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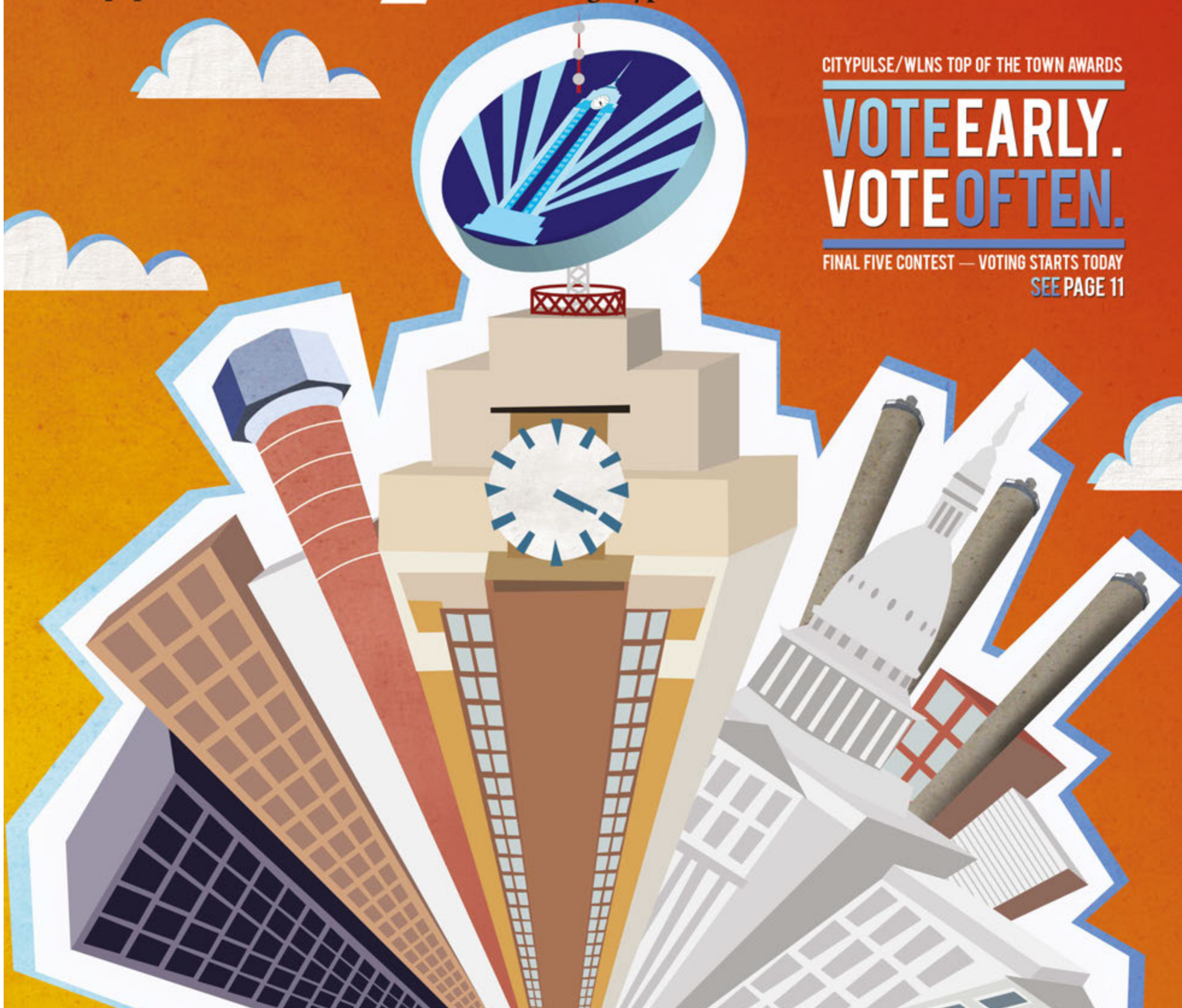
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March 6-12, 2013

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SEE PAGE 11



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Feedback

Why NOT Cut Military Spending?

Half of the income taxes Americans pay to the federal government go to the military (not counting Social Security or Medicare, which are financed by special taxes). Now, as we stand on the brink of financial crisis, Pentagon contractors are screaming that any cuts to its budget would endanger our security. But Pentagon spending has grown so wildly in recent years that it is clearly out of control. Major cuts are not only possible, but badly needed. Even the new secretary of Defense supports specific cuts.

Michigan's Senator Carl Levin, as chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is in a great position to tighten up the bloated Pentagon budget. Currently, Senator Levin is in favor of smaller cuts than the \$1 trillion number that has been on the table during the sequester talks.

Here are some reasons Senator Levin should use his leadership to push for larger cuts to the Pentagon:

The U.S. spends almost as much on its military as the rest of the world put together. To whip up a military as large as ours

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

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

would mean combining the militaries of China, Russia, Great Britain - the next 14 largest militaries combined! West Michigan Congressman Justin Amash (R) said, "We are spending maybe 45% of the world's budget on defense. If we drop to 42% or 43%, would we be suddenly in danger of some kind of invasion?" 2

Spending on weapons programs is out of control. Just one example, the F-35 fighter jet, "...is a poster child

for Pentagon profligacy in a new era of tightening budgets..." says Mark Thompson in February's Time Magazine. Though the program is ten years old, Mr. Thompson says these expensive jets are so flawed they have never been used! "The price tag, meanwhile, has nearly doubled since 2001, to \$396 billion." 2 Yet outgoing Defense Secretary Panetta wants to build 2,400 of these jets! Um, excuse me?

Money given to the Pentagon costs us jobs. A 2011 study³ (Pollin and Garrett-Peltier) found that about twice as many jobs are created with investments in healthcare or education as compared with investments on military.

Recent talk of cuts to the Pentagon is of cuts to planned Pentagon growth, but the equivalent cuts to planned human needs spending are real cuts in current levels. No fair! The Pentagon faces no "real, current cuts," while we citizens watch our social safety net - jobs, health care, roads, education benefits shrink - for real!

The Pentagon budget hasn't been audited in over twenty years. Perhaps the voices screaming so hard to not cut the Pentagon should tell us how any government program is so whistle-clean that it doesn't even need an audit. This no-see-um attitude is an open door to corruption. In a Washington Examiner opinion article on 8-18-12, Senator Tom Coburn (R) stated: "DoD's inability to pass an audit has potentially wasted billions and undermined our readiness and morale."

Senator Coburn goes on to say: "The greater problem is members on both sides of the aisle who have used our national defense as a jobs program. Weapons systems have been spread out to numerous congressional districts to protect career politicians, not the American people." 4

Well Senator Levin? What say a little less weapons pork and a little more bacon on the tables of the rest of us Americans?

