

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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October 8-14, 2014

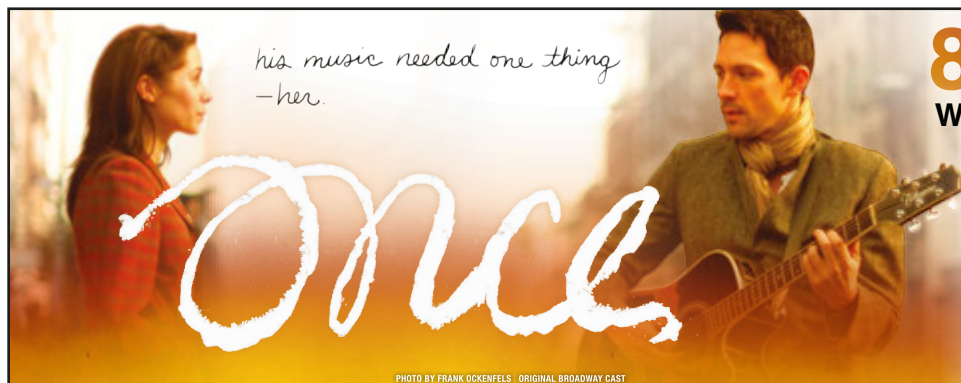
FREE

BORN this WAY

bridging the gap
between hospitals
and homebirth
page 9

IN THE
HOUSE
New housing
coalition director
ready to build
page 5

REO
BRAVADO
Sneak peak at new
Robin Theatre
page 12



his music needed one thing
-her.

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PHOTO BY FRANK OCKENFELS ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST

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Feedback

Vote 'no' on sale of East Lansing city-owned parking lots

A public relations firm, headed by press-secretary to notoriously developer-friendly Republican Governor John Engler, has been hired to campaign for "Yes" on the East Lansing proposal to authorize the sale of city-owned parking lots to developers. Notoriously developer-friendly Nathan Triplett is aggressively campaigning for "Yes" in tandem.

The "Yes" side says, trust us. If you do NOT trust the people who were eager to risk \$30 million in bonds on City Center II, knowing full well the developer had committed fraud and had a disturbing history of losing other people's money, including of the state employee/teacher pension plan, vote NO.

If you do NOT

believe the magic by which building tax-subsidized student rental apartments and yet another bar, adding NO taxes to city coffers, on NOT-BLIGHTED city properties is supposed to solicit \$90 million in financing for the City Center II developer (now relabeled Park District Investment Group) to redevelop the blighted properties, with his existing \$32 million mortgage in default and a credit-risk profile worse than a SPAM offer, vote NO.

If you care that DTN's financing plan for the NOT-BLIGHTED properties, leaves the city \$400,000-\$500,000 per year worse off, vote NO.

If you are fed up with being used as a piggybank for no-accountability development schemes, if you think it is time to cut up credit cards until City Hall accepts reforms to protect neighborhoods and restores public services, NOT development, as its top priority, vote NO.

— Eliot Singer
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.

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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.)

Corrections

Due to a reporting error, the wrong talent booking company was listed for the Stockyard BBQ/The Comedy Zone. Hefron Talent is the company that works with Stockyard. Funny Business, the company that was named in the article, handles talent booking for the Jokers are Wild at Tripper's.

Due to an editing error, the actors who played the characters Lincoln and Booth in "Topdog/Underdog" were not identified. Rico Bruce Wade played Lincoln and Sineh Wurie played Booth.

B/15/032 NORTH GRAND PARKING RAMP LIGHTING REPLACEMENT. as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 21, 2014** at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128 or 702-6197, or email: slr@lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this bid contact Guy Pierce, at (517) 483-4236, or go to www.mitn.info .** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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SCOTUS paves way for gay marriage in several states, not Michigan



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Mid-Michigan Zine Fair hits Hannah Community Center



PAGE 26

He Ate/She Ate: Williamston's Riverhouse Inn review



COVER ART

"SAGAN ELOI EDWARD ROSS, AGE 7 WEEKS" by JESSICA D. COWLES

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CITY PULSE THIS WEEK

7 p.m. Wednesdays



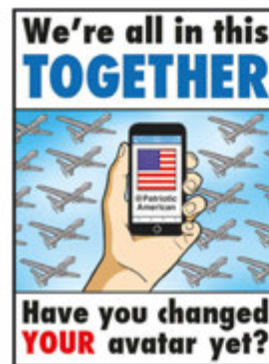
- Candidates for Lansing School Board Thomas Morgan, Joy Gleason and Guillermo Lopez
- "Atomic Girls" author Denise Kiernan
- District Court Judge Tom Boyd



IMPACT 69FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Powering up

Julie Powers named new director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition

By BELINDA Y. THURSTON

Whether she's monitoring water quality on the Grand River, parking bicycles at music festivals or helping the elderly or disabled find affordable and accessible housing, it's all the same to Julie Powers.

She's helping connect and create a sustainable, healthy community.

That's the perspective she hopes to bring to her new position as the executive director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition.

Powers, 42, is leaving the post she's held since December 2009 as the director of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Council to head up an organization, with 10 times the budget and staff.

"I'm super happy," she said. "It's the perfect transition."

Powers is succeeding Katherine

Draper, who is retiring, said GLHC Board President Tim Kaltenbach. Draper was recently married and has plans to leave the area with her new husband. She will remain on board as a consultant after Powers officially starts Nov. 3, he said.

"Three things that put Julie ahead of others: her energy, her enthusiasm, which is unbridled, and her knowledge of the community, the relationships that she has in the Greater Lansing area with a number of our partners," he said. "She had a great vision in terms of where we need to head now."

GLHC was created in 1989 to provide quality, affordable housing to people of modest means and help revitalize neighborhoods.

Brandon Kawalec will serve as interim executive director at Mid-MEAC. Kawalec joined the organization in 2012.



Powers

"While we will miss Julie tremendously, the entire board of Mid-MEAC is excited for her," said Board President John Lindenmayer.

"Julie took an organization that was struggling and turned it into a major contributor to improving the quality of life in mid-Michigan."

Walt Sorg, treasurer on the Mid-MEAC board, said the board has begun the search process for a new director.

Raising funds will be key, but the new director will need "a passion for the mission of practical environmentalism."

"We feel very strongly on many issues but our focus is on tangible results," he said.

He used this upcoming weekend's event opening the non-motorized path in south Lansing as an example. It uses a Consumers Energy utility corridor and will connect with the Lansing River Trail, Delhi Township's Sycamore Trail, which will terminate at the intersection of Aurelius and Jolly roads, and the pathway along Waverly Road. The pathway is intended to be utilitarian, providing a corridor for east-west

See Powers, Page 6

Being in Lansing

South Lansing man fishes for those hungry for spirit, unity and belief

By BELINDA Y. THURSTON

"Believe"

That's how the man at the corner of Cavanaugh and Cedar Lansing wants to be known.

It's 7:40 a.m. Thursday. The sun is barely breaking through the foggy September air. The roads are thick with rushing cars.

"Believe" is already hard at work.

He's a muscular, stocky man, resembling an elder version of LL Cool J, sporting red and black Nike gear (no Kangol).

His right hand bears the tool of his trade - a 3-foot-long staff draped with strips of red fabric. He spins it sometimes like a baton. He wields it more often like a scepter.

At his foot on the sidewalk is a weathered copy "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures."

What is he doing out there?

"The only thing you need to know is right there," he says pointing to a folded copy of The Watchtower magazine he thrust into my hand.



Belinda Thurston/City Pulse

"Believe" works south Lansing street corners with his flashy red staff. He says his purpose is to draw people curious about spirit.

The second page, top right corner, has a lime green stickie note, a red arrow slicing across it, riddled with Bible citations.

"Revelation 11:16-19"

"Leviticus 8:33"

"Job 38: 22-28"

"Jeremiah 16: 19-21"

The article on the page is headlined: "Will man ruin the earth beyond repair?"

"Follow the arrow," he says gleaming a smile with his squinting eyes.

He turns to face traffic, drops to one knee and strikes a majestic pose raising

See Believe, Page 7



Property: 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Owner: Sam X. Eyde

Assessed: \$401,400

Owner says: "This site was approved by the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority on May 5 this year. We are waiting on final documents any day now, which will allow for the building to be completely demolished and the marketing of a new mixed use development will follow."

Like so many vacant structures, this building's vandalized windows are covered with sheets of weather-worn particle board. The expansive lawn remains managed, but the rest of the site grows wild with untended scrub and weedy parking lots. Even looking beyond its current deterioration, the building is a vaguely International Style example, which exhibits the anonymous 'placelessness' characteristic of the style, including white painted brick, parapet roof and minimal decorative detail.

A line of brown awnings had been installed along the length of the front elevation, presumably to address the heat and light admitted through the large south-facing windows. Fortunately, these awnings have been removed, though the excessive sunlight undoubtedly remains an issue. If exterior sun shading is desired, a more attractive option could include replicating the simple overhang found at the main entrance. Suspended by thin tension rods, the new awning would be compatible with the building's severe Modern style.

Since the building is sited back from Grand River on a wide-open lot, its disorderly state remains in full view for all passing motorists. Worse, as the building is only a short distance from the airport, it serves as an unofficial, and disagreeable gateway to the city.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

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Powers

from page 5

travel for school, work and other activities, while still accommodating recreational uses. Mid-MEAC helped with other organizations and the city to make the project possible.

Environmental issues are livability issues he said. And Powers is an expert at connecting the two.

The diversity of skills and networking ability and how she connects them is what excites GLHC about their new director.

“She brings a wealth of energy, community knowledge and commitment,” Kaltenbach said.

Powers said she’s got a long list of priorities.

Senior housing needs to be functional and near transportation. Veterans with PTSD need supportive housing that has visible security measures so they feel safe. There are needs for multigenerational housing because of the growing refugee population. Powers also wants to increase exposure for programs like Tuesday Toolman, where retirees with home improvement skills make repairs on homes for seniors and others in need.

“One of the best parts of jumping in now is we just finished a three-year fair and affordable housing survey and there’s

a plan just about ready to go to print,” she said. “Now we have data. We know what different municipalities need and want.”

She said the GLHC board wants her “to build relationships in the community, build awareness of what we do and expand our footprint.”

Often organizations and government agencies work in silos, she said.

“I speak transportation and connectivity,” she said.

“If you’re going to build an affordable housing unit, sometimes the most inexpensive and affordable place to do it is out in a corn field, but that’s not going to work,” she said. “Because it’s not near schools, it’s not near jobs, it’s not near transportation or health care. Or any of these other key factors that make for a good quality of life.”

She’s also excited to move into her office, which was built with her environmental ethics in mind.

“I get to work in a LEED certified building,” she said.

Nothing is really changing at her core, Powers said. She’ll still be connected to community and passionate about the environment.

“There will be composting happening,” she said. “I’ll be bringing my worm bin.”

The activist known for alerting officials when she notices an oil sheen on the river said since her new office is near the Brenke Fish Ladder on the Grand River in Old Town, “I’ll be watching.”

my 18 MY18-TV! 10 A.M. Every Saturday

THIS WEEK: State Senate race

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS Hosted by Berl Schwartz

Dawn Levey
State Senate Democratic candidate

Rick Jones
State Senate Republican incumbent

OVER THE AIR	MILLENNIUM
Lansing/East Lansing.....Ch. 18	Bath, Charlotte/Williamston/others.....Ch. 6
COMCAST	Vermontville.....Ch. 12
Lansing/East Lansing/Holt.....Ch. 8	Grass Lake.....Ch. 11
Jackson.....Ch. 18	CABLE PROPERTIES
Summit/Leoni Township.....Ch. 8	Rives Junction.....Ch. 18
	Springport.....Ch. 18

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

Predictable differences

Walberg and Byrnes far apart in 7th District congressional race

When looking at campaign financing, it is often the political action committees that define the candidate. The Koch brothers' PAC contributions to Republican Rep. Tim Walberg signal arch conservative; money from the Sierra Club to his 7th District Democratic challenger, Pam Byrnes, reflect her liberal politics.

But it sometimes works the other way, with the candidate, in this case, Walberg, exposing the corporate political culture.

Among his significant campaign contributors are two notable hamburger chains: Wendy's and White Castle. Both, through their PACs, are deeply tied to Republican candidates, most of them, like Walberg, Tea Party types. According to OpenSecret.org, Wendy's PAC contributed \$121,500 to federal candidates in 2014, all of it to Republicans. White Castle gave \$24,500 to candidates — 92 percent to Republicans.

Who'd have thought there was such a political edge to a burger and fries. There is nothing obvious in Walberg's committee assignments (Education and the Work Force or Oversight and Government Reform) that would make him the darling of these hamburger helpers. Still, it's something to think about. Consider how Chick-fil-A's stance against equal rights affected its business.

Walberg, who lives in Tipton, is seek-

ing reelection on his polished conservative credentials in a district that includes Eaton County. His reelection pitch to voters oozes with bipartisan this and bipartisan that, as if the American public, with its 13 percent approval rate for Congress, doesn't recognize the two party-dysfunction that passes for governance. Walberg notes that he and Democrats passed an amendment to "cut spending to a wasteful Afghanistan Rebuilding Fund." The United States, according to a report in The New York Times last week, has spent more than \$100 billion on often-failed Afghan infrastructure projects. Walberg's skepticism on more spending is one of his more reasonable positions.

He has also railed against "equitable-sharing partnerships" abuses by police departments that allow and, in fact, encourage them to seize property on specious grounds and without due process. Walberg outlined the issue in a recent Washington Post op-ed article citing cases where victims' money was presumed to be used for criminal purposes. Government confiscated the funds and fought to retain it but never filed criminal charges.

"In response to these abuses, I recently introduced the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act, which would raise the level of proof of a substantial nexus to criminal activity that must be met before property can be seized," Walberg wrote in the Post. The measure is unlikely to pass.

