparingly. As you put your experiments in motion, share the details on a need-to-know basis.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There are many possible ways to create and manage a close relationship. Here's one of my favorite models: when two independent, self-responsible souls pledge to help each other activate the best versions of themselves. If you don't have a partnership like this, the near future will be a favorable time to find one. And if you already do have an intimate alliance in which the two of you synergize each other's quest for individuation, the coming weeks could bring you breathtaking breakthroughs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's a challenge to drive a car through Canada's far north. For example, if you want to get from Dawson in the Yukon Territory to Inuvik in the Northwest Territory, you take Dempster Highway. It's gravel road for the entire 417-mile trip, so the ride is rough. Bring a spare tire and extra gasoline, since there's just one service station along the way. On the plus side, the scenery is thrilling. The permafrost in the soil makes the trees grow in odd shapes, almost like they're drunk. You can see caribou, wolverines, lynx, bears, and countless birds. Right now, the sun is up 20 hours every day. And the tundra? You've never seen anything like it. Even if you don't make a trip like this, Capricorn, I'm guessing you will soon embark on a metaphorically similar version. With the right attitude and preparation, you will have fun and grow more courageous.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian author James Joyce wrote *Ulysses*, one of the most celebrated and influential novels of the 20th century. The narrative is both experimental and tightly structured. Its chaotic stream-of-consciousness passages are painstakingly crafted. (Anyone who wonders how the astrological sign of Aquarius can be jointly ruled by the rebellious planet Uranus and the disciplinary planet Saturn need only examine this book for evidence.) Joyce claimed he labored over *Ulysses* for 20,000 hours. That's the equivalent of devoting eight hours a day, 350 days a year, for over seven years. Will you ever work that hard and long on a project, Aquarius? If so, now would be an auspicious time to start.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The English writer and caricaturist Max Beerbohm moved away from his native land when he was 37 years old. He settled in Rapallo, Italy, where he lived for much of the rest of his life. Here's the twist: When he died at age 83, he had still not learned to speak Italian. For 40 years, he used his native tongue in his foreign home. This is a failing you can't afford to have in the coming months, Pisces. The old proverb "When in Rome, do as the Romans," has never been so important for you to observe.

THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Engineer: The Michigan State University National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory seeks qualified candidates for the following full time positions: Engineer (East Lansing, MI). Design, develop, document, deploy, support EPICS based control system, implement operation software physics application, modeling, support commissioning and operation. Develop, support applications required for accelerator construction, operation, and maintenance and applications in JAVA using an Eclipse RCP based framework for accelerator controls. Qualified candidates will possess Bachelor's in Engineering Physics, Computer Science or related + 5 years exp as Control System Analyst or related physics engineering occupation. Must have five years exp in application software development using EPICS and JAVA, must have exp in controls at an accelerator control facility. To apply for this posting, please go to www.jobs.msu.edu and search for posting number 1279. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer

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