— Rebecca Payne
East Lansing

This week on lansingcitypulse.com ...

BERNERO NOMINATES FIRST BLACK AND WOMAN AS CITY ATTORNEY, MARCH 4: Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's nomination for the vacant city attorney job would be the first African American and first woman to hold the post. Janene McIntyre's confirmation awaits City Council approval.

POLE BARN PROTEST, MARCH 4: Walnut Neighborhood residents protest Niowave's pole barn with a mini pole barn of their own.

JOURNAL LOOKING TO SELL OFFICE BUILDING, FEB. 28: The Lansing State Journal's downtown home on Lenawee Street may not be so much longer. The Gannett-owned daily announced last week that it's looking to sell the building for a space that better accommodates its business needs. Also read as: It's too big for our shrinking staff.

FINDING LGBT-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES, FEB. 27: A masters thesis turned Kickstarter project aims to rate local businesses on their friendliness toward the LGBT community.

Check out these stories and more only at lansingcitypulse.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 2013-622-DE

In the matter of Thomas Heximer, deceased

To all interested persons including : Erica Heximer, Nathan Heximer, Jessica Herren, whose addresses are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on April 4, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan 48933, before Judge George R. Economy, P13095 for the following purpose: Petition for Probate and/or Appointment of Personal Representative.

Date: March 6, 2013, Attorney: Michael E. Jankowski, P72920, 3245 Technology Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan 48910 (517) 203-7500. Petitioner: McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital, 3245 Technology Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan 48910 (517) 203-7500.

CityPULSE

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Fate of Niowave's tax break is unknown, but could have consequences for company, City Council and neighbors



PAGE 10

Grammy winning folk singer Janis Ian plays East Lansing Friday



PAGE 30

Wine enthusiasts can soothe their need for mead at St. Ambrose Cellars



COVER ART

TIP TOP OF THE TOWN by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK

Grammy Award winner, Janis Ian



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

Cristo Rey merger on hold

Diocese meets with citizens' group; spokesman says 'all options are on table'

After meeting with a group of citizens worried about the fate of North Lansing's Cristo Rey Community Center, the Catholic Diocese of Lansing has backed off its plan to merge the center with St. Vincent Catholic Charities.

"Any option is still on the table," Diocese spokesman Michael Diebold said in a phone interview Tuesday. "If that ends up being a consolidation, if it ends up with a stronger and more renewed Cristo Rey Community Center standing on its own, without consolidation, it's going to be whatever is best for the community and the center."

Four members of a citizens' group opposing the merger met with Deacon Michael Murray, legal counsel of the Diocese of Lansing, on Feb. 21.

The meeting was long sought by the group, Coalition for Community Empowerment. Complaints that the center's services are dwindling and concerns that it might lose its Hispanic identity under a merger were compounded by the group's frustration at waiting five months for an answer from the Diocese.

"It was a very forthcoming, very cordial meeting," said Lorenzo Lopez, who participated in the meeting. "We have certainly reached a new dynamic, no question about it." Murray met with Lopez, Al Salas, Gina Salas and Carmen Benavides.

Diebold said the diocese and the coalition share the same goal.

"We're both on the same side of understanding and appreciating the value of the center, both from the standpoint of the Hispanic community in the area and the entire North Side community," Diebold said.

Over 50 people, including several Latino community leaders, braved ice and sleet to pack a cramped room at Foster Community Center Feb. 26 to hear about the coalition's meeting with Murray and discuss the center's future.

Lopez told the group they had finally "gotten the diocese's attention."

"We want a big hold placed on this merger," he said.

The group's next step, Lopez said, is to put together a two-year funding and organizational plan to get the struggling center back on its feet, without merging with St. Vincent Catholic Charities.

Diebold said such a plan would "def-

initely be something the diocese would be open to."

To that end, the coalition filed a Freedom of Information Act request two weeks ago, asking for the center's financial and organizational information. Lopez said Murray agreed to supply "as much information as he could," and Diebold confirmed that.

Concern over Cristo Rey's decline and the pending merger energized the Feb. 26 public meeting. There were ironic laughs when coalition member Elva Reyes taped two poster-sized sheets to a wall and asked people to list programs that had been cut at Cristo Rey.

"You need more, two is not enough," a man called out.

Cindi Benavides, an employee at Cristo Rey for 28 years, said programs cut over the years included weekend youth programs, adult education, clothing and furniture exchanges, and daily lunches at a community kitchen.

Many cultural events at the center, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Day on Dec. 12, Cinco de Mayo celebrations and a Mothers' Day cookout, have also been cut.

Benavides said the only services remaining at the Center are a clinic, prescription assistance and reduced food pantry and senior programs.

"Employees are taking money out of their own pockets to continue programs, and that shouldn't be happening," Reyes said.

Coalition members said they hope to round up enough grants and donors, including former supporters of Cristo Rey, to support a freestanding center along the lines of the nonprofit Hispanic Center of West Michigan in Kent County.

Rafael Marinez, former director of development of St. Vincent's Children's Home and now an assistant dean at Michigan State University, said the staff

at St. Vincent Catholic Charities is "great" but already overstretched, even before taking on Cristo Rey.

"My worry is that they have one person in there that raises money for 18 programs," he said. "If that person doesn't know the Hispanic community, it's going to fall."

Cristo Rey's marketing and development director, George Alvarado, told the group he agrees with the coalition "on a lot of points."

"When it comes to a merger, I don't think anybody here wants it," Alvarado said, adding that he has already discussed fundraising with former Cristo Rey director Tony Benavides and Marinez.



City Pulse file photo

The Catholic Diocese of Lansing is now backing off on plans to merge Cristo Rey Community Center with St. Vincent Catholic Charities, saying "any option is still on the table." Opponents of the plan see it as a victory.

Benavides left in 2003 to become mayor of Lansing.

"We need more energy, we need more events," Alvarado said. "Trust me. I see it."

Another flashpoint of concern for the coalition is Cristo Rey's interim director, Robert Vogel, who is not Hispanic and doesn't speak Spanish.

"We want more leadership that has a Latino face, so my grandfather or somebody else can go there and talk to somebody," Marinez said.

Former Mayor Benavides, who helped found Cristo Rey in 1968, kept a low profile at the meeting, but made his position clear in a brief comment from the audience. Benavides told the group that as director, he served under three bishops, but the center's mission stayed the same.