As for Walberg's overall record, it reflects generic Republican Party issues. He wants a balanced budget agreement and what he refers to as "tax reform," which is lower rates and a simple tax code. The pitch is a flatter,

fairer system designed to stoke economic growth and job creation. What it really means is much lower tax payments for the rich, widening the already yawning income inequality gap. Trickle-down economics remains a bedrock of the Republican creed.

He wants the federal government to transfer power and resources to local schools and states because "because teachers, administrators, and local school boards know best how to educate students."

It makes you wonder if he's ever been to Detroit or Benton Harbor or even Lansing where "local" schools are in disarray.

Walberg is a proponent of smaller government, castigating the power of unnamed "bureaucrats" and placing his trust in the judgment of the "American People." But, smaller government doesn't apply to intrusion in people's personal lives. He's against same-sex marriage, which wants defined as the union of "one man and one woman."

To date, and to his credit, Walberg has run a civil campaign without the overblown and often untruthful television advertising that so pollutes our elections.

Not so, his opponent. Truth squading by Bridge Magazine smacked Byrnes for a 30-second ad attacking Walberg for indulging in first-class travel, receiving inordinately high pay at taxpayer expense and accepting his congressional salary during the government shut down.

Said the Bridge report: "This is perhaps the most cynical ad of the election season, playing on grievances (such as congressional salaries and travel allowances) that have nothing to do with Walberg's voting record, and which individual members have little power to change."

Undeterred by such ethical nuance, Byrnes' campaign continues to promote these misleading ads on its website, where she makes the case that Washington is broken and she wants to fix it.

One of Byrnes' most populist pitches is that she wants to cut congressional pay by 10 percent, as if this is the way to attract really strong candidates to the job. Congress, despite our low opinion of those elected, is a challenging and expensive career. Isn't it

possible that if we paid more, we'd get better people to run for office?

Overall, it's hard to find much not to like about Byrnes' buffet of campaign promises. The Washtenaw county attorney and former Michigan legislator says, for example, that her first priority will be to "create good jobs to rebuild our middle class."

Can't argue with that.

She believes in manufacturing as the backbone of our economy, wants public-private partnerships to create jobs and wants to help small businesses with tax incentives and funding.

Byrnes is for universal pre-kindergarten, giving schools the resources they need to be educated to a higher standard, and wants to make college more affordable. She promises to safeguard Social Security and fight against any attempts to turn Medicare into a voucher system. In Congress, she would work to eliminate waste and corporate tax loopholes, and ease the tax burden on middle class families.

Byrnes is angling for a seat on the House Agriculture Committee, where she can advance Michigan's farm economy. She for women's rights issues like equal pay.

And Byrnes is for better roads, promising to "work to get Michigan its fair share of federal transportation dollars, especially funding to address damaged roads and bridges." This is a goal that has eluded a Michigan congressional delegation that included the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, Dave Camp, and four other House and Senate committee leaders.

As of mid-October, the race for the 7th District seat is somewhat competitive. In the last filings (July) reported by OpenSecrets.org, Byrnes had raised \$927,000; Walberg about \$1.3 million. To date, there have been no independent tracking polls for the district that includes parts of Washtenaw County and all of Branch, Eaton, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee and Calhoun counties.

NOTE: Republicans have abandoned Terri Lynn Land's Senate bid. The Hill reported on Tuesday that the National Republican Senatorial Committee has cut the remaining television spending in Michigan.



MICKEY HIRTEN



ELECTION 2014



Walberg



Byrnes

Believe

from page 5

his scepter toward the sky.

What's with the red stick?

"Blood of the lamb," he says, his back still to me. "Red gets the attention. It's the color of the human race's blood.

"The devil divided the human race. You don't have to use my words, the arrow will tell the words that need to be heard."

He says Jehovah will bring us back together.

He says he's been working street corners in south Lansing for about four or five years. He goes to corners on Cedar, Jolly, Holmes and Martin Luther King.



Belinda Thurston/City Pulse

A well-worn, used and annotated copy of a Bible that belongs to "Believe."

This morning he's in front of a smoke shop and across the street from a Dollar Store. He gets several honks and waves.

Why those streets?

It's by design, he says. One he didn't draw, just one he's supposed to follow.

"It's designed to draw people who are curious about the spirit," he says.

"The spirit will draw them. Each of these individuals are fish," he says waving his arm at the traffic of cars.

"I'm a lure. The hook is the question."

"I'm just a man, just an imperfect man," he continues. "That's why I don't want my name out. I just want you to believe."

"We let everyone tell us what to do, what to think, what to believe," he said. "It's time for us to follow the arrow and find true belief."

Does he know he resembles LL Cool J?

No, he says he's never been told that.

"Maybe we could be brothers," he says.

"Aren't we all brothers?" I ask.

"Now there you go! The arrow! Right there! You just made my day!"

Same-sex marriage

Supreme Court refuses to hear marriage equality cases; all eyes on Michigan now

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

After the U.S. Supreme Court let stand same-sex marriage laws in five states Monday, Michigan supporters are waiting to join the club.

But the proverbial jury is still out.

The Supreme Court declined to hear five cases regarding marriage equality in Utah, Oklahoma, Virginia, Indiana, and Wisconsin. That means the lower court rulings stand, allowing same-sex marriage. The result is same-sex marriage is legal in 24 states plus the District of Columbia, with six more likely to follow. Experts are eying Michigan's appeal pending before

the U.S. 6th Circuit Court as key toward what happens next not only in Michigan, but what the high court may do next year.

In Michigan's appeal, the state is arguing a federal district court judge erred when he struck down Michigan's ban in March. For a brief period in March, following the ruling by Judge Bernard Friedman, more than 300 same-sex couples were able to legally get married in the state.

"DeBoer v. Snyder is a case that legal experts have anticipated could reach the Supreme Court because it is the only case that has had a trial," says Sommer Foster, director of political advocacy at Equality Michigan. "We look forward to the 6th Circuit decision and we hope that the court rules soon. I am not sure of the impact that (the Supreme Court) decision has on the 6th Circuit, but with 30 states allowing the freedom to marry and an additional 51 million Americans now living in states where folks can marry whom they love, we can see that marriage equality will become a reality in this state sooner or later."

Kari Moss, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, was more cautious in her analysis of the role the DeBoer case might play in getting a Supreme Court hearing the right to marriage equality.

"I hate to try to read tea leaves when it comes to what the Supreme Court might do," she said in a phone interview.

But she added, the move by the Supreme Court to refuse to hear the pending cases is significant.

"They had an opportunity to take up the question but declined. They essentially have allowed marriage equality in those states," Moss said. "It shows the court has a level of comfort with marriage equality and indicates they did not feel the issue had percolated enough in the states."

Moss said it is not uncommon for the nation's high court to allow significant legal issues to bounce around in the lower courts awaiting distinct splits in the various appeals' circuits before taking up cases.

"It's certainly possible the 6th Circuit will consider the Supreme Court decision as relevant in their decision making process," she said.

Moss acknowledged the importance the Michigan case carried because of its extensive legal record.

"The state has to be able to justify the ban with concrete evidence," she said. "They weren't able to do that. They had one expert disavowed by the university he was working for, and another expert who was rejected by the judge as an expert."

Politically, the decision came the day after Bill Schuette, Michigan's Republican attorney general, told Michigan Public Radio he expected the Supreme Court to hear an appeal from Utah. The court did the opposite Monday.

Schuette's Democratic opponent in the general election, Mark Totten, issued a statement Monday saying the decision by the Supreme Court put Michigan's position "on the wrong side of the Constitution."

Briefs

Absentee walk-in voting hours extended to meet demand in Lansing

If absentee ballots are an early indication, this election season has voter attention.

The Lansing City Clerk expanded absentee walk-in voting hours at the South Washington Office Complex Election Unit, which will stay open later on Wednesdays until 7 p.m.

Compared to 2010, the number of absentee ballots issued is up 15 percent, according to Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope.

"My goal is to make the voting process as easy and quick as possible," Swope said.

Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. the South Washington Office Complex Election Unit has free parking and is located on CATA route #2. The office is located at 2500 S. Washington.

The office will also be open on two weekend days before Election Day: Oct. 26, Noon - 4 p.m. and Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information call the Lansing City Clerk's office at 517-483-4131 or download the absentee voting application form at www.lansingmi.gov/Elections.

~ Belinda Thurston

Michigan students to attend 'Weekend of Resistance' in Ferguson, Mo.

Demonstrations have waned since the initial and fiery dissent that marked the ensuing weeks of Michael Brown's fatal shooting in Ferguson, Mo.

But national organizers are planning a weekend of mass protest from the Friday through Sunday that many suspect may be the biggest march there yet. Freelance writer Michael Gerstein is planning on

tagging along with a contingent of 20 or so activists from Michigan to tell the whole story for City Pulse.

The coming protest - dubbed Ferguson October - has more than 1,000 people attending on Facebook. Some are saying they're coming from as far away as California and Alaska.

Those interested in attending should visit fergusonoctober.com to sign up for updates. They even have information for those interested in carpooling.

Lansing's Mental Illness Awareness week opens conversation

"Take care of yourself and the people around you." #MentalHealth matters. #TextTalkAct

This is just one of many Tweets floating around this week as part of Mental Illness Awareness Week.

"Text, Talk, Act' is an ongoing national conversation about mental health, how to take care of yourself, and how to help others.

The conversation is coming to East Lansing as well with the presentation, "A New Reality: Preventing Major Mental Illness," at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Hannah Community Center on Abbot Road.

"We hope that attendees will know that there is help for mental illness, that recovery is possible, and that, like many other illnesses, early treatment can lead to better outcomes," said Elizabeth Pratt, President of Lansing NAMI.

To join the conversation text 89800 or use the hashtag #TextTalkAct on Twitter.

~ Anne Abendroth

Power of We Consortium



Belinda Thurston/City Pulse

The 24th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was held at Troppo restaurant for the first time.

Summit this Saturday at Lansing Center

There is the power of knowledge, the power of change, and the power of collaboration. The Power of We Consortium is a state of Michigan endorsed organization that grasps all three.

The Power of We Consortium Summit will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lansing Center. It is free and open to the public but requires reg-

istration. The event brings together mid-Michigan leaders and community members to focus on expanding economic, education, and infrastructure opportunities.

Objectives are:

- To provide community members with an opportunity to share their vision for our community.
- To define as a community what we need to do to make Mid-Michigan a great place to live, work, and play.
- To translate the Power of We Consortium's Common Agenda broad goals into concrete actions.

"The purpose of the summit is to get these different groups together so they can start communicating and work on a concrete plan," said Dennis Louney, a consultant with the project.

Register to attend at www.powerofwe.org.

~ Krista Wilson

Empty Bowls event at Troppo raises \$13,500 for food bank (with photo)

Elegance and high-end flavors were scooped out by the bowlful at Troppo restaurant Thursday.

Troppo hosted the 24th annual Empty Bowls event to raise money for the Greater Lansing Food Bank. AT&T also sponsored the event. Officials say the event raised just over \$13,500, that's about \$4,000 more than last year.

For \$20 attendees got to pick a creative, unique, hand-crafted bowl, and got soup and bread for lunch in the upstairs of the downtown restaurant. The bowls were created by members of the Potters Guild, Clayworks and other local artists.

~ Belinda Thurston

My son, Sagan, is set to be either a well-adjusted world citizen or a case study in identity crisis. He is a blend of European and Afro-Caribbean ethnicities, has dual U.S./French citizenship and, if his development goes well, will be bilingual from the time he can speak. My wife, Gaëlle, is a research scientist; I am an arts and culture writer, so between the two of us he's getting a solid dose of left brain/right brain mechanics. At 8 weeks old, Sagan already shatters any notions of cultural pigeonholing ... but that could just be a proud father talking.

His duality extends into the way he came into the world as well, an experimental mix of the sterile, technology-driven health care system and the personal, hands-on world of midwifery. Our birth system was nontraditional even by nontraditional standards — officially, it doesn't even exist. It's called tandem care childbirth, and it was developed by Lansing-area obstetrician Dr. Nancy Herta. It's a little-known alternative for local mothers who want to attempt a homebirth with a midwife but still want to have access to the latest medical developments.

"I invented the term tandem care, but it's not a new idea," Herta said. "It takes the place of the European model, (which is) no-intervention midwife-driven birth centers attached to hospitals. I don't know of anyone else doing this in the area, but it may be going on behind the scenes in (other) communities."

Gaëlle (pronounced "Gah-ell") calls it the best of both worlds, but we chose it because it felt like the ideal arrangement stemming from what we perceived as a lack of local options.

'HOMEBIRTH IS GOING TO HAPPEN'

Herta is an assistant professor at MSU Women's HealthCare, inside the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She's also associate residency director at Sparrow Hospital's OB/GYN residency program, where she's been for 12 years. And she's worked with local midwives to provide tandem care assistance since 2003, filling what she sees as a vital niche.

"Homebirth is going to happen," she said. "My goal in my work with midwives is to make it safe and produce outcomes everyone wants. But my system is still not the best. I can't go into homes. I can't even give direct advice to midwives — I have to phrase it as hypothetical situations."

Herta, 50, oversees about 25 tandem care patients annually, which this year included us. She performs regular check-ups on women in her office in accordance with their insurance plans — running all tests, taking all ultrasounds, doing all screenings — but in preparation for homebirth that will be overseen by either a certified nurse



SPECIAL DELIVERY

WHY WE CHOSE A RISKY ALTERNATIVE
CHILDBIRTH FOR OUR SON - BY ALLAN I. ROSS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA D. COWLES

midwife (CNM, a certification awarded by the state and requires a nursing degree) or a certified professional midwife (CPM, a designation earned from a midwife association and doesn't have state sanction). Herta maintains recommendation-free communication with the midwife; each keeps the other apprised of any issues or possible complications that may mark a woman as high-risk.