"Bishop [Mieczyslaw] Zaleski said, 'As

See Cristo Rey, Page 6

SOE OF THE WEEK



Property: 308 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Owner: Joe Donald

Assessed value: \$34,800

Owner says: Ask the property manager

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: A shophouse — also known as mixed use with residential above and commercial below — is the ultimate in convenience living. Total commute time? Seconds. Distance? A flight of stairs. This building form stands the test of time and is one of the reasons for Old Town's success and enduring aesthetic. Like its neighbors, this shophouse has good DNA — design, craftsmanship and quality materials lending itself to reuse again and again and again.

The crumbling peach façade of this storefront has looked the same since at least 2008. It's too bad: The faded T-shirts in the window and dilapidated interior hardly compliment the colorful and modern-looking art store, ceramics studio and tattoo parlor next door.

Former Lansing-area politician Lingg Brewer — who manages the property — says it'd cost half a million dollars to fix it, which he doesn't have thanks to a rough lending market. He also said he's spent about \$20,000 on fixing the roof. Across the street, though, is Brewer's showpiece: A \$250,000 mixed-use residential/commercial redevelopment along the Old Town train tracks.

"I rest on my laurels," Brewer said. "If you're going to give me a kick in the ass on 308, maybe you'd see fit to mention 317 (E. Grand River Ave.)."

Brewer, who says he has this property on land contract, said he'll fix it up "eventually. I can not afford to do it at the present time."

— Andy Balaskovitz

"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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Cristo Rey

from page 5

long as there is a social mission of the Church, there is always a Cristo Rey," Benavides said. "And Bishop [Kenneth] Povish reaffirmed that. Cristo Rey was needed 45 years ago, when we started it, and it's needed today. Now this deal with Catholic Social Services is different from what we had."

Anselmo "Chemo" Rodriguez, another longtime Latino community leader, reminded the group of the center's core mission.

"People have to remember where we came from, how this got started," Rodriguez said. "I remember celebrating Mass out in the migrant fields. Nothing, not even a tent." Rodriguez said the need for St. Vincent is "different" from the need for Cristo Rey. "The outreach is different," he said. "People feel comfortable there. They don't go to other places."

Lopez said the coalition is starting a Facebook page and will shortly announce more public meetings as it develops its two-year plan.

— Lawrence Cosentino



Consequences

Fate of Niowave's tax break is unknown, but could have consequences for company, City Council and neighbors

Three groups have been the chief characters in the Niowave pole barn saga: the Walnut Neighborhood Organization, the company itself and the Lansing City Council. A Council vote tentatively set for March 25 on granting the particle accelerator company a six-year, \$550,000 tax break on new equipment holds consequences for all involved.

And you could argue that the city at large has a stake in the outcome: How will Lansing be perceived as it balances neighborhood and business interests?

It's been over eight months since Niowave built a 14,000-square-foot pole barn on the grounds of a vacant school north of downtown, sparking the quarrel with neighbors who say it's an eyesore and that it's hurting their property values.

But the story's more complicated than that. When the company bought the former Walnut School in 2006 from the Lansing School District — and subsequently rehabbed that and 14 homes in the neighborhood — relations were good between residents and Niowave. The company employs more than 50 people at its headquarters at 1012 N. Walnut St., a mile north of the Capitol. Niowave pays nearly \$40,000 a year in property taxes to the city for the 15 properties it owns. It wants to invest \$5 million as part of its expansion, adding 25 new jobs with an average salary of \$60,000. Economic development officials hail Niowave as exactly the kind of high-tech business Lansing needs within its borders to progress as a city. It's not clear what Niowave will do if it's denied the tax abatement, according to chief financial officer Mark Sinila.

Now all eyes turn to the Council, which is faced with a decision: Approve the tax abatement and risk political capital with an ever-growing base of residents throughout the city; or side with neighbors to deny the tax abatement, risking potential flight of the company from Lansing. A public hearing is set for Monday.

From the neighbors' perspective, a vote for the tax break is a vote against not just Walnut residents, but neighborhoods throughout Lansing.

"We've got letters of support from a dozen Lansing neighborhood organizations, and we're all going to be watching this vote closely, not just the Walnut Neighborhood," said Dale Schrader, a Walnut Neighborhood resident. "If they vote to give Niowave the incentives, that's a vote against all of these neighborhoods. They're basically saying, 'Yes, we think this is right and we'll do anything for businesses — 12 neighborhoods be damned.'"

Council members are holding their cards close, saying they're waiting till after the public hearing before taking an official position. President Carol Wood and Councilwomen A'Lynne Boles-Robinson, Kathie Dunbar, Tina Houghton and Jessica Yorke said they're still undecided. Councilman Brian Jeffries — who was Council president

See Niowave, Page 7

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Niowave

from page 6

when the fiasco started and now chairs the Development and Planning Committee — still has questions. Like: “Façade improvements — what would the cost be? They (Niowave) don’t know.”

Yorko, as the 4th Ward representative who’s up for re-election this year, is in a tight spot. Like the neighbors, Yorko wants Niowave to bring forward a plan to fix the façade, yet she declined to say whether she will vote against the tax abatement if it doesn’t. Niowave has proposed \$100,000 worth of landscaping they say will help hide the building, which neighbors rejected.

Neighbors aren’t blind to the fact that Yorko, Jeffries, Dunbar and Houghton are up for re-election this year. Walnut Neighborhood Organization President Rina Risper wrote to neighbors on Facebook Saturday: “I want to make it clear that any city council person who does not vote no to the tax abatement to Niowave, DOES NOT DESERVE OUR VOTE.”

Yorko says Risper is being “territorial” and rallying the neighborhood to be uncooperative for political gain.

“I have offered my help with Niowave, but have been asked to ‘keep out’ by the WNO president,” Yorko wrote in an email. “I was barely allowed to speak at their November meeting because their President kept cutting me off when I would offer ideas and solutions ... There is clearly a political agenda here to perpetuate this disagreement/problem.”

Risner denied the allegations, saying that Yorko has a tendency to “piggyback” on community events for her own political advantage. She believes the Niowave situation is another example of that. The feelings may be a carryover from when Risner and Yorko faced each other for the 4th Ward

Council seat in 2009.

The Niowave saga started last year when the company pulled its original personal property tax exemption worth \$230,000 as it agreed to work things out with the neighborhood.

That never happened. Niowave says the neighborhood hasn’t been clear about what exactly it wants. Neighbors say the company has been unwilling to meet with them.

Karl Dorshimer, director of economic development at Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said the tax abatement amount increased from \$230,000 to \$550,000 because Niowave decided to invest in additional equipment from the previous request.

At a Feb. 20 Development and Planning Committee meeting, the distance between Niowave and the neighbors was made abundantly clear. When Sinila was asked by Jeffries about the status of negotiations with the neighbors, Sinila surprised some in attendance, including Mary Elaine Kiener, a key Walnut resident who has largely led on the issue.

“I don’t think the neighborhood itself can agree to what they want,” Sinila said. “And that’s what we’re waiting for an answer on.”

Kiener said she almost fell out of her chair when she heard that. Where has Sinila been for the past eight months, she wondered?

Looming over the Council’s vote is whether the company would choose to expand outside the city in the future or leave its headquarters in the Walnut Neighborhood.

“There will be a lot of options on the table,” Sinila said. When asked if that would mean a lot of options in Lansing or elsewhere, he said, “Everywhere.”

Although Niowave has never “threatened” him with leaving, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said that doesn’t mean it couldn’t happen. He’s a supporter of Niowave and its tax break.

“I’m concerned about the message it sends Niowave if it doesn’t pass,” Bernero said. “They’re a growing company. Their next

move could take them out of that building. But the question is: Where will they go?”

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said he hopes Niowave will keep Lansing in mind when they think about expanding. He says the company has enormous potential, calling it a “dream company” for Lansing.

“If there’s a single company in the city of Lansing that has the highest rated future growth potential, it’s Niowave,” Trezise said. “We’re going to handle this issue and then we’re going to move on and hopefully handle a growth issue later on ... We’ll do the best we can to make sure Niowave grows here in the area.”

Bernero, while understanding neighbors’ concerns, believes Niowave’s presence in the neighborhood has been a “net positive” and neighbors should look at the good things the company has done. Sinila shares the mayor’s attitude, pointing to the rehabbed houses it rents out and the refurbished Walnut School.

Neighbors don’t deny Niowave’s good deeds. They also don’t think Niowave deserves a pass on the pole barn.

— Sam Inglot and Andy Balaskovitz

Setting the field

It is a perpetual campaign — not just for president, but for state offices as well. Just three months after the 2012 general election, campaigning is well underway for 2014.

At the state level, the Republican ticket is set: Gov. Rick Snyder, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, Attorney General Bill Schuette and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson will all run for reelection. For Democrats, the decision by Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, D-Lansing, against running for governor has left that race wide open.

While most of the chattering set is focused on which Democrat will emerge to challenge Snyder, there’s quieter talk about the other statewide offices.



WALT SORG

At the state level, the Republican ticket is set: Gov. Rick Snyder, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, Attorney General Bill Schuette and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson will all run for reelection. For Democrats, the decision by Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, D-Lansing, against running for governor has left that race wide open.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



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#26-13: Ingham County seeks proposals to provide concession operations for multiple events within the Main Arena at the Ingham County Fairgrounds (exclusive of horse shows). To schedule a site visit please call Sandy Dargatz, Fair Director, at 517-676-2428. Bids are due 3/25 at 11AM.

#5-13: Ingham County seeks proposals for the purpose of entering into a contract to make exterior repairs to the Ingham County Family Center and the Human Services Building. Copies of the bid documents may be purchased from Capital City Reprographics, 1110 Center Street, Lansing, MI 48906, 517-482-5431. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 3/13 at 1:30PM in the Sanctuary of the Ingham County Family Center, 1601 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI; email nwallace@ingham.org to register. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid guarantee in an amount equal to 5% of the total bid amount. Bids are due 3/27 at 11AM.

#28-13: Ingham County seeks proposals from experienced vendors to provide an upgraded enterprise data storage solution and strategy for the Ingham County Management Information Services Department. Bids are due 3/28 at 11AM.



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Sorg

from page 7

Discussions on the attorney general and secretary of state races include a couple of well-known local names.

The first stirrings for next year's AG race has come from Mark Totten, an affiliate professor of law at Michigan State University. Totten and a handful of volunteers fanned out at the recent state Democratic Convention, handing out a slick brochure attacking Schuette's performance on issues ranging from public corruption to workers' rights. Totten has also set up a website, www.AGforUs.com, which focuses on the reasons Schuette should not be reelected.

Totten's volunteers said the brochure is not the warm-up for a Totten campaign. According to state records, Totten has not created a campaign committee. But it sure looks like a campaign.

Also highly visible at the convention was newly elected University of Michigan Regent Mark Bernstein.

Bernstein, a part of the 1-800-CALL-SAM family law firm (and whose brother, Richard, ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for attorney general in 2010), would bring good name identification to a campaign thanks to the firm's unending television advertising.

The wild card for attorney general is Whitmer. She was unwilling to commit to the 18-month marathon needed to run for governor, but she may well decide to enter the three-month sprint for attorney general. Whitmer says she has not ruled out the race. She would be the party favorite if she said "yes."

The battle for the Dems' secretary of state nomination may turn into a three-woman affair. Jocelyn Benson, the 2010 nominee, is believed ready for a second run. Benson, an election law expert, is acting dean of Wayne State University's Law School. She is maintaining her political visibility through efforts to reform Michigan's election laws, beginning with a much-needed reform of how legislative and congressional districts are drawn.

Also in the pre-campaign chatter are a pair of former state representatives who shared a national spotlight for the use of words "vagina" and "vasectomy" during House debate last session, resulting in a two-day speaking ban issued by Republican House Speaker Jase Bolger. Both of them are their respective county's chief elections officer.

Lisa Brown has made a habit of winning in traditionally Republican areas. She succeeded a Republican in the Legislature, and last year defeated an incumbent Republican to become clerk of Oakland County, Michigan's second-largest county. Brown is an attorney with degrees from MSU and Detroit College of Law (now the MSU Law School).

Former Onondaga state Rep. Barb Byrum is doing nothing to quiet talk of a possible candidacy. Last year she was easily elected Ingham County clerk after six years in the House. Byrum's emerged as a spokesperson for women's issues as a result of the "V-words" kerfuffle last year. Working against her? Byrum bucked the trend among local elected officials by loudly supporting

the losing reelection bid of former Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer. Byrum also graduated from the MSU Law School, but she has not passed the state bar exam. She also owns a Charlotte hardware store and is a Mary Kay distributor.

Local maneuvering is under way in what promises to be a difficult Democratic primary to succeed the term-limited Whitmer in the state Senate. Former Rep. Joan Bauer and Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel may face off in the primary for the heavily Democratic seat.

Hertel and Bauer are friends who talk regularly. Both are well liked and respected by party leaders. There is little to differentiate them on issues. The contest would likely come down to style and intangibles.