"But a high-risk pregnancy does not necessarily equal a high-risk delivery — that's where we get lost," Herta said. "Every situation is different. I'm an obstetrician so I can say this: Obstetricians think they need to be there — they don't understand that women are made to give birth. I think mothers care more about their own babies than (doctors) do, and I think homebirthers tend to educate themselves even more, so they're more aware of potential problems."

Two years after an "accidental homebirth" in 2001 (her ride didn't show up in time, so she delivered her baby in her own bathroom), Herta had her next child at the Greenhouse Birth Center, a freestanding, midwife-run clinic in Okemos that has since closed. This was her introduction to the local midwifery scene, and the start of an uneasy alliance that's put her in the middle of what she calls "bad blood."

"It's a hard road to walk," Herta said. "I've heard colleagues say very negative things (about midwifery). The medical system looks down on it, and then midwives feel they can't trust physicians. It's a vicious cycle."

CALL THE MIDWIFE

Childbirth is far from an exact science. Last month, the Centers for Disease Control reported that the U.S. ranks 27th out of the 34 major developed countries in infant mortality, with 6.1 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. That's down from the previous year, but still nearly double the numbers for France, Italy and Spain. Meanwhile, homebirths in the U.S. rose slightly: In 2012, the most recent year for which numbers are available, 1.4 percent of American births took place outside the hospital, up from 1.3 percent the year before.

McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital has a CNM on staff and rooms with whirlpools, but the full European model doesn't exist in Lansing. Providence Hospital in Southfield has an Alternative Birth Care Unit that comes close, as does St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor's Family Birth Center. In Grand Rapids, the Cedar Tree Birth and Wellness is a freestanding alternative birth center. But in Lansing we have no such alternatives.

Gaëlle and I were fully covered to have a hospital birth through her insurance, but our first visit with her network

Delivery

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obstetrician was strangely impersonal — it felt as if we were taking out a mortgage. We sat in a tiny office across the desk from a nurse practitioner who gave us a glossy information packet. She proceeded to read aloud every single word and we followed along. When we asked who our doctor would be, she directed us to the page with 10 thumbnail-sized headshots and said it would be one of these. There would be no way to know who would be on call come delivery day, and it was highly unlikely we'd have time to talk to all of them before the birth.

But we had a birth plan — unless it was an absolute emergency, she wanted no drugs, no C-section and no episiotomy, a surgical procedure to widen the birth canal. If we didn't know what doctor we were going to get, how could we know where each doctor drew the line at "absolute emergency"?

So that night we called our friend Audra Post to ask some questions. She's a former Greenhouse CPM who is the sole proprietor of Harmonious World Midwifery, a private midwifery practice. She was one of the midwives named in the 2012 lawsuit against Greenhouse filed by Sara and Jarad Snyder following the death of their son, Magnus, in a breech delivery attempt.

When Gaëlle and I said we were concerned about doing a homebirth completely outside the hospital system — insurance

was, after all, paying for it, so why not utilize it for everything we could — Post told us about tandem care and put us in contact with Herta, who was.

"I think homebirth is the safest option for low-risk women," Post said. "But what is best for family is the safest way to go, and a medically supported (birth) might be the safest way. There is no one answer for everybody."

Fortunately Herta was in our network, so we switched to her office. Post's services are not covered, however — we had to pay about \$3,000 for her part of the tandem care. Gaëlle started having monthly meetings with Post for two- to three-hour chat sessions in our living room. She didn't just feel at home — she was at home.

"This was my favorite part of tandem care — the time I got to spend with Audra," Gaëlle says. "She put me in touch with a prenatal yoga studio, she loaned me books, she answered all my questions. It was very touching. Back in France, my sister didn't even have this level of intimacy with her midwife."

But Sara Snyder said it was exactly that intimacy that led her to put a high level of trust in the Greenhouse midwives that she feels was betrayed.

MAGNUS' STORY

Snyder found a similar distaste for the impersonal nature of the hospital system ("We felt like cattle") that we did when she was preparing for her first birth. She sought out the Greenhouse midwives for birth classes in preparation for a hospital childbirth.



Herta



Post



Snyder

"We developed friendships, built a trust with the birth center," Snyder said. "I was all about the natural experience. We spent an hour together at each (prenatal) visit. We had maybe 10 minutes at the hospital."

After her son, Jonah, was born in a hospital with the help of a Greenhouse doula (mother assistant), Snyder wanted to try for a delivery at the birth center for her second child. Late in her pregnancy, Snyder found out her son was in the breech position, but she and her husband made the decision to proceed with a non-intervention vaginal delivery. Snyder said the midwives convinced her it would be safe, and she did not seek a second opinion.

However, the birth was a disaster: Her son, Magnus, suffered complications that caused brain damage and other injuries. He died 13 days later.

"I felt like I was as prepared as I could be," she said. "Looking back, though, I feel ignorant. I didn't realize how high risk I was."

The Snyders sued their midwife for wrongful death, and Greenhouse closed in the wake of the lawsuit. In May, the couple was awarded a \$5 million judgment, but Snyder said she doesn't expect to receive payment; the midwife filed for bankruptcy after the suit was filed. Snyder has since started a group called Safer Midwifery for Michigan that urges hospitals to hire CNMs and develop natural birth centers in their maternity departments.

"You really have to know how midwifery is different here than in Europe," Snyder said. "The education is vastly different. They're not attached to a hospital. It's not an integrated model of care. I think there's a solution that allows you to incorporate the best of all the pieces in place so that it wouldn't be any different than having a homebirth and going to a hospital."

In our case, Herta detected that Gaëlle had a placenta previa in the early part of her pregnancy, which meant her placenta was partially obstructing her cervix. If it didn't



move, this created a very real possibility for a hemorrhage in the event of a vaginal birth. Herta monitored the placenta as it moved throughout Sagan's development, and at 30 weeks it was sufficiently out of the way to not cause alarm. By week 37, he was in the right position and we were cleared for homebirth.

FULL CONTROL

We expected some blowback from our friends and family, several of whom already dismiss us as being hippy-dippy. What I wasn't prepared for was open hostility.

"What's wrong with you, don't you want your baby to live?" snapped one of my relatives last spring after we told him our plan. His reaction felt like a slap in the face, but I recognized similar sentiments in the raised eyebrows and sudden silences of others. Eventually, I stopped telling people.

But Gaëlle and I hadn't made this decision lightly, and we weren't doing it to live dangerously or to be contrarian, as some of our family had suggested. Parenthood, to us, starts with pregnancy. We had done our research — we knew what we were getting into. Having a baby was the single most important thing that either of us had ever planned for and we wanted to be able to call all the shots.

"I knew that anything could still happen, but I wanted full control to decide the fate of my son," Gaëlle says. "Because of hospitals, people forget they're an active part of the process. I didn't want to get lost in that process."

Dr. Maude "Molly" Guerin is a Lansing obstetrician who says she's delivered over 5,000 babies.

"It's dumb luck (that I've never lost a

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Delivery

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baby), but it happens to even good doctors," Guerin said. "I see how fast bad things can happen. When it does, it can be brutally awful."

She said CNMs are "strongly supported" by the medical community — she used them for two of her own three birth experiences — but she thinks hospitals are the best place for childbirth.

"I'd say that about one or two deliveries out of 100 require urgent medical intervention," she said. "We do 100 deliveries a month, so for us it's (a regular) occurrence. We love to stand back and let (childbirth) happen naturally, but if you're that one or two in 100, you want to be in a place where you have everything you need at your fingertips."

"I'm very supportive of women giving birth where they're most comfortable as long as they've educated themselves. But saying birth in a (freestanding) birth clinic or at home is as safe or safer than in a hospital? That's not true."

She did agree with Herta, however, that the European model of birth centers attached to hospitals is the ideal system. However, neither sees it happening within the decade.

"The Greenhouse closing had a huge (chilling) effect on the issue," Herta said. "I think we're a long way from that."

WHAT TO EXPECT

Gaëlle started having contractions on a Tuesday afternoon, and after 30 hours of squatting on a yoga ball, stretching in the inflatable hot tub and walking around the block, the contractions weren't getting any closer or more intense. Audra noticed the baby wasn't coming down straight, and after trying a few things, nothing helped. Gaëlle's body was getting weak and she wasn't even to the pushing stage yet. Around 3 a.m. Thursday, Audra suggested we should start considering going to the hospital.

Because she had gone to all her check-ups, Gaëlle was already in the Sparrow computer system. And because Audra had spent the last two days with us monitoring every contraction, taking regular heartbeats, keeping track of every change, the doctors who took over had a full record of the labor. We consented to an epidural that allowed the doctor to go in and line him up properly, and once Gaëlle was recharged she started pushing.

But hang in there, dear reader, things are about to get a little unavoidably grody.

When the water broke, the doctors saw there was meconium in the fluid: Basically, our son had pooped while he was still inside, which could lead to a whole set of respiratory problems if it was aspirated. Twice during the pushing process our son's heart rate began to dip dangerously low, but it quickly recovered. When he came out he was whisked over to an open-air incubator where a pediatrician roughly sucked out all the meconium from his nose and mouth and blew oxygen into his little face. He wasn't breathing, and time stretched out; it felt like an hour, but it was probably only about 30 seconds before he started to cry.

At first, what had felt like weakness — going to the hospital, getting drugs, using high-tech equipment — was everything that contributed to Sagan surviving. Tandem care had saved my son.

"Sparrow has worked very well with me over the last few years for midwifery trans-

fers," Post said. "The ideal system would be a team of doctors who wanted to work together to support midwifery. I have sent out requests, but besides Dr. Herta, I've never heard any response."

'IN A HUNDRED BILLION GALAXIES'

Our story has a happy ending. Sagan was born on time and healthy, and his physical and intellectual developments have been right on track. But I accept that his successful birth amounts to a series of lucky accidents. Which isn't to disparage the team of knowledgeable, skilled people who helped us at every point along the way. Quite the opposite — they were part of that good fortune.

As I held my son for the first time, I thought about all of the improbabilities that led to him being there in my arms. Not just the last nine months, but all of history. My wife's ancestors, all of mine, meeting each other over the millennia and creating

our two lineages, all of which would culminate in a random meeting at a house party in downtown Lansing three years ago. And now, after a scary 36-hour labor that put our experimental plan to its full test, here was this perfect little boy.

"Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious," said Carl Sagan, my son's namesake. "In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another."

And in a hundred billion realities, things could have gone as many different ways. I'm happy with the way this one went, but it would have been better if we'd had more choices. Until then, tandem care is the way for us.

This story is dedicated to the memory of Magnus and to the memory of Arya, our friend's daughter who died last month after what should have been a routine hospital birth. You will always be loved and you will always be missed.



Guerin

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REO bravado Lansing's fastest growing cultural district gets a new performing arts space

By ALLANI I. ROSS

For the last three years, Dylan and Jeana-Dee Rogers have been artistic dynamos in the community. He's the founder/bandleader of the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, an eye-popping 16-piece gypsy-folk group that play concerts and festivals throughout mid-Michigan. She's the education director at REACH Art Studio,

REO Town Welcomes the Robin Theatre Presenting: The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle Album Release Party

6:30 p.m. & 9 p.m. Saturday,
Oct. 11
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
\$15/\$10 adv.
517luvs.com

which works with schools, neighborhood organizations and businesses to keep visual art front-and-center in mid-Michigan.

"We're cheerleaders of Lansing," Dylan Rogers said. "But there is a ton of talent here that doesn't always get

seen."

The two have invested their time, money and made themselves homeless (more on that later) to create the Robin Theatre, a new performing arts space they're developing in REO Town. Situated in the heart of the growing historic district, the Robin is designed to host concerts, theater performances, spoken word acts, poetry events and whatever else the local creative class can cook up.

"(REO Town) used to be a very blue collar area, and it's very interesting to see this artistic community moving in and making it their own," Rogers said. "It's a great place to get something like this started."

The Rogerses will provide a sneak peak of their new 1,600-square-foot digs at an event Saturday called (deep breath) REO Town Welcomes the Robin Theatre Presenting: The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle Album Release Party. This isn't a grand opening for the building — the Robin won't officially open until next August — but a chance for curiosity seekers to see what's been going in there for the last few months.

"And maybe get people to start talking," Rogers says coyly. "I think it will be very well received when people start to discover it."

Saturday's event will include an hour-long performance by the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle playing songs off its new album, "Dream Machine." The concert will be bookended by two half-hour comedy/



Photo by Dan Hartley

Dylan and Jeana-Dee Rogers have enlisted friends and family to help transform this REO Town building into the Robin Theatre, a new performing arts space that will open next summer. There will be a sneak preview of the Robin on Saturday.

music segments including puppets, belly dancers and choreographed pieces. There will be two performances that night, at 6:30 and 9. That Rogers is both bandleader and building owner has caused some confusion, however.

"This is not the LUVS Theater — it's not just for our band," he said. "The Robin is for everyone."

The space is intimate — it can only accommodate 150 seats — but Rogers sees it as a vital component of the performing arts scene.

"For local performers, there's a lack of variation in venues," he said. "You can't play at Mac's every night. It's a great place — so's the Green Door, so's the Loft — but this is an alternative to those. This is going to be a dignified setting. It's not for big crowds."

And unlike the other venues in town, it won't be open nightly, or even weekly. The building will also double as the couple's home — they will live in the apartment upstairs — which probably plays into their decision to limit performances. How do you shush the neighbors when you're the one who booked them?

Earlier this year they put their house near Sparrow Hospital up for sale after doing some preliminary research on the REO Town building. They thought their home would take a while to sell, but they got an offer almost immediately from a couple looking to retire in Lansing. They got their asking price, but they had to be out within a month. The deal with the Robin Theatre wasn't even complete yet and would still require months of work before it was habitable. But they

took a chance, sold the house and have been couch surfing with friends ever since. They expect to move in by December.

"Life is weird right now," Rogers said. "But that's what it's like when you're chasing down a dream. It's going to take a ton of work, and I hope it's going to pay off. But we count on nothing but the blood, sweat and tears. It's a very Lansing ethic."

In June 2013, Rogers and his band rented an RV and headed out on a tour of breweries and classic performance halls in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The trip was supposed to result in a documentary, but Rogers said that probably won't happen now. (He wouldn't elaborate, citing ongoing talks with the film's producer/director.) The movie may be a bust, but it challenged the band to hone its visual style, some of which worked its way into the new album's material.

"We've really focused on our songwriting and musicianship for this album," Rogers said. "It's a little weirder, but I think it's the best work we've ever done. We've done stuff like written songs with the shadow puppets in mind. But we are a band that brings theatrical elements as opposed to a variety show. We've had to come to terms with that."

Rogers' feathers don't seem too ruffled about keeping all his eggs in one nest.

"We've got no money, but we're working hard and making the most of what we've got, including accepting lots of help from friends," Rogers said. "It's just part of the unguaranteed life of a performing artist."

To hear tracks off "Dream Machine," visit the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle's Facebook page or its website, 517luvs.com.



Under the umbrella



On Friday, Lansing Community College officially introduced 15 new art installations to the public, including the 30-foot-tall "Education and Community" (far left) a soon-to-be-signature piece that marks the campus entrance at Shiawassee Street and Washington Avenue. About 100 people gathered inside the nearby Arts & Sciences Building on the chilly rainy morning as the LCC Jazz Band, tucked into a corner, created a vibe that felt more beer festival than unveiling.

LCC President Brent Knight pointed out that all the sculptures are connected to either current or former LCC students or faculty, and local companies completed all the fabrication. The combined cost of the new art is in over \$250,000.

The rain cleared up just as the tour of the grounds started. The sculptures represent a wide variety of disciplines, including literature and medicine, and form the backbone of a sculpture park that will ultimately include more than 20 pieces.

Besides "Education," there is "Elementary," three yellow No. 2 crisscrossed pencils reaching to the sky and the abstract "Geometry." Another seemed apropos for a rainy day: A woman holding two umbrellas. An online guide will soon be available so we can get the name.

— BILL CASTANIER and ARINIKO O'MEARA



Art Gallery **CONFIDENTIAL**

Pattern of conversation

October art exhibits focus on old school photography, plaid fashion sense

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

There is a complexity to the pattern of plaid that goes beyond its crisscross patterns and various colors. Originally known as tartan, the origins of it date back as far as 8th century B.C., linked to the Hallstatt culture of Central Europe. And while it seems to be the unofficial fashion preference for twentysomethings who hang out in coffee shops and sport waxed mustaches these days, it traditionally symbolizes one's allegiance to a clan in the Scottish Highlands.

Artist Jennifer Hennings is probably aware of where plaid has been and is certainly aware of where it is now. In MICA Gallery's new exhibit, "It's All About the Plaid," she offers her unique twist on where it could possibly go.

"I see plaid as a representation of life," Hennings said. "I see the pattern as the different strands of a person's life, interwoven."

Hennings is joined by a bevy of artists for the exhibition. Each contributes a piece in mediums ranging from black-and-white illustration to backlit installations. Each piece is supported by the plaid theme, but conveys an intricacy far beyond its conceit.

As for Henning's share of the exhibit, she works with plaid clothing, repurposing and reusing ordinary items and transforming them into something different. With her piece "Man About Plaid," for example, an ordinary men's plaid shirt has had its sleeves removed and sewn back on at the cuff, opening the arms and giving the shoulders a hip, militaristic look.

The pieces feel like something new, but not entirely different from something you'd see someone wearing on a college campus. Hennings is relatively new to fashion design, having only practiced it for a couple years, but alludes to an almost serendipitous transition to designing trendy apparel.

"It was my younger classmates at LCC who encouraged me to get into fashion design," Hennings said. "It feels like with design it has come full circle."

Another artist debuted her exhibit on Sunday on the other end of the Lansing gallery circuit. Patricia A. Bender's preferred medium of photography could go hand-in-hand with the designs of Hennings, but Bender, a photographer, prefers to fix her lens on things far removed from the glamour of the runway.

"I typically look for little things when tak-

ing pictures," Bender said. "Things that are overlooked."

Her exhibit at the East Lansing Public Art Gallery in the Hannah Community Center is called "Small Things Considered." (Yes, the artist is an NPR fan.) Shots are tight on the subject, whether of a pear on an old fence or a portion of a forest in upstate New York. While the images stand steady on their own, they strongly allude to the greater whole of which they're a part.

The most intriguing aspect of Bender's work is her use of practical effects in her pieces. Bender works exclusively in traditional photographic techniques — no digital trickery. Everything is shot on regular film and de-



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith / City Pulse

veloped in a darkroom. Since Bender admits she barely knows how to operate a smartphone, let alone Photoshop, it's a wonder how she is able to achieve the images that she does.

"It's all about experimenting with weird methods in the darkroom," Bender said. "The weirdest thing was using an old dryer lid with water on it to diffuse the light when I developed an image."

The result is ethereal. The deliberately small prints juxtaposed with Bender's dark room mad science makes her work appear as memories or dreams. "Staples" is exemplary: A tight shot of a tree bearing the marks of countless lost cat signs and garage sales posts. With a soft focus creeping around the perimeter of the image, it feels like a slide of an image projected from your mind's eye.

Bender took the leap to photography from her former vocation 12 years ago. She used to be a writer for the Princeton Packet, a New Jersey-based newspaper. After drawing inspiration from the works of photographer Sally Mann and a few photography classes, she was on her way.

"Small Things" is her first exhibit in Michigan, and presumably in a long line of many. As far as where she plans on taking the style of her work next, the answer is kind of obvious.

"I want to work bigger," Bender said. "I want to start utilizing some more traditional photographic techniques like wet plate tin. I never want to stop learning."

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Grave concerns

Williamston finds eerie magic in 'Frankenstein' supplement

By MARY CUSACK

The relationship between Williamston Theatre and playwright Joseph Zettelmaier is so pleasantly symbiotic that it must have been created in a laboratory. Zettelmaier writes audience-pleasing plays that are enhanced by the quality of production and casting at

"The Gravedigger: A Frankenstein Story"

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williamstontheatre.com

which Williamston excels.

This tradition continues with its current production, the world premiere of "The Gravedigger: A Frankenstein Story." While the script fails to dig deeply into the original novel's darker themes, it is a sweet

Halloween treat.

"The Gravedigger" is Zettelmaier's imagined "Chapter 23" of Mary Shelley's classic, "Frankenstein." It takes place during a gap of time in the original novel, after the monster has killed all of Victor Frankenstein's friends and family, but before the two embark on their epic chase to the North Pole.

In Zettelmaier's vision, during this time the monster (Alex Leydenfrost) returns to Ingolstadt, the place of his "birth," with the intention of dying. Instead, he finds friendship with isolated gravedigger Kurt (Mark Colson). He also takes the name Anton and experiences the stirrings of love with the self-sufficient Gypsy woman, Nadya (Alysia Kolaszcz). Peace is short-lived as Victor (Joe Seibert) has tracked the creature in his quest for vengeance.

Williamston presented a reading of "The Gravedigger" at the 2013 Renegade Theatre Festival. That version felt more engaging and perhaps a bit edgier, but without seeing the draft script versus this current iteration, it's hard to put a finger on what's different. Victor and the monster both seemed to be more volatile, however.

The play presents a whole new cast, which in one case is a shame. Blake Bowen, who played Anton in the reading, had a more refined cadence appropriate to a man-child who lacks human affectation. Leydenfrost's delivery is reminiscent of non-human characters in the "Star Trek" franchise (think Spock, Data or Seven of Nine) whose contrived roles were to try to understand humanity to reinforce to the audience how special we are.

Scholars of the source material will be particularly irritated by this affectation, because at this point in the novel the monster has

mastered language and has a deeper understanding of human nature. Another key plot point in the novel, into which Zettelmaier should have dug, was the monster's motivation for killing Victor's family. He had done so partially out of revenge because Victor would not create for him a female companion. This could have been part of the discussions he has with Kurt regarding love and women.

John Lepard transitioned from the role of Kurt in the reading to the role of director in this production. He replaced himself with Colson, who brings a deeper sense of world-weariness and gristle to the role. When he



Photo by Chris Purchis

Williamston Theatre's "The Gravedigger" fills in some blanks in the Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein."

hugs the monster, it is obvious that he is not simply propping the monster up, but clinging to him as the anchor for Kurt's own redemption.

Overall, "The Gravedigger" is an inventive story and a seasonally appropriate theatrical experience. It's just a shame that the story is a shallow grave.

Between the folds

Powerful drama a victory with stylized movement, volatile chemistry

By TOM HELMA

For some of us growing up, the art of origami was nothing more than the creation of a simple paper airplane. In "Animals Out of Paper," origami is far more complex, way beyond the creation of a miniscule crane.

While characters here create many fine pieces of origami — a T. Rex, a three-dimensional model of the human heart — it is writer Rajiv Joseph who folds together three lives to form a profoundly moving play.

The powerful performances of the polished young actors are built upon his poignant writing. Their three characters weave a complicated tapestry as they struggle to find true intimacy in relationships with one another. Social awkwardness is overcome, brittle defenses melt, intuition meets intellectual rigor, and emotional vulnerability is revealed. A softness of hearts emerges and

sufferings are resolved. We learn that origami has mysterious healing powers, that all life experiences can be counted as blessings.

Deborah Keller's direction of the three equally talented actors, all students in the LCC Studio Theater Program, is sharp and focused. Stage movement is stylized, and there is a deliberate formality throughout the play. Each actor, in turn, demonstrates an ability to be self-contained, in character at all times.

While calculus teacher Andy (Michael Boxleitner) cavorts, exuberantly nerdy, gushing out all over the stage, Ilana (Monica Tan-

ner) the professional origami instructor, is restrained, wired tight, stiff-upper-lip, chillingly cool yet quietly seething with anger.

Enter Suresh (Boris Nikolovski), Andy's 17-year-old student, a math prodigy. He is the wild card in the mix, all hip-speak and street attitude with a natural flair for origami.

This is a volatile chemistry worth mixing, and Keller has assembled her ingredients exactly right. "Animals Out of Paper" begins and ends with an explosive array of wildly emotional dynamics.

The set design by Bob Fernholz features abstract birds floating above a studio paired with lighting by Tyler Rick that streams through the wire mesh of these exotic creatures to create a sensuous splash of color across the floor. A wide range of incidental music selected by sound designer Devin Faught and Keller soothes and warms the audience before the play even begins. This is a production where attention has been given to every detail, where every aspect enhances the overall effect.

Philosopher John Locke said we are born into the world a "tabula rasa" — a blank slate. Origami teaches us that life experiences bend, fold and shape our characters, transforming us into the people we eventually become.

Fathers' day

Riverwalk drama triumphs with three powerful performances

By SHAWN PARKER

Things are changing at St. Charles School. Winter has settled over the campus, but something more pernicious than

cold seems to be affecting the student body. Previously a peaceful, predictable lot, the boys of St. Charles are becoming increasingly unstable and violent.

Amidst these newly surfaced troubles, the teachers of St. Charles — young and impressionable Paul Reese, affable and popular 30-year veteran Joseph Dobbs and the stern and feared Jerome Malley — navigate a dense web of personal relationships and obstacles that threaten to boil

"Child's Play"

Riverwalk Theatre
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10;
Saturday, Oct. 11; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 12
\$12/\$10 students, seniors
and military
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

over and consume the school. If the kids don't get to it first.

Originally staged on Broadway in 1970, the Tony award-winning

"Child's Play" is considered an actor's play, and the performances elicited by first-time director Amy Rickett from her cast leave no doubt about that. Even the child actors, who normally leave this reviewer cold, are effectively sinister in their limited appearances.

As the priests of the school, Joseph Mull, Bob Robinson and Mike Stewart all give superior supporting turns, with Mull's drunk and defeated Friar Penny a standout. But "Child's Play" is effectively a three-man show, and we're treated to a trio of powerful performances.

As Reese, the former-student-turned-teacher who finds his loyalties divided between Dobbs and Malley, Matt Eldred brings an innocence and vulnerability that occasionally teeters on the edge of histrionics, but that only reinforces the youth and inexperience of the character, and his portrayal succeeds absolutely through that balancing act.

Doak Bloss easily inhabits the emotional center in the tenured Joseph Dobbs, a man who has tied his entire identity to the school, and with pitiable stoicism, refuses to accept it could be in decline. Bloss carries himself with an air of detached pride, like something out of a British drama, and it is enthralling to watch the lacquer slowly strip away.

Jeff Magnuson is Malley. The actor disappears completely, and the harsh, stubborn and increasingly paranoid Malley emerges as a fully formed person. As Malley's personal affairs are revealed and his demeanor slowly softens, Magnuson finds nuances in his voice, posture and delivery to convey how this man is, at best, misunderstood but possibly being actively, maliciously, driven insane. By turns near-loathsome then sympathetic, it is a singularly commanding performance.

With Rickett's hands-off direction allowing the cast to breathe, and effectively unadorned sets, "Child's Play" is left to the actors, and they do not disappoint. You may not see a more arresting 90 minutes of theater this year.

Sock of the new

Young soloist, new music spice up Lansing Symphony

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A young piano soloist and a baby-fresh piece of music (by classical standards, at least) promise to liven up Saturday's Lansing Symphony slate. But Maestro Timothy Muffitt is not rolling the dice. Neither are unproven quantities.