Experience and expertise: Both candidates have significant credentials. In the House, Bauer championed K-12 and higher education as a member of the House Appropriations Committee,

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Patrick E. Lindemann

GROESBECK PARK DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on **Monday, March 18, 2013**, the apportionments for benefits to the lands comprised within the "Groesbeck Park Drain Special Assessment District," will be subject to review for one day from **9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan**, or at such other time and place to which I may adjourn. At the meeting to review the apportionment of benefits, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review. At said review, the computation of costs for the maintenance and improvement of the Drain will also be open for inspection by any interested parties.

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the special assessment district for the Groesbeck Park Drain or any city, village, township, or county feeling aggrieved by the tentative apportionment of benefits made by the Drain Commissioner may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) calendar days after the day of review of apportionment by making an application to the Ingham County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review.

Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the landowner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges. For more information regarding payment of assessments, please contact my office.

The following is a description of the parcels of lands constituting the Special Assessment District of the Groesbeck Park Drain:

33-01-01-03-328-012	33-01-01-03-378-002	33-01-01-03-378-152	33-01-01-03-378-162
33-01-01-03-378-181	33-01-01-03-381-001	33-01-01-03-381-011	33-01-01-03-381-021
33-01-01-03-381-031	33-01-01-03-381-101	33-01-01-03-381-111	33-01-01-03-381-121
33-01-01-03-383-002	33-01-01-03-383-021	33-01-01-03-383-031	33-01-01-03-383-041
33-01-01-03-383-052	33-01-01-10-203-021	33-01-01-10-204-001	33-01-01-10-207-001
33-01-01-10-207-011	33-01-01-10-207-021	33-01-01-10-207-031	33-01-01-10-207-041
33-01-01-10-207-051	33-01-01-10-207-061	33-01-01-10-207-071	33-01-01-10-207-081
33-01-01-10-207-091	33-01-01-10-207-101	33-01-01-10-207-111	33-01-01-10-207-121
33-01-01-10-226-001	33-01-01-10-226-011	33-01-01-10-226-032	33-01-01-10-226-041
33-01-01-10-226-051	33-01-01-10-226-061	33-01-01-10-226-071	33-01-01-10-226-081
33-01-01-10-226-091	33-01-01-10-226-101	33-01-01-10-226-111	33-01-01-10-253-001
33-01-01-10-253-011	33-01-01-10-253-022	33-01-01-10-253-032	33-01-01-10-253-051
33-01-01-10-253-061	33-21-01-02-100-002	33-21-01-02-100-014	33-21-01-02-100-015
33-21-01-02-100-035	33-21-01-02-100-038	33-21-01-02-100-045	33-21-01-03-200-002
33-21-01-03-200-003	33-21-01-03-200-004	33-21-01-03-200-005	33-21-01-03-200-006
33-21-01-03-200-011	33-21-01-03-200-012	33-21-01-03-200-013	33-21-01-03-200-017
33-21-01-03-200-020	33-21-01-03-200-023	33-21-01-03-200-024	33-21-01-03-200-025
33-21-01-03-200-026	33-21-01-03-200-027	33-21-01-03-200-028	33-21-01-03-384-001
33-21-01-03-401-006	33-21-01-03-401-011	33-21-01-03-401-012	33-21-01-03-401-013
33-21-01-03-401-016	33-21-01-03-401-017	33-21-01-03-401-019	33-21-01-03-402-010
33-21-01-03-402-011	33-21-01-03-402-012	33-21-01-03-402-013	33-21-01-03-402-014
33-21-01-03-402-017	33-21-01-03-402-018	33-21-01-03-426-005	33-21-01-03-426-007
33-21-01-03-426-008	33-21-01-03-426-009	33-21-01-03-426-010	33-21-01-03-426-011
33-21-01-03-426-012	33-21-01-03-426-013	33-21-01-03-426-014	33-21-01-03-426-018
33-21-01-03-426-020	33-21-01-03-426-021	33-21-01-03-426-022	33-21-01-03-426-023

33-21-01-03-426-024	33-21-01-03-426-025	33-21-01-03-426-026	33-21-01-03-427-005
33-21-01-03-427-012	33-21-01-03-427-013	33-21-01-03-427-014	33-21-01-03-427-015
33-21-01-03-427-016	33-21-01-03-427-017	33-21-01-03-427-018	33-21-01-03-427-019
33-21-01-03-427-020	33-21-01-03-427-026	33-21-01-03-427-027	33-21-01-03-427-029
33-21-01-03-427-032	33-21-01-03-427-033	33-21-01-03-427-034	33-21-01-03-427-035
33-21-01-03-427-036	33-21-01-03-451-002	33-21-01-03-451-005	33-21-01-03-451-009
33-21-01-03-476-001	33-21-01-03-477-001	33-21-01-03-477-002	33-21-01-03-477-003
33-21-01-03-477-004	33-21-01-03-477-005	33-21-01-03-477-006	33-21-01-03-477-007
33-21-01-03-477-008	33-21-01-03-477-009	33-21-01-03-477-010	33-21-01-03-477-011
33-21-01-03-477-012	33-21-01-03-477-013	33-21-01-03-477-014	33-21-01-03-477-015
33-21-01-03-477-016	33-21-01-03-477-017	33-21-01-03-477-018	33-21-01-03-477-019
33-21-01-03-477-020	33-21-01-03-477-021	33-21-01-03-477-022	33-21-01-03-477-023
33-21-01-03-477-024	33-21-01-03-477-025	33-21-01-03-477-026	33-21-01-03-477-027
33-21-01-03-477-028	33-21-01-03-477-029	33-21-01-03-477-030	33-21-01-03-477-031
33-21-01-03-477-032	33-21-01-03-477-033	33-21-01-03-477-034	33-21-01-03-477-035
33-21-01-03-477-036	33-21-01-03-477-037	33-21-01-03-477-038	33-21-01-03-477-039
33-21-01-03-477-040	33-21-01-03-477-041	33-21-01-03-477-042	33-21-01-03-477-043
33-21-01-03-478-003	33-21-01-03-478-008	33-21-01-03-478-009	33-21-01-03-478-010
33-21-01-03-478-011	33-21-01-03-479-001	33-21-01-03-479-002	33-21-01-03-479-003
33-21-01-03-479-004	33-21-01-03-479-005	33-21-01-03-479-006	33-21-01-03-479-007
33-21-01-03-479-008	33-21-01-03-479-009	33-21-01-03-479-010	33-21-01-03-479-011
33-21-01-03-503-001			

In addition to the assessed parcels and tracts of land listed above, Ingham County, City of Lansing, and Lansing Charter Township shall be specially assessed at large for benefits of the maintenance and improvement of the Drain.