In fall 2012, Muffitt brought Colton Peltier (pronounced "pell-tee-air") in to solo with the Baton Rouge Symphony, which

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Masterworks 2: Chopin & Mendelssohn featuring Colton Peltier, piano
8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
\$50-\$14
Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, MSU campus, East Lansing (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com

Muffitt also leads. Audience feedback was so positive that Peltier came back a year later to open the 2013-'14 season.

"It's hard to describe his personality," Muffitt said. "There's a certain unassuming confidence he brings. He's an exciting performer."

exciting performer."

He's also an elusive one. Saturday afternoon, he got carried away practicing virtuosic Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1, which he's performing for the first time Saturday. He called me back, 20 minutes late, to explain that his phone was turned off and he lost track of time.

Peltier's dormitory at the Juilliard School, near 65th Street and Broadway, is only two blocks from Central Park, where he likes to run, and a quick stroll across a pedestrian bridge from the nearest Starbucks.

Peltier feels that his youth is an advantage, at least where Chopin is concerned.

"It fits me well because Chopin wrote the piece when he was 19 years old and performed it when he was 20," Peltier explained. "I can relate to it." Peltier turned 20 in July.

"It's a little bit sentimental," he said. "There's a lot of fire. There are peaceful moments. It covers a lot of emotional ground."

He jokingly called himself "the black



Courtesy photo

Colton Peltier, 20, is the guest pianist at LSO's MasterWorks 2 concert.

sheep" of a family of jocks. His father, Dan Peltier, played baseball for the Texas Rangers and San Francisco Giants. His mother, Amy, was a swimmer.

When he was 3, Peltier got up and danced around during a Kindermusik program. The miffed teacher told his mother not to put him into piano lessons, but she did anyway.

Peltier burrowed into the piano like a clam into wet sand. At 9, he made his performing debut, playing Beethoven's First Concerto with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

"It was a great experience," he said. "It was nerve-racking as a 9-year-old, but everyone in the orchestra was so nice and welcoming."

From there, gigs and competitions mounted — scan the program notes for the numbing litany — leading up to two Baton Rouge performances with Muffitt and this week's Lansing gig. Suffice it to say his childhood wasn't like that of most people.

"I've been deprived of some things, but I've gotten to do things many people don't experience," he said.

Besides the Chopin, Saturday's opener features a relatively new work that has caught on big in 21st century concert halls, the unabashedly melodic "Musica Celestis" ("Music of the Heavens") by Aaron Jay Kernis.

Murrith called Kernis "one of the most important living American composers, a significant voice."

The piece promises a two-pronged thrill for Muffitt. For one thing, he's never conducted it before. More to the point, he and the LSO scored big with a new piece by Christopher Theofanidis, "Rainbow Body," last year, sparking an instant ovation. Muffitt longs for a repeat.

"It was so great to create that kind of a powerful interface with an audience with a piece of music from a living American composer," he said.

Kernis, a New Yorker, can be pretty prickly, but in "Musica Celestis," he sides with the angels, drawing his inspiration from a medieval well of religious ecstasy.

Muffitt pointed out that "Musica Celestis" has a lot in common with Samuel Barber's famous "Adagio for Strings." Like the "Ada-

gio," it's the bittersweet slow movement of a string quartet, pumped up to a gut-wrenching orchestral throb. And, like the "Adagio," it takes a feather to your spine and an onion to your tear ducts before you can get your guard up.

"People hear it and have the same reaction: What is this music? This is the most beautiful music I've ever heard," Muffitt declared. "It's become viral. Audiences immediately respond to it in a positive way."

Saturday's closer, Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, is designed to stroke the blushing early romanticism of Chopin into a pleasant chest rash that stops just short of scandal.

"The Mendelssohn is just so joyous and exuberant," Muffitt said. "It's a nice way to bring the night to a close."

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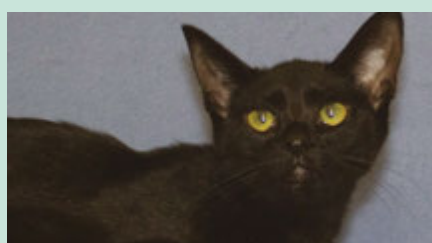
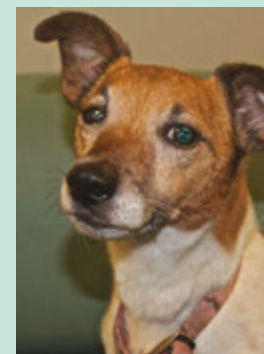
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Extra bass hit

Christian McBride digs in for MSU residency, big band concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Christian McBride, one of the greatest bassists in jazz history and a veteran of over 300 recordings, has played with Sonny Rollins, James Brown and Sting.

MSU Jazz Orchestra I

Christian McBride, guest artist
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10
Fairchild Theatre, MSU
Auditorium
150 Auditorium Road,
East Lansing
\$8-10/students FREE
(517) 353-5340, music.
msu.edu

He's traded licks with Philadelphia rappers, Egyptian oud players and opera diva Renée Fleming.

He doesn't believe in saying "no."

Monday night, he gave the same advice to about 100 jazz students packed into a practice room for the kickoff of his weeklong residency at Michigan State University.

"Take every dive gig you can," McBride told the students. "Every bar, ever bar mitzvah, every wedding, every backyard barbecue."

The week of classes and statewide tours will culminate in a big band bash at MSU Friday with McBride and MSU's students and professors.

Hard work and love were McBride's favorite notes Monday.

He told the students that he first heard his hero, celebrated bassist Ray Brown, in person at New York's Knickerbocker Club in 1991. Afterward, he went home and put a picture of Brown on his wall, "next to Jesus."

"To hear that sound up close ... whew," he said, shaking his head. "It changed my life. He wasn't pulling the strings way back, like he was going to shoot an arrow, but he had that gravity, that pulse."

He didn't choose the bass, McBride said. It chose him.

"It was like, 'Come to me,'" he said, opening his arms, as if for a lover.

McBride told the students to forget about the fuss their families make over them.

"Everybody was precocious when I was going to high school in Philly," he said. Among McBride's high school classmates were jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco, R&B crooners Boyz II Men, drummer/DJ Questlove and hip-hop MC Black Thought.

Even in such company, McBride stood out, MSU Jazz Studies chief Rodney Whitaker recalled.

"I first heard him when he was 15 in Philly," Whitaker said. "It sent me to the practice room. I knew he was going to be bad."

Whitaker said McBride related well to



Lawrence Cosentino / City Pulse

Bassist Christian McBride talked with students Monday night at MSU's Music Practice Building, kicking off a week of classes and concerts with the Jazz Studies program.

the students, in part, because he started out so young.

"He came on the scene at 17," Whitaker said. "By the time he was 25, he had already played on 150 records. He always had a smile on his face, always upbeat and happy. The students can glean a lot from being around a guy that positive."

McBride told the students he pioneered the use of social media to promote jazz, posting diaries of his on stage experiences, and even gets a perverse pleasure out of Internet jazz haters like JazzIsTheWorst and AngryKeithJarrett.

"Jazz needs more humor," he said.

For all his positivity, he admitted to frustration with one consequence of saying "yes" to so many invitations. Call it the gunslinger effect.

"People think, 'I have Christian McBride on my date,' and write the hardest bass part they can, instead of a musical one," he said.

McBride told the students that if they want to impress a bandleader at an audition, it's not enough to play a standard like "Take the A Train."

"When I played for (trumpeter) Wynton Marsalis or (pianist) Cedar Walton, I took the time to learn their compositions," he said. "They were like, 'You know that tune?' Boom, you're in."

When a student asked McBride for his three favorite and "most inspirational" musicians, he started out strong with Ray Brown and James Brown, but the third eluded him.

"It's impossible," he said, naming a few of the giants he played with. "Wayne (Shorter), Herbie (Hancock), Chick (Corea) ... " He hung his head. "I can't do it."

After a day of classes and workshops, McBride and the MSU big band will go on the road Wednesday through Friday, hitting high schools in Byron Center and Ludington, Schoolcraft College in Livonia and Cass Tech High School in Detroit.

"The shocking part is that it's taken me all this time to come up there and do a residency in Michigan," McBride said. "I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time with these young students."

An accomplished composer, McBride has received critical acclaim for "The Movement Revisited," a massive suite of music for jazz band and gospel choir, based on the lives of four civil rights leaders. A CD is in the works. Friday's concert at MSU will feature Whitaker's favorite composition of McBride's, "Shade of the Cedar Tree."

"He's a musical genius," Whitaker said. "It didn't matter what instrument he played. He just happened to choose the bass."

Although McBride and Whitaker play the same instrument, that doesn't mean they won't play together this week. They've traded licks several times over the years, carrying on a tradition of Ray Brown's three-bass group, Super Bass, with John Clayton as the third bassist.

"My students are already asking me if he's going to spank me," Whitaker said. "I hope not. I'm going to eat my Wheaties."

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Away from it all

Travel writer has new bucket-list items for second edition of '1,000 Places'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Patricia Schultz's first memory of travel was with her family to the Jersey Shore when she was 4.

"It was very exotic for me," said the author of "1,000 Places to See Before You Die," recalling the sand, surf and sun. "If it was August, we were packing the car for Jersey."

But it was what she calls her "first passport experience," a trip to the Dominican Republic at 15, that changed her life.

"I went for two weeks to visit a friend in the Dominican Republic and it was an out-of-body experience," she said. That

trip would cement her dreams to be one of those nomadic travel writers we rely on for vacation ideas. She said her parents got her that ticket and supported her dreams to be a travel writer.

Patricia Schultz

Author talk and book signing
7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16
Schuler Books & Music,
Meridian Mall
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schulerbooks.com

With the second edition of "1,000 Places," Schultz delivers an updated version of the 2003 groundbreaking book with more than 200 new places to visit and 28 additional countries.

Of course, the usual places are well represented: Britain, Italy, Germany and Latin America. However, the book now includes more locations from Eastern Europe, such as Lithuania, and from the Middle East, like Qatar.

You can expect the normal destinations of Paris and the Eiffel Tower and London and Buckingham Palace, but you'll also find Schultz directing you to Loch Ness and the Corn Islands off the coast of Nicaragua for adventures off the beaten path.

The author estimates she has visited about 80 percent of the locations she de-



Courtesy photo

Patricia Schultz added 200 new places in 28 additional countries to the second edition of her travel book "1,000 Places to See Before You Die."

scribes in her book, with notable exceptions being New Zealand, Tibet and some other far-flung locations.

Even though she has been traveling for decades, she said she is still most surprised by local cuisine.

"I'm not Anthony Bourdain when it comes to food," she said. "I'm still surprised by things I see on menus. They eat guinea pigs in South America and in the Taiwan food markets everyone sells things on a stick — still moving."

Schultz said one of the things she believes that keeps people from traveling is fear and apprehension, but she underlines that she is not afraid of what she might encounter.

"I've done my homework, and I never put myself in the lap of danger," she said. "I love to travel alone and any fears often translate to thrills in a nanosecond. When

you travel alone it is a very special experience and a very different experience from traveling with a group or another person."

She's convinced that women traveling alone are empowered.

"It's cool and adventurous," she said. When you press Schultz to name a place she would go back to time and time again she named Italy — she lived for a couple years after college.

"It's the most remarkable place in the world," she said. "It has an amazing cultural history, and you can't get a bad meal there."

Schultz said that the most dramatic change she has observed in her decades of travel is the advent of the cell phone and the ubiquitous Internet.

"It's not necessarily a horrible thing, but you are connected 24/7," she said. "I loved the sense of travel when you could, after a long trip, just appear back home. It was exotic. Today, we share everything."

Schultz says she makes it a point while traveling of not posting details on Facebook.

"I want the experiences to be mine. It's very sad when everything goes to Facebook. You lose the specialness of the moment," she said. "The first thought a traveler now has is 'I have to capture it' and send it straight to Facebook. Isn't connectiveness what you tried to get away from?"

Schultz said one reason she's visiting Michigan is to see what's going on in Detroit.

"I've heard so much about its demise, I'm curious," she said. She recalls the first time she visited Michigan and the revelation the "massive the inland seas." Michigan gets one mention in the new edition of the book: Mackinac Island and the Grand Hotel.

Speaking on the phone from her home in Midtown Manhattan, which she describes as "just steps from Central Park,"

Schultz said when she's asked her favorite place, she says "home."

"I get to enjoy home so rarely — I'm a real homebody," she said.

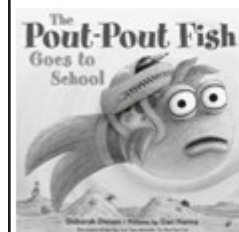
Although New York is filled with surprises, she said an experience during a recent trip to Papua, New Guinea, probably represents what she like best about travelling. She writes in the book that the island is home to hundreds of tribal groups that host annual festivals called sing-sings, a relatively new phenomenon, starting as a way to halt tribal warfare in the 1960s. She said the warriors come together in full regalia with dramatic face painting and bodies covered in war paint.

"It is almost like time travel and the warriors are menacing," she said. "It's kind of freaky, but when relaxing the warriors will reach under their grass skirt to pull out a phone and show you their photos."

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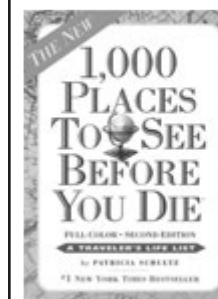


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Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, October 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Quantum Mechanics and Spirituality. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

Computer Club: Buying Guide. Tips for buying electronics. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Elder Law of Michigan. Presentation on services offered. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

EVENTS

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

Allen Street Farmers Market. Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music by Ollin. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

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)

See Out on the Town, Page 21



Along came a cider

Two festivals this weekend will appeal to beer and hard cider connoisseurs, one of which will give Lansing revelers the first of two opportunities this month to break out their lederhosen — but it's probably going to be a lot chillier on Halloween.

Even the most steadfast craft beer fans need a break from hops, malt and barley occasionally.

As an ode to harvest season, I'm a Beer Hound hosts the first-ever Cider Fest at the Red Salamander in Grand Ledge.

Organizer Paul Starr said the indoor festival offers more than 40 different ciders from a number of Michigan cideries including Uncle John's and Meckley's.

"I really like cider," Starr said. "There's really not that many cider fests in the state right now."

But it's not just about apples. The wide selection of flavors includes pumpkin and pear ciders, ranging from sweet to dry. Starr recommends trying Cider Rosé from Uncle John's. He is also interested in trying Northern Natural's pumpkin cider.

"I'm pretty excited for the list," he said. "Cider has really changed a lot in the last few years, and a lot of people are making some really great stuff."

As guests sample different ciders they will hear live music from Joe Wright and Mark Warner. Food will be provided by Meat in Old Town, and a portion of the proceeds will go to The Homeless Veterans Project. Located at the Lansing Volunteers of America, the charity serves veterans in need.

"In this area, there hasn't been this much cider in one place," Starr said. "So far people seem pretty excited about it."

Meanwhile, the Old Town Lansing Oktoberfest is back for its ninth annual outing hosted by the Old Town Commercial Association. There is a lot in store for

guests, as the festival committee has carefully selected a variety of food vendors, entertainment and drinks.

The festival will feature seasonal selections from both national breweries, including Blue Moon and Samuel Adams, and Michigan breweries, such as Griffin Claw and North Peak.

Proceeds will go toward Lansing beautification projects.

Although Samuel Adams Oktoberfest is a traditional favorite, festival organizer

Bridget Gonyeau recommends trying the specialty craft beers first.

"We'll only have a couple kegs of each, so they'll be going fast," she said.

Guests will hear from Michigan artists including Taylor Taylor and Happy Wanderers with the acts ranging from alternative rock to classic polka.

Each ticket includes three food and drink tickets and a custom glass beer stein. The festival also offers VIP tables for groups of up to eight people. The deal includes eight entrance tickets, 80 food and drink tickets, VIP seating, a private bathroom and eight Old Town swag bags. VIP tables are \$400 for one night and \$700 for two nights.

Gonyeau said those who are coming from campus have the option of catching a free shuttle that travels from the MSU Union to the festival and back every hour. And designated drivers are a good thing on weekends like this.

Old Town Oktoberfest

6-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10;
2-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
Cesar Chavez Plaza, corner
of Turner
\$20-\$15
oldtownoktoberfest.com

Cider Fest

5-10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
The Red Salamander
902 E. Saginaw Highway,
Grand Ledge
\$50-\$40
ciderfest.net

—BETH WALDON

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

MID-MICHIGAN ZINE FAIR EDITION

Self-publishing a DIY magazine, or "zine," takes a lot of work. I should know. In June 2008, local graphic designer Kara Swanson and I self-published a free Lansing-focused music and art zine called — get this — "Turn it Down!" The

Mid-Michigan Zine Fair

Noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
 @ Hannah Community Center (2nd floor)
 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
 FREE, all ages
midmichiganzinefair.tumblr.com

release show for the zine featured 15 area bands and drew about 200 locals to the now defunct Basement 414. Then, in early 2009, City Pulse approached me to write a local music column under the "Turn it Down"

moniker. Thanks to that one-issue zine,

for the past five years City Pulse has dedicated this page to highlighting local-music shows.

That's why this week's Turn it Down is devoted solely to 2nd Annual Mid-Michigan Zine Fair. It happens Saturday at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. According to event organizer zine writer Ethan Tate, a variety of zines are on hand to peruse and generally cost between 50 cents and \$5.

"The fair is packed with a wide variety of people sharing really wonderful and hilarious and oftentimes deeply personal things in the form of zines," Tate said. "Zines are absolute labors of love and people pour their souls into them. It's really amazing to see dozens of them all

thrown into one room."

Tate said zines can give a voice to anyone with enough drive to print one up.

"Many of the folks making them don't have much of a public voice otherwise," he said. "It's a way for them to tell their story, however strange or marginalized that story has been."

Joshua Barton, a zine creator and another one of the event's organizers, said Lansing has a rich history in the zine market.

"There's stuff Charlie Nash published in the '80s and '90s here in Lansing that was known nationally," Barton said. "One of his zines, 'Queer Magnolia,' was referenced in a notable book on zines, Stephen Duncombe's 'Notes from Underground.' Tesco Vee and Dave Stimson's 'Touch and Go' was a big deal for the national hardcore punk scene. In the most recent wave of zine making, Em Gormley's 'Ghost Lungs,' Peachy Press's 'Peachy Keen' and various titles by Smash Printing Press (Tate's operation) have gotten some exposure."

Barton said he initially became enamored with zines in the late '90s, before the Internet ruled.

"Zines were incredibly important to music scenes before the Internet matured, and still are for many scenes," Barton said. "I got into them on a deeper level through my work at the MSU Library, cataloging the zines there and connecting with other zine librarians in the country."

"Zines have a long history of building and sustaining the fabric of underground communities," Barton added. "It's still happening today, right here in your own town."

Beyond Lansing, Tate said it's thriving across the state. In 2013 alone, the Mid-



Michigan Zine Fair, Grand Rapids Zine Fest and Detroit Art Book Fair all had inaugural events.

"Last year self-publishing seemed to explode on the scene in Michigan," Tate said. "It was so rad to be a part of that."

For those looking to publish a zine, Tate offered some advice: "Just grab some paper and pens and start writing," he said. "Zines are amateur by default and the community really embraces those who aren't technically skilled in writing or illustrating or design. It's just about being as true to yourself as possible."

"So just write and draw out your feelings and make copies of it. The actual layout aspect can be kind of confusing but just Googling something like 'how to make a zine' will get you a pretty good demo of how to lay it all out."



UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT [RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto: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.	Icy/Dacey, 9 p.m.	The Hooten Hallers, 9 p.m.	The Lurking Corpses, 7 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 8 p.m.	Collateral Damage, 8 p.m.	Collateral Damage, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mike Maimone, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 8 p.m.	Mix Pack, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Tyme to Play Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 8:30 p.m.	Reggie Smith, 9 p.m.	TBA, 9:30 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic w/Hot Mess, 9 p.m.	Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Flaw, 9 p.m.	Brillz & Snails, 9:30 p.m.	Phutureprimitive, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		30th Century, 9 p.m.	Mr. Denton on Doomsday, 9 p.m.	Genocya, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Spring Tails, 9 p.m.	Big Boss Blues, 10 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 10 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Kathy Ford Band, 8:30 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			Well Enough Alone, 7 p.m.	Rachel and Alex, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			New Rule, 8 p.m.	
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Life Support, 8 p.m.	Bobby Standal, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Karlee Rewerts, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Riff Raff, 8:30 p.m.	Good Cookies, 8:30 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Jr.			Los Corporation, 8 p.m.	Los Corporation, 8 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Electronic Dance Party, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

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

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.



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MSU Music

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Mon. Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium

From the "Magnificat" to the "Four Seasons," the voice of the "Red Priest" resounds across the centuries.

Featuring violinist Dmitri Berlinsky with the International Chamber Soloists, the University Chorale, conducted by David Rayl, and concerto appearances by Michael Kroth, bassoon, and Suren Bagratuni, cello. Concert guide, Dr. Michael Callahan

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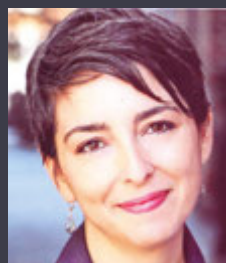
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Author
October 13, 2014

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DARREN McGRADY
Royal Chef
April 13, 2015



BILL BERLONI
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May 11, 2015



BOB EUBANKS
Game Show Host
November 10, 2014

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For more info: (517) 349-2516

This space donated in part by City Pulse

Out on the town

from page 18

351-2420, elpl.org.

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

MUSIC

MSU Guest Recital. Featuring Chris Van Hof, trombone. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Fairchild Theatre, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu/event-listing/chris-van-hof-trombone.

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.

Craig & Paul Live. Live original music, food and beer. 7 p.m. FREE. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Highway, Lansing.

\$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 to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

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

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessesbookstore.net.

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

Sign Language Classes. For ages 12 and up. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 492-6149.

Medicare/Medicaid Program. Discussion. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives. Race, labor and violence in Virginia. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU campus, East Lansing.

Current Events. Join us in discussing current events. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, .meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Rebuilding After Foreclosure. Call 372-5980 to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

Tools for Tax Efficient Giving. Breakfast with guests from Pavlik LLC. 8-9:30 a.m. \$25/\$15 AFP Members. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 853-6787. ow.ly/Cf85A.

EVENTS

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

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.

YPAL Happy Hour. Meet and network with other local professionals 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

Dimondale Farmers Market. Live music, locally grown produce. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Bridge Street, Dimondale. (517) 646-0230, villageofdimondale.org.

English Country Dance Lessons. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall Room C20, MSU campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, msu.edu.

Student Organic Farm Farmstand. Shop for local, organic fruits and vegetables. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East

See Out on the Town, Page 22

Thursday, October 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Contact Jan. 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10-SUNDAY, OCT. 12 >> 'CARRIE THE MUSICAL' BY MSU THEATRE DEPARTMENT

"They're all going to laugh at you!" Thirty-seven years before the Red Wedding, there was the Red Prom, and just in time for Halloween the MSU Department of Theatre brings Stephen King's "Carrie" to life on stage ... as a musical. The horrific production about a telekinetic high school outcast who really doesn't like being bathed in pig blood begins a two-week run starting Friday, with a midnight show coming next weekend. 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$15 students. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com. (Continues Wednesday, Oct. 15-Sunday, Oct. 19, including a midnight show on Friday, Oct. 17.)



SUNDAY, OCT. 12 >> LEWIS BLACK AT THE WHARTON CENTER

Actor, author and comical loudmouth Lewis Black continues his stand-up tour, "The Rant is Due" at the Wharton Center. Known for his biting political commentary and seemingly constant bad mood, Black seems to find a way to have audiences laughing and thinking at the same time. His ranting and pissed-off demeanor have landed him a Grammy for Best Comedy Album along with best male stand-up at the American Comedy Awards. 7 p.m. \$39.50-\$25 students. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall. 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

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	1	6	9				2	
7	8							

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 25

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"What If?"--you'll find out soon enough.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Pl. played by Selleck
- 7 Musclemans asset
- 10 Role for George Burns or Alanis Morissette
- 13 Energize
- 14 "Damn'd dirty" creature
- 15 Hackman of "The Royal Tenenbaums"
- 16 Drab shade from a Kardashian divorcee?
- 18 Tortoise/hare contest
- 19 Lennon's in-laws
- 20 "Young Frankenstein" actress
- 21 Feeling ennu
- 22 Served like sushi
- 23 Bumped into
- 24 Colorado city
- 26 Luxury autos driven by Melchior and Balthazar?
- 29 Former Indian prime minister Gandhi
- 32 Bucket o' laughs
- 33 It's touching?
- 34 So much
- 35 Economy class
- 37 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"
- 38 Little white lie
- 39 Sportscaster Andrews
- 40 Buttercup relative
- 41 John McEnroe-esque?
- 45 Most current
- 46 Loose piece in a fast food bag
- 47 Reggae subgenre
- 50 Acted sheepishly?
- 51 Doll call
- 53 Pinkie Pie or Fluttershy, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13						14			15			
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	45						46			47	48	49
50						51	52			53		
54						55				56		
57						58				59		
60						61				62		

- 54 Razor brand
- 55 Focus of a Franglish lesson on grammar?
- 57 "Midnite Vultures" musician
- 58 "32 Flavors" singer DiFranco
- 59 "The Little Mermaid" villain
- 60 "Evil Dead" hero
- 61 School fund-raising gp.
- 62 English or Irish hunting dog
- 63 President in 2012
- 64 Like a diva's performance
- 65 "L.A. Law" actress Susan Sarandon
- 66 Engineer's calculation
- 67 Yet another time
- 68 Monopoly card
- 69 Wedding cake figurine
- 70 Cat, in Colombia
- 71 "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" author Harte
- 72 Network that still airs "The Real World"
- 73 Bad thing to hear from a plumber, say
- 74 "Skedaddle!"
- 75 Swiss currency
- 76 Azalea not found in a flower bed
- 77 "Huckleberry Finn" transportation
- 78 Becomes irritating toward
- 79 It involves putting out
- 80 many resumes
- 81 Football analyst Collinsworth
- 82 Topical medication
- 83 Freshly painted
- 84 Kept watch on
- 85 Ask too many questions
- 86 Change just a bit
- 87 "You want a piece of...?"
- 88 Seventh of a group of eight (formerly nine)
- 89 Food recently crossed with a croissant
- 90 Jesse on "The Dukes of Hazzard," for one
- 91 How some learn music
- 92 ___ ghanouj
- 93 Afghanistan is there
- 94 Mosquito or fly
- 95 Indy 500 unit
- 96 Number before quattro

Out on the town

from page 21

Lansing. (517) 230-7987, msuorganicfarm.org.

Prevention of Mental Illness. Dr. William McFarlane on early detection. 7 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-3404, namilansing.org.

Smith Floral Harvest Basket Sale. Fresh produce grown on site. 3-7 p.m. Smith Floral, 1124 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. (517) 484-5327, smithfloral.com.

Deschutes Brewery Ice Cream Social. Beer and ice cream pairing. 7-10 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

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

Wacousta Farmers Market. Local produce and more. 4-8 p.m. FREE. Wacousta United Methodist Church, 9180 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. (517) 626-6623, wacoustaumc.org.

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

MUSIC

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

{REVOLUTION} at Tavern. Electronic music, 21-up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Tavern on the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-555

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

THEATER

"The Gravedigger." A new perspective on the classic Frankenstein tale. 8 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

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, dtdl.org.