NOW THEREFORE, all unknown and non-resident persons, owners, and persons interested in the above-described special assessment district, and you:

Clerk of Ingham County;
Chair of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners;
Mayor of the City of Lansing;
Supervisor of Lansing Charter Township;
Managing Director of the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads

are hereby notified that at such time and place as stated above from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. local time, the apportionment of benefits and the lands comprised within the Groesbeck Park Drain Drainage District special assessment district will be subject to review;

AND YOU AND EACH OF YOU, owners and persons interested in the aforesaid lands and public corporations are cited to appear at the time and place of such day of review of apportionments aforesaid, and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation thereto, if you so desire.

This review of apportionments is consistent with Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at the day of review are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777 (TDD) as soon as possible to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: March 6, 2013

Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854

Sorg

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focusing on damage control in the Republican-dominated committee. She also brings knowledge of local government and healthcare to the table as a former Lansing City Councilwoman and former executive with Ingham Regional Hospital (now McLaren

Greater Lansing).

Hertel's resume includes a stint as a staffer for House Democrats and eight years on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Recently reelected to a second term as register of deeds, he has gained statewide recognition for his successful work on foreclosures and mortgage fraud. Hertel is from one of Michigan's most successful political families: his father was speaker of the Michigan house; one uncle was a state

senator; another a U.S. congressman.

Style: Bauer is considered one of the most likable people in local politics. In any other business, that would be considered a good thing. In politics, not so much.

Hertel's battles with the big banks over mortgages has demonstrated a toughness that many Democrats feel is needed in the Senate — especially with the departure of Whitmer, who has been an outspoken counterpoint to the gover-

nor and GOP in the Senate.

Gender/Age: Whitmer's departure leaves the Senate with three women senators out of 38 total members. In a race with no significant policy differences between candidates, this could be the decider for some voters. And the 29-year age gap between the two candidates, while never mentioned, could come into play.

(Political columnist Walt Sorg can be reached at sorg@lansingcitypulse.com)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF AVAILABILITY - ACTION PLAN FOR 2014 (7/113-6/30/14) CITY OF LANSING

PURPOSE: To provide citizens the opportunity to examine and comment on the Action Plan for FY 2014 (7/1/13-6/30/14). An annual action plan approved by the City must be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of the Consolidated Planning Process, and as part of the application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds for Fiscal Year 2014. Programs and activities to be undertaken to meet goals and objectives established in the Action Plan for the City are described below. The primary objectives of Lansing's Action Plan for 2014 are based on the Five Year Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission (CSPS) and are as follows:

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, re-housing assistance and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

The Five Year CSPS for the City of Lansing sets forth programs, activities and priorities based on needs identified for the community. The CSPS describes strategies and activities that city will undertake to provide affordable housing, supportive services and community development opportunities to benefit low and moderate-income households.

The Action Plan for 2014 is the third year of the five-year plan and sets forth activities to be carried out in the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 with CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. Activities may also be funded in part through other federal, state, local and privately funded programs including NSP grant funds. Activities will generally be located in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically targeted areas, although programs may be applied and carried out anywhere in the city as noted in the Plan.

PROPOSED HOUSING ACTIVITIES

High priority activities related to housing include home repair and lead remediation. High priority is given to providing rehabilitation assistance to low-moderate income homeowners. High priority is given to activities which will result in partnerships with nonprofit housing corporations, other government

entities and private businesses to provide home ownership opportunities to low and moderate-income homebuyers including housing counseling, housing rehabilitation and down payment assistance and creation of a one-stop housing resource and education center. High priority is given to acquiring foreclosed homes for rehabilitation, resale or demolition. High priority is given to voluntary acquisition of flood plain properties for demolition. Moderate priority is given to providing low income households with special needs assistance through construction or rehabilitation of housing units for rent or ownership; including barrier free improvements and supportive services. Moderate priority is given to addressing the housing and supportive service needs of the homeless. Moderate priority is given to historic preservation. Low priority is given to developing newly constructed affordable rental units in the city. Moderate priority is given to providing additional low-income rental units through rehabilitation.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Economic Development

High priority is given to continued support of a loan program, training, and technical assistance for microenterprises, defined as businesses having five (5) or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. High priority is given to funding a computer training, employment and technology enterprise program. High priority is given to supporting business development and façade improvement activities in commercial districts and neighborhood retail districts, including through the use of Section 108 loans.

Human Services

High priority is given to developing new permanent supportive housing options to continue implementation of a "continuum of care" for the homeless and continue to support the 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Public Safety and Community Services

High priority is given to youth recreation and neighborhood improvement programs including community gardening and neighborhood strategies for reuse of vacant parcels. High priority is given to increasing public awareness and involvement in emergency preparedness and public safety activities. Low priority is given to Crime Prevention through Community Policing.

Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Improvements

High priority is given to improving recreational facilities, neighborhood service centers, and programs. Moderate priority is given to undertaking public improvements in selected target areas, including special assessments, beautification, tree planting, recreational improvements and lighting.

Environment and Energy Conservation Activities

High priority is given to weatherization of renter and owner occupied housing units for low-moderate income households. Moderate priority is given to activities which enhance the appearance and quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods including community gardens, street makeovers and neighborhood clean-ups.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The budget included in the Proposed Objectives, Goals and Use of Community Development Resources as recommended by the Lansing Planning Board subsequent to a Public Hearing held on February 5, 2013. The proposed funding allocations will be provided in the summary of the draft FY 2014 Action Plan during the comment period.

The City will support applications by other entities who wish to participate in Federal and State programs for housing and community development improvement and assistance provided proposed projects are consistent with the priorities established in the Five Year CSPS. The 30-day comment period for the Action Plan for 2014 will commence **March 7, 2013 - April 5, 2013**.

Copies of the document and the proposed use of Community Development funds are available for review at the City Clerk's office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave.; the Capital Area District Library, 401 South Capitol; the Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Planning Office, 316 N. Capitol, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI or the City of Lansing, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Development Office website at: www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/development

All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final Action Plan for FY 2014 to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development no later than May 14, 2013. A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document.

For information regarding the Action Plan for FY 2014, please contact:

Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner
 City of Lansing, Michigan
 Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development
 316 North Capitol, Suite D-1
 Lansing Michigan 48933-1236
 Telephone (517) 483-4063

ARTS & CULTURE

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'Society' woman

Grammy winning folk singer plays East Lansing Friday

By RICH TUPICA

This year's Grammy Awards had a surprise winner for "Best Spoken Word Album." Famed folk singer Janis Ian won for her autobiography, "Society's Child," over such big-name nominees Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton and Ellen DeGeneres.