Nonfiction Book Club. "Detroit: An American Autopsy" by Charlie Le Duff. 11 a.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Friday, October 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Friday Flicks: "Still Mine." 1-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

"Strawberry and Chocolate" at LCC. Film viewing and discussion. 5:30 p.m. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1285, lcc.edu/studentlife/whats_new.

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

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. FREE. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. facebook.com/groups/lansingbikeparty.

Teen Fandom Fest. Ages 13-18. Geek out with other teen super fans. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

Old Town Farmers Market. Featuring local foods and products, live music by Deacon Earl. 3-7 p.m. Corner of Turner Street and Grand River Avenue, Lansing. (517) 485-4283.

Howl at the Moon Guided Walk. Enjoy a guided walk in the nighttime woods. 8-9 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Old Town Oktoberfest. German food, music, dancing and beer. 6-11 p.m. \$15-20. Old Town, Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-4283, oldtownoktoberfest.com.

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

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

Swiss Steak Fundraising Dinner. 4:30-7 p.m. \$10/\$5 Children under 12. Christ United Methodist Church, 517 W. Jolly Road, Lansing.

MUSIC

Big Boss Blues. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.



Rich Topica/City Pulse

Detroit-based franchise Sweet Lorraine's opened a location this week in downtown East Lansing.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

The City of East Lansing held a ribbon cutting for **Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Mac n' Cheez** on Tuesday.

It's the third restaurant for the Detroit-area franchise, which also has locations in in Troy and Auburn Hills. There are two downtown Detroit locations in the works, and plans are underway to expand the franchise into Chicago and Toledo as well.

Sweet Lorraine's takes over the former location of **Wanderer's Tea House**, which closed last year. The menu includes soups, salads, wraps and 14 styles of macaroni and cheese. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options are also available.

Owners Lorraine Platman and Gary Sussman went to Michigan State University. In a

press release, they say they'd been looking at other college campuses before settling on East Lansing.

"It's a match made in heaven," Platman said in the release. "College students and mac & cheese."

For a bon time

Last month, East Lansing got another new eatery when **Le Bon Macaron** opened next to **Bell's Pizza; Gumbo and Jazz** was the previous occupant.

Owner Kelly Toland started the business in 2010 inside **A Piece O' Cake**, the East Lansing bakery she opened in 2008; new owner Betsy Strobl took over **A Piece O' Cake** Sept. 1.

Le Bon Macaron specializes in macarons, bite-sized meringue-based confections that look like tiny hamburgers. For a pastry without much name recognition, Toland says

it's doing well.

"The response we've had since the move has been huge," Toland said. "When we get our new oven we want to introduce more French pastries."

Toland's parents, John and Wedny Kobus, are co-operators of the business. They also run the **Colonial Bar & Grill** on Lansing's south side.

Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Mac n' Cheez

547 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-midnight Thursday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 325-0850, macncheez.com

Le Bon Macaron

1133 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
(517) 763-2606, lebonmacaron.com

MSU Jazz Orchestra I. MSUFCU Jazz Artist Christian McBride, bass. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE students Fairchild Theatre, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Carrie the Musical." Telekinetic bullied teen gets revenge. 8 p.m. \$23/\$20 faculty & seniors/\$18 students. Pasant Theatre, E. Shaw lane, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690, whartoncenter.com.

"The Gravedigger." (See details Oct. 9.) 8 p.m. \$27. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Animals Out of Paper." Drama about an origami artist and her prodigy. 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Saturday, October 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Chess at the Library. Ages 8-18. Test your skills. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163,

womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Tai Chi in the Park. For beginning and experienced tai chi practitioners. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Michigan Nautical Conference. A celebration of Michigan's nautical resources. 9:30 a.m.-4:35 p.m. \$20. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300, michigan.gov.

EVENTS

Old Town Oktoberfest. German food, music, dancing and beer. 2-11 p.m. \$15-20. Old Town, Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-4283, oldtownoktoberfest.com.

Cider Fest. Over 40 ciders from 15 Michigan cideries. Red Salamander, 902 E. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge. 5-10 p.m. ciderfest.net


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

Mid-Michigan Ladies Expo. Products geared for all ages. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 627-4539, ow.ly/CfdWj

How-To Halloween. A family friendly celebration for a DIY Halloween. 4 p.m.-midnight, FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Change a life



VOLUNTEER to tutor adults in reading, English as a second language or GED preparation.

— no experience necessary —

Next Training Session

October 14 and 15 from 6-9 p.m.

call the

Capital Area Literacy Coalition

(517) 485-4949 www.thereadingpeople.org

Out on the town

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Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, how-tohalloween.com.

Robin Theatre Sneak Preview. With the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle's album release party. Two shows: 6:30 p.m. & 9 p.m. \$15/\$10 adv. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517luvs.com

"I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's." Walkathon and 5K. 9 a.m. \$20/\$10 age 12 & under/\$15 13-adult. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (248) 433-1011, parkinsonsmi.org.

Misunderstood Animals Campfire. Misunderstood animals program and walk. 7-8:30 p.m. \$3/\$7 a family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Greater Lansing Vegan Meetup. Vegan potluck. All are welcome. 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Clerical Technical Union of MSU, 2990 E Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-7898, ow.ly/CfeFS.

Annual Used Book Sale. Hardcover, paperbacks and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org/friends.

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

MUSIC

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

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517)

485-5287.

Songwriters In The Round. 7 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 927-2100, ow.ly/CfITL.

LSO Masterworks 2. Chopin, Mendelssohn and more. 8 p.m. \$15-50. Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001, lansingsymphony.org.

THEATER

"Carrie the Musical." (See Oct. 10 for details.) 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$23/\$20 faculty & seniors \$20/\$18 student. Pasant Theatre, E. Shaw lane, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690, whartoncenter.com.

"The Gravedigger." (See details Oct. 9.) 3 p.m. 8 p.m. matinee \$24, evening \$27. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

"Animals Out of Paper." (See details Oct. 9.) 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Bernida with Al Declercq. Author talk. 1:30-2:20 p.m. FREE. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300. michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.

"Star Wars" Reads Day. Activities. With the 501st Legion from 10-1 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Sunday, October 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

See Out on the Town, Page 24



NORTH POLE EXPRESS

November:
 Saturday 22, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
 Sunday 23, 2 p.m.
 Friday 28, 6 p.m.
 Saturday 29, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
 Sunday 30, 2 p.m.

December:
 Friday 5, 6 p.m.
 Saturday 6, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
 Sunday 7, 2 p.m.
 Friday 12, 6 p.m.
 Saturday 13, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
 Sunday 14, 2 p.m.
 Friday 19, 6 p.m.
 Saturday 20, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
 Sunday 21, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.

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Enjoy entertainment, shopping, food, artisan demonstrations, horse drawn wagon ride, build a toy in Santa's work shop, see reindeer and of course don't miss a visit with the big man, Santa Claus!

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A New Reality:
Preventing Major
Mental Illness

Please join NAMI Lansing for Mental Illness Awareness Week as William R. McFarlane, MD of Maine Medical Center discusses his research and work with the Early Detection and Intervention for the Prevention of Psychosis Program.

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- Sparrow Health System
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- Community Mental Health
- Michigan State University Counseling Center
- Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
- Capital Area United Way
- Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Meijer
- Michigan State University Alumni Club

A Mental Illness Awareness Week
Presentation by:

Dr. William R. McFarlane,
Leader in Early Treatment

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

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NAMI Lansing
www.namilansing.org
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NAMI Lansing

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Out on the town

from page 23

Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119, ruetenik@gmail.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.

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

Pure Meditation. Master your mind and energies. Call for info. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

EVENTS

Head of the Grand Regatta. Rowing competition. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Grand River Park, 3001 W. Main St., Lansing.

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

Annual Used Book Sale. Huge book sale. Hardcover, paperbacks and more. 1-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org/friends.

Pet Support Photo Session. To benefit Pet Support Services. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$30. Lights On Studio, 5400 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 393-1161, lightsonstudio.com.

MUSIC

A Festival of Hymns: Hymn sing. Community hymn sing featuring soloists. 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church of Mason MI, 201 East Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9449, masonfirst.org.

THEATER

"Carrie the Musical." (See Oct. 10 for details.) 2 p.m. \$23/\$20 faculty, senior \$20/ \$18 student. Pasant Theatre, E. Shaw lane, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690, whartoncenter.com.

"The Gravedigger." (See details Oct. 9.) 2 p.m. \$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Monday, October 13

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., Lansing. (517) 372-9163

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

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

Documentary Monday: "Mine." Documentary about humans and animals. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/CfnJ2.

Post-Polio Support Group. Sharing our experiences. 1:30 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-1039.

EVENTS

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

Recipe Club. Share a favorite brunch/breakfast dish. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Social Bridge. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50.

351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Open Jam at (SCENE) MetroSpace. All talents and styles welcome. 7 p.m. \$3. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832, facebook.com/scenemetrospace.

Viva Vivaldi. MSU's Joanne and Bill Church

TUESDAY, OCT. 14- SUNDAY, OCT. 19 >> 'ONCE' AT WHARTON CENTER

The multi-award winning musical about busking and broken hearts comes to Wharton Center for a limited engagement. "Once," based on the Academy Award-winning motion picture starring Swell Season band members Marketa Irglova and Glen Hansard, is about a musical performer on the streets of Dublin who meets a talented young piano player. The two form an instant relationship and set down a path of rich songwriting, will-they-or-won't-they moments and revelation. Fans of the live performances in the original film should be pleased to know that the cast comprises of actors/musicians who all play their own instruments on stage. \$34-\$69. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.



SATURDAY, OCT. 11 >> GIRLS DAY OUT

If it has been a grueling week of work, if the kids have been a hassle or you just need a little time outside on a Saturday, Girls Day Out may be just what you're looking for. It will consist of a day of shopping, activities, demonstrations and live music. Twenty businesses, including restaurants, shops, and art galleries, are participating. The Sea Cruisers, a local cover band, and DJ Taylor from 97.5 NOW-FM will play music all day. There will also be a performance from the MSU dance team. In addition to all the entertainment, prizes will be raffled off. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.. FREE. Ann Street Plaza, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/GirlsDayOut.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18 >> AN EVENING OF JAZZ WITH SUNNY WILKINSON

Jazz vocalist and educator Sunny Wilkinson brings her sound to the Riverwalk Theatre Saturday at Riverwalk Cabaret. It will be an evening of rich melodies and drinks. Wilkinson has been performing for nearly 30 years and is passionate about jazz music. She was once president of the Michigan chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators and is a founder of IAJE's Sister's in jazz mentoring program. Her ensemble will consist of Ron Newman on piano, Ed Fedewa on bass and Larry Ochiltree on drums. 8 p.m. \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

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

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

BabyTime. Intended for ages 1-18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Homework Help. Free drop-in tutoring provided by MSU's SMEA. K-8, 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517)

West Circle Series. 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$12 Seniors/\$5 Students with ID. Fairchild Theatre, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Tuesday, October 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Coupon Swap. Share coupons and strategies. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

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.

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

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.

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

Blood Pressure Checks. No appointment needed. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridiandseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

HERO: Women in Power (Tools). Call 372-5980 to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St.. Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

EVENTS

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

Muslim World Series. India's Muslim Culture and The Recent Elections, 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Books on Tap. "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

"Spore Live!" Trivia. Team based. Win gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Pink Dessert Wars. Taste area desserts. To benefit Susan G. Komen. 6-9 p.m. \$10. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 887-3255. ow.ly/Cfqix.

Wednesday, October 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

Out on the town

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Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170, artmuseum.msu.edu.

Just War Doctrine and ISIL. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimmucc.com.

MICafe Counseling. Medical expense assistance. Call for an appointment. 9:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/CfqZL.

A Community Conversation. Red Haven's Nina Santucci discussing farm-to-table. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Citizen Science Smartphone Apps. Some smartphone apps help collect scientific data. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 887-0596, wildoneslansing.org.

Homefront During WWII. Presented by Bill Nelton. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. Discuss Julie Kibler's "Calling Me Home." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.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.

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

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

MSU Safe Place 20th Anniversary. Celebratory reception. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-1100, safeplace.msu.edu.

Stop Motion Workshop. For tweens and teens. Learn animation techniques. 4:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Teen Crafternoon. Teens create a variety of crafts. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Denzel Curry and Deniro Farrar. Live performance. 7 p.m. \$12. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. ow.ly/Cfs9k.

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.

THEATER

"Carrie the Musical." (See Oct. 10 for details.) 7:30 p.m. \$23/\$20 faculty, senior \$20/ \$18 student. Pasant Theatre, E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690, whartoncenter.com.

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
(517) 999-5066 or adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Lansing Manor Apartments, Lansing, MI MSHDA Project General Contractor performing renovation work on site is requesting proposals for the following trade work: Outside Stoop Lighting. Additional information and RFP documents can be obtained by contacting Terry Sommerville at ETC Companies LLC (201) 825-8255 or by emailing info@etccompanies.biz. Please indicate that you are responding to this ad. ETC Companies is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Oct. 8-14

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Situation #1: If you meet resistance or doubt, say this: "Ha! This diversion can't slow me down, because I am in possession of an invisible magical sword!" And then brandish a few charismatic swipes of your sword to prove that you mean business. Situation #2: If angst and worry are preventing your allies from synchronizing their assets with yours, say this: "Begone, dread! For with the power of my wicked crazy songs, I am the destroyer of fear." And then sing your wicked crazy songs. Situation #3: If you're finding it hard to discern the difference between useless, ugly monsters and useful, beautiful monsters, say this: "I am a useful, beautiful monster!" Your kind will flock to your side.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In her poem "Advice to Myself," Louise Erdrich speaks of the human heart as "that place you don't even think of cleaning out. That closet stuffed with savage mementos." I invite you to use her observations as a prod, Taurus. Now is an excellent time to purge the savage mementos from your heart, and clean the whole place up as best as you can. You don't have to get all OCD about it. There's no need to scour and scrub until everything's spotless. Even a half-hearted effort will set in motion promising transformations in your love life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I hope you will learn more in the next eight months than you have ever before learned in a comparable period. I hope you will make a list of all the subjects you would love to study and all the skills you would love to master, and then devise a plan to gather the educational experiences with which you will reinvent yourself. I hope you will turn your curiosity on full-blast and go in quest of revelations and insights and epiphanies, smashing through the limits of your understanding as you explore the frontiers of sweet knowledge.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Three times a week, I take a hike along a rough path through an oak forest. I say it's rough because it's strewn with loose rocks. If I don't survey the ground as I move, I'm constantly turning my ankles. Or at least that was the case until last week. For two days, with the help of a rake, I cleared many of those bothersome obstacles off the trail. It took several hours, but now the way is smoother. My eyes are free to enjoy the sights that aren't so close to the ground. I recommend that you do similar work. Stop tolerating inconveniences and irritations that hobble you. Get your foundations in shape to serve you better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): American author Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was ahead of his time. He created the genre of the detective story and mastered the art of Gothic horror tales. According to the Internet Movie Database, 240 films have referenced themes from his work. British writer Aldous Huxley wasn't a fan of Poe, though. He said Poe was "too poetical -- the equivalent of wearing a diamond ring on every finger." Judging from the astrological omens, I suspect you may be at risk to lapse into a diamond-ring-on-every-finger phase yourself, Leo. While I am all in favor of you unveiling more of your radiant beauty, I'm hoping you won't go too far. How about wearing diamond rings on just four of your fingers?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Republican Jody Hice is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in Georgia's 10th Congressional District. To bolster his authority, he repeats quotes by revered figures from American history. One of his favorites has been a gem from the sixth U.S. President, John Quincy Adams: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." The only problem is, those words were actually written by country singer Dolly Parton, not by Adams. Don't get fooled by a comparable case of mistaken identity, Virgo. Be on the alert for unwarranted substitutions and problematic switcheroos. Be a staunch fact-checker. Insist on veri-

fication.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I am naughtiest of all," wrote poet Emily Dickinson in a playful letter to Maggie Maher, dated October 1882. In accordance with the astrological omens, I authorize you to let that same declaration fly frequently from your own lips in the coming week. Feel free to invoke other variations on the theme of naughtiness, as well: "I am exploring the frontiers of naughtiness," for example, or "You need to be naughtier" (said to a person you'd like to get naughty with), or "Being naughty is my current spiritual practice."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "There's a way not to be broken that takes brokenness to find it," writes Naomi Shihab Nye in her poem "Cinco de Mayo." I suspect this describes your situation right now. The bad news is that you are feeling a bit broken. The good news is that this is a special kind of brokenness -- a brokenness that contains a valuable secret you have never been ready to learn before now. Allow yourself to feel the full intensity of the brokenness, and you will discover a way to never be broken like this again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In a competitive game show on Japanese TV, 13 people had slabs of meat tied to their foreheads. They then poked their heads up from below, through holes in the floor of an elevated platform, where a hungry lizard was stalking around. But not one of the contestants stuck around when the lizard came to nibble the meat; they all ducked down out of their holes and fled to safety. That was probably wise, although it meant that the prize went unclaimed. Now I'm wondering, Sagittarius, about what might happen if a similar event were staged in your neighborhood. I suspect there's a chance you would will yourself to stand calmly as the lizard feasted on the meat just inches from your eyes. As much as I admire that kind of poised courage, I want you to know that there are better ways to express it. Be on the lookout for noble challenges with goals that are truly worthy of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Director Michael Bay makes big, loud, fast, melodramatic action films, including *Armageddon*, *Pearl Harbor*; and the four *Transformers* movies. The critics hate him, but he's unfazed. "I make movies for teenage boys," he says. "Oh, dear, what a crime," he adds sarcastically. I love that stance. He knows what he's good at, and makes no apologies for doing it. I recommend that you cop some of that attitude right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): While walking in San Francisco, I passed the Pacific Heights Health Club. The sign out front said, "Birthday suits tailored here." It was a witty reference to the idea that working out at a gym helps people get their naked bodies in good shape. I'd like to interpret the sign's message in a different way, and apply it to you. The time is right for you to get back in touch with your raw, original self, and give it the care and the fuel and the treats it has been missing. Who did you start out to be? What does your soul's blueprint say about who you must become? Home in on your source code and boost its signal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Horror novelist Stephen King has sold more than 350 million books. But when he was young and destitute, still honing his craft, his self-confidence was low. His breakthrough work was *Carrie*, about a teenage girl who develops telekinetic powers. But when he was first writing that manuscript on his old manual typewriter, he got so discouraged that he threw his first draft in the trashcan. Luckily for him, his wife retrieved it and convinced him to keep plugging away. Eventually he finished, and later sold the paperback rights for \$400,000. I hope you have an ally who will go digging in your garbage to fish out the good stuff you unwisely discard. Or maybe this horoscope will convince you not to scrap it in the first place.

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

M	A	G	N	U	M	B	O	D	G	O	D
A	R	O	U	S	E	A	P	E	G	E	N
J	E	N	N	E	R	G	R	E	R	A	C
O	N	O	S	G	A	R	R	B	O	R	E
R	A	W	M	E	T	A	U	R	O	R	A
		G	T	S	O	F	T	H	E	M	A
R	A	J	I	V	R	I	O	T	T	A	G
A	L	O	T	C	O	A	C	H	W	I	I
F	I	B	E	R	I	N	P	E	O	N	Y
T	E	S	T	Y	I	N	C	O	U	R	T
		N	E	W	E	S	T	F	R	Y	D
B	A	A	E	D	M	A	M	A	P	O	N
A	T	R	A	L	E	S	E	N	T	E	N
B	E	C	K	A	N	I	U	R	S	U	L
A	S	H	P	T	A	S	E	T	T	E	R



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Inside and out at Williamston's Riverhouse Inn

Tap-dancing taste buds

By **MARK NIXON**

Dining out has its distinct pleasures, especially when it literally means dining out.

Given a perfect evening, there are few al fresco dining spots in Greater Lansing to match the Riverhouse Inn in Williamston.

We picked the perfect evening. The humidity had tumbled and a breeze that held hints of autumn tickled the fringes of the table umbrellas. We sat with other patrons gazing from a terraced slope that slouches toward the Red Cedar River.

OK, I'm slapping myself awake from this reverie to note that everyone surely wanted to sit outside because it was uncomfortably warm inside the inn. Either the air-conditioning was on the blink or, as some online reviews suggest, it is nonexistent. In any event, the person who greeted us quickly steered us to the outdoor patio, noting that inside was "a bit warm."

This was on a Wednesday, which is reason enough to have a glass of wine. Lucky us. On Hump Day, bottles of wine are half-off at Riverhouse.

It was our second visit, and this time we opted for entrees instead appetizers and salads. I ordered the whitefish (\$24). If taste buds could dance, then mine were doing a spot-on Fred Astaire impersonation. The batter on this whitefish fillet was so delicate that I imagined it to be just microns thick. That ultra-thin coating allowed the sweetness of the fish, and butter, to reign supreme. The fillet was festooned with a splash of grilled tomato chunks and

See He Ate, Page 27

Riverhouse Inn

310 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston
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Locked out

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

We headed to the Riverhouse Inn on one of the last sweltering nights that we had this year. Since a storm was rolling in, we had to sit inside, which was unfortunate.

Inside was sweltering. The air was stagnant. It didn't foster the feeling of wanting to eat, but we sacrificed ourselves and ordered the Montreal steak tips (\$11) to start. These were surprisingly sweet, but unpleasantly chewy. They probably weren't

made from the best cut of meat. The breadbasket contained slices of baguette with cloves of garlic baked into it. The accompanying herb butter was cold and difficult to spread.

For my entrée, I ordered the grilled summer lasagna (\$16.) A devoted carnivore, I've only ever ordered vegetarian entrees by mistake. Since the menu description promised grilled chicken, I figured I was safe. I don't know if the kitchen ran out of chicken that night or if the bird flew down the hill to take a dip in the river and escape the heat, but there was no chicken in my lasagna.

There was, however, grilled squash, zucchini, eggplant, spinach, red onion, boursin cheese and both marinara and alfredo sauce wrapped around layers of lasagna noodles. The noodles were crunchy, which led me to believe that the dish had been sitting around for a while. This struck me as odd, because almost an hour passed between sitting down and being served entrees. The vegetables in the vegetable-only lasagna were not overcooked, thankfully, but the marinara had a metallic tang to it. There was no side dish with my meal, just a hunk of vegetarianism in a pool of marinara and alfredo.

See She Ate, Page 27

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He Ate

from page 26

capers, plus a generous helping of fluffy basmati rice. This fish dish was a keeper.

My wife had the pasta with heirloom

tomatoes (\$17, and an extra \$8 for the shrimp add-on). To me, the shining stars were the constellation of cherry tomatoes dotting the plate. One bite, and you knew you were smack-dab in the height of tomato season. I'm in full mourning for the end of our summer garden.

On our first visit two weeks earlier, we dined anti-fresco, a word I just made up. The temperature was comfortable indoors, undermining the notion of no A/C.

Indoors at the Riverhouse is a bit quirky. It's not tailor-made for people watching. This is an old, brick two-story house that, like many old houses, has several smallish rooms. Instead of tearing out a lot of walls, the proprietors have kept the rooms intact, resulting in a series of compact, semi-private dining rooms.

If there's room at the small bar, sit there. It offers a great view of the terrace, the riverfront and patrons strolling the grounds or sitting in the riverside gazebo.

My wife had the poached pear dressing (\$9), which looked and tasted as if it were poached in red wine. Offsetting the tartness was a slightly sweet vinaigrette dressing. This got two thumbs up, as did my pomegranate seed salad with goat cheese and baby spinach, tossed with a tart vinaigrette (\$9).

Next up: Creamed chicken and artichoke hearts soup with tarragon (\$5). I could taste fresh tarragon — another sign that Riverhouse strives to make in-season herbs and vegetables a mainstay. I had an above-average French onion soup made with veal stock (\$6).

We finished with two appetizers. My mini-crab cakes (\$12) were average, but I'll upgrade them from a C+ to a B+ because of a smoky-tasting drizzle accompaniment. It sure tasted like smoked paprika, which in the spice world ranks

in my Top Ten.

Her calamari (\$11) was unbreaded and appeared to be flash-fried. It was served with a slightly spicy sauce. She loved it. I thought it was the most pedestrian dish I tasted at Riverhouse.

On a third, unplanned visit, we sat outside again and feasted on an outsized



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

The Riverhouse Breakfast at Riverhouse Inn.

wedge of grilled romaine lettuce with bleu cheese dressing (\$8). Excellent.

This place has its charms, but parking isn't one of them. The parking lot is compact, mirroring the small dining spaces inside. But don't worry. We parked in a bank's parking lot across Grand River Avenue and noticed other patrons doing the same.

A tip of the hat to Riverhouse's waitstaff. They make you feel welcome without hovering over you like an OCD nanny. And, given the right time and day, they can be very busy. During our al fresco visit, the place was so slammed with customers that our server virtually bounded from table to table. Twice, we saw her actually trotting.

I need to explore Riverhouse more thoroughly. I'm hoping they have a fireplace somewhere. I can see us some dreary and chill night in February, encamped in a little room, dining by firelight. I'll have the whitefish.

She Ate

from page 26

He ordered a special — airline chicken breast stuffed with Michigan cherries, walnuts, and goat cheese, with risotto and grilled asparagus (\$18). "Airline chicken" is simply a chicken breast with the drumette attached. (If anyone truly knows the origin of airline chicken, please let us know — I'm happy to fantasize that Julia Child invented it on a Concorde flight between Paris and Sacramento.)

I took one bite of his chicken and thought, "Wow, I really don't like goat cheese." The chicken was cooked properly, but the risotto was completely tasteless. The cherry compote that circled his plate was the highlight of the entire meal. It tasted like cherry pie, but juicier.

We returned for Sunday brunch, with is advertised on their (poor, difficult to find) website and Facebook page (which is positively filled with pictures of a dog). When we arrived, the "Open" sign was off and the door was locked. By chance, I peeked around the corner to the patio and saw people sitting outside. I asked the waitress if they were indeed open and she said yes. The sign is off, I told her, and the door is locked. She informed me that management wants people to come around back, completely missing my point that if the actual door is locked, prospective diners aren't going to walk around back. They're going to walk down the street to Tavern 109.

We ordered the Riverhouse Breakfast (\$11) and the cinnamon crumble French toast (\$10) to share. The waitress didn't ask the follow-up questions that I expected: Bacon or sausage? What kind of toast? She chose for us, and she chose grilled white

toast and floppy, undercooked bacon. While our toast was acceptable, the diners next to us (the only other people there, actually) complained that theirs was burnt to a crisp. A new plate of toast was promptly brought to them.

The Riverhouse Breakfast was a scramble of eggs, red peppers, onion, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese, topped with gravy. After our experiences thus far, my expectations were low, but this surpassed them. The scramble was slightly spicy, the pieces of bacon were crisp, and the vegetables were still a little crunchy.

The cinnamon crumble French toast was a different story. Three slices of toast did indeed seem to have been soaked in a combination of eggs and milk, but they didn't taste remotely like cinnamon. When I closed my eyes and took a whiff, I didn't even smell the faintest aroma of cinnamon. As such, it was standard, unremarkable French toast. My coffee was poured, oddly and awkwardly, from a small sterling silver coffeepot that couldn't have held more than two cups of liquid. When I added cream, it quickly curdled.

The dish of assorted Smuckers jams and jellies was standard diner fare. I expected something a bit more highbrow, considering brunch for two will run you close to \$30, but I also expected the door to be unlocked when a restaurant is open for business. Color me naïve.



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