"I was in good company — I was way beyond surprised," said Ian, who plays Friday at the Ten Pound Fiddle, from her home in Nashville. "I think the first few

Janis Ian

Ten Pound Fiddle Concert Series
Albert A. White Performing Arts Theater
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing
March 8
8 p.m.
\$20, \$18 members, \$5 students
tenpoundfiddle.org

The book, told in her captivating narrative, spans her 46-year career and dishes on partying backstage with Jimi Hendrix and watching her friend Janis Joplin shoot heroin. It also delves into her childhood years in New Jersey and living through the Cold War-era with her left-wing family that was under government surveillance.

JANIS IAN



Courtesy Photo
In 1975, Ian's "Between the Lines" album sold over 1 million copies and earned her a Grammy Award for the single, "At Seventeen."

Those times were captured in her 2000 song, "God and the FBI."

The candid memoir has shot Ian, 61, back into the spotlight. She won her previous Grammy 38 years ago for her hit single, "At Seventeen." But she's used to that. Her long career, which started when she was 13 years old, has been a series of ups and downs.

Ian had a turbulent, unsettling start in the music business. Her 1967 debut hit single, "Society's Child," told the love story of an interracial couple — a topic considered taboo during the height of the Civil Rights movement.

"The song is about a black boy dating a white girl," Ian said. "It's very difficult to understand now just how bent out of shape people became in 1967. It was not something that was talked about. It was such a controversial song. A radio station in Atlanta was burned to the ground for playing it. People in Boston were fired from newspapers for quoting from it. It was a hard thing to go through."

Unfortunately for Ian, the hate and heckling over the song was mainly directed at her.

"People would send razor blades in the mail," she said. "They'd place them around album covers so if I didn't open them carefully I would shred my fingers. There were a lot of bomb threats, threats to my family.

BETWEEN THE LINES

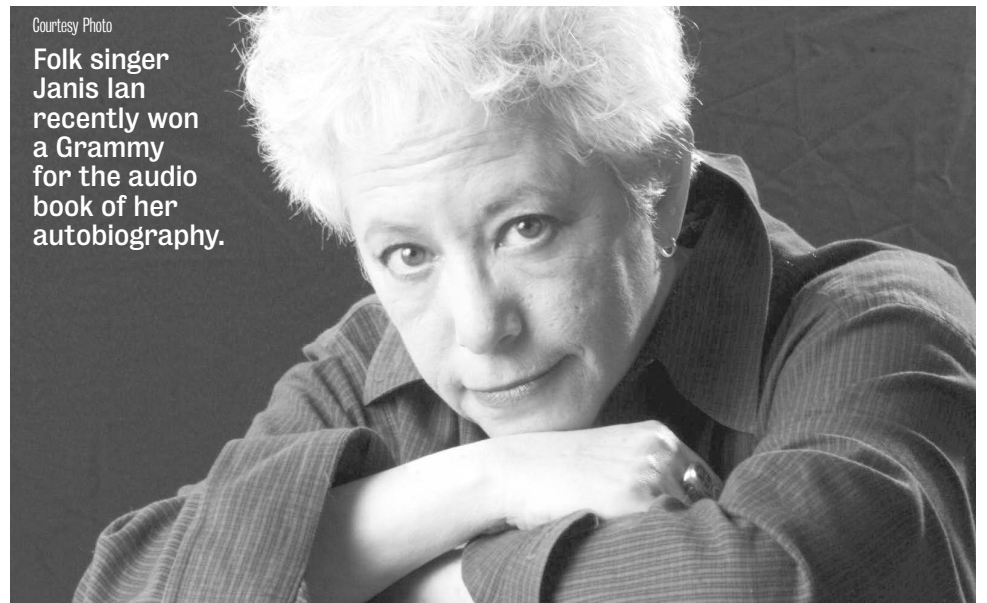
It was just not a real pleasant time. On the other hand, it really showed me the power of the song."

Ian tells a vivid story in her book about one of her earliest shows that was sabotaged by hecklers.

"It was one of the first concerts I did," she said. "A group of about 20 people bought tickets to boo me off the stage by calling me a 'nigger lover.' They did a very effective job of scaring me. I was fortunate that the promoter of the show insisted I go back on. You don't leave the stage be-

Courtesy Photo

Folk singer Janis Ian recently won a Grammy for the audio book of her autobiography.



cause someone is booing you.

"It was a very scary thing because it was the height of the Civil Rights movement and people were being shot. For a while, I was convinced the stage was a very dangerous place."

Conjuring those memories for her memoir proved to be hard for Ian, but she didn't hold back.

"I hadn't talked about that ('Society's Child' experience) with anyone but a therapist," she said. "It was hard to go back and visit that. But I made a decision at the beginning I was going to be honest without bleeding all over everybody. I also wanted to write just as much about the times as I did myself."

In the years following her initial boom of success, Ian continued recording, but she fell out of the spotlight while she reinvented her love of songwriting.

"I left my label, Verve, after I did four

"When you see Ella Fitzgerald lead your standing ovation and Gladys Knight sing your song, it's hard to go wrong."

In the years since "At Seventeen," Ian has continued recording and touring. In 1993, another milestone in her life occurred when she came out as a lesbian.

"It was a public coming out," she said. "Everybody who knew me (already) knew, all of the music industry knew, all my friends knew — my family certainly knew. It was really because the head of what was then the Gay Liberation Task Force quoted the teenage suicide statistics to me: Three out of every 10 teen suicides was because they thought they might be gay. Also, at the time, the scuttlebutt was still that gay people could not be in a long-term, committed relationship. I think (my partner) Pat (Snyder) and I are going to disprove that. Next year will be 25 years."

These days Ian spends four months

"It was a very scary thing because it was ... the height of the Civil Rights movement and people were being shot. For a while, I was convinced the stage was a very dangerous place."

JANIS IAN, ON PLAYING HER CONTROVERSIAL SONG, "SOCIETY'S CHILD" IN THE '60S

albums in three years — I was just burned out," she said. "I really wasn't sure if I wanted to continue because it was so hard and I wasn't sure I could be the kind of writer I wanted to be. So I stopped, moved to Philadelphia with my then-boyfriend Peter, did some serious therapy, serious reading and studying how to be a songwriter."

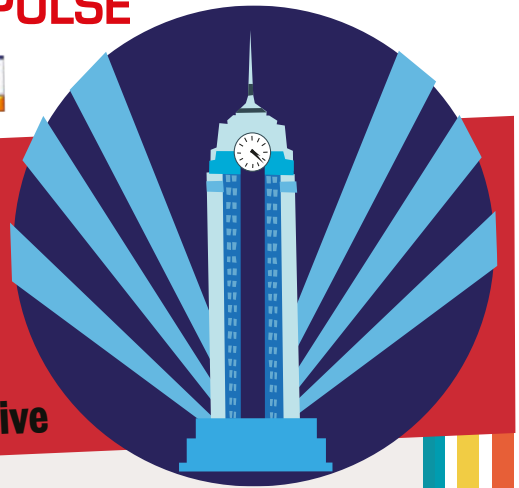
The focus on songwriting paid off. In 1975, she released her critically acclaimed album, "Between the Lines," which spawned the No. 1 hit single and Grammy-winning song, "At Seventeen."

"It was a nice vindication," Ian said.

each year on the road playing shows, while also writing books and magazine articles.

"Right now I'm working on a kids novel, and I've got a kids book coming out in September based on a song I just wrote called "The Tiny Mouse," she said. Her current tour starts at the Ten Pound Fiddle, and she encourages fans to bring old records and eight-tracks for her to sign. She also encourages people to leave notes with song requests on the stage during her performance — an intimate affair, likely similar to her early Greenwich Village folk-club performances.

GLONNNGG!!



“AHHH-TEN-SHUN, LAYYY-DEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! For the first time ever, this year’s **CITY PULSE/WLNS TOP OF THE TOWN CONTEST** has TWO rounds.

“WELL-CAAAHHMM TO THE SECOND AND FINAL ROUND — THE FINAL FIVE!!

“Here to explain this INN-explicable, INN-trusive INN-ovation is City Pulse’s mostest of the verbostest, the punctuating punk who pumps the junk into every conjunction, Little Larry Cosentino, the angry Sicilian!”

VOTE NOW AT LansingCityPulse.com/FinalFive

Thanks a lot, loudmouth. Maybe you didn’t hear: I’m not so angry anymore. Grand jury hearings are next week. I started yoga in Old Town and I’m shopping for something nice at Kositchek’s. They wire it, I don’t care. I got nothing to hide.

Anyway, listen up, paisan. This year, we thought we’d mix it up a little.

“Final Five” voting is simple and righteous. It gives the little guy, the local business, a fighting chance against the big chains that refuse to pay protection — I mean, who take unfair advantage of the little guy. It gives everybody another chance to mix it up real good.

Besides, Final Five just sounds good, like the Five Families. Man, those were the days. Leave the gun, take the cannoli. Louise, shoot the radio. OK, so that was from “Thelma and Louise.” Whatever. I like it, so?

Multiple rounds of balloting keep a lot of elections interesting — Italian governments, for example. How else would you end up with a prime minister from a party called “The Olive Tree”? And

isn’t that one of the nominations for Best Restaurant?

Seriously, just vote the way a rich, narcissistic JERK at the Academy Awards would, by choosing your favorite from the five top first-round vote-getters in each category. You can vote in one, a few, or all the categories, but nominations are closed. Fahggedabout write-ins. It’s too late to nominate Tini Bikini, even for Best Place of Worship. If you don’t like any of the radio stations nominated, pick the one with your lucky number, or better yet, skip it.

And speaking of Italian elections, you can vote as many times as you want.

Vote from your home computer, mobile phone, cerebellum implant or whatever the HELL you kids are throwing your money at nowadays.

Now if you excuse me, I’ve got to go ditch these stale ethnic, sexist, and ageist stereotypes, take a bath and memorize my grand jury testimony. May the joint with the best gluten free food win.

SEE THE LIST OF FINAL FIVE NOMINEES STARTING ON PAGE 13

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2013 City Pulse/WLNS Top of the Town Awards FINAL FIVE* NOMINEES!

VOTE NOW AT LansingCityPulse.com/FinalFive

*More than five nominees indicates a tie

BEST DINING

BAR FOOD

Crunchy's
Buffalo Wild Wings
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
Art's Bar & Grill
Bonnie's Place

BBQ

Meat, Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine
Smokey Bones
Backyard BarBQ
King of the Grill
Turkeyman

BREAD/BAKERY

Great Harvest Bread Co.
Panera Bread
Roma Bakery
Breadsmith
Bake & Cakes

BREAKFAST

Golden Harvest
Flap Jack Restaurants
Fleetwood Diner
Cracker Barrel
Soup Spoon Café

BURGER

Bonnie's Place
Five Guys Burgers and Fries
Crunchy's
Bagger Dave's
Peanut Barrel

CASUAL DINING

Soup Spoon Café
Fork in the Road
El Azteco
Cheddar's
Deluca's

CHILI

Wendy's
Soup Spoon Café
Beggars Banquet
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
Chili's

COCKTAILS

Bar 30
The Exchange
Soup Spoon Café
Dusty's Tap Room
Houlihan's

CONEY ISLAND

Sparty's Coney Island
Leo's Coney Island
Zeus' Coney Island
Nip n Sip Drive In
Dimitri's Restaurant

DESSERT

Bake-n-Cakes
Grand Traverse Pie Co.
MSU Dairy Store
Sweetie-licious
Sugar Shack

DINER

Fleetwood Diner
Golden Harvest
Fork in the Road
Soup Spoon Café
Theio's Restaurant

FRIES

Five Guys Burgers and Fries
McDonald's
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
Bagger Dave's
Crunchy's

GLUTEN FREE

Purple Carrot Truck
P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Woody's Oasis
Better Health
(WOW!) With Out Wheat

GOURMET RESTAURANT

Soup Spoon Cafe
Dusty's Cellar
English Inn
Red Haven
Fork In the Road

ITALIAN

Deluca's Restaurant
Bravo!
Emil's
Carrabba's Italian Grill
Cugino's Italian Restaurant

MEXICAN

El Azteco
Cancun Mexican Grill
Los Tres Amigos
El Oasis
Pablo's Panaderia

See Final Five, Page 14



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 Best Breakfast • Best Casual Dining • Best Cocktails
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Final Five

from page 13

NEW RESTAURANT

Meat. Southern B.B.Q. & Carnivore Cuisine
 Red Haven
 Bar 30
 Tony Sacco's
 Buffalo Wild Wings (West)

PATIO

Peanut Barrel
 El Azteco East Lansing
 Waterfront Bar and Grill
 Dublin Square
 Blue Gill Grill

PIZZA

Deluca's Restaurant
 Jet's Pizza
 Pizza House
 Art's Bar and Grill
 Georgio's

SANDWICH/DELI

Jersey Giant
 Jimmy John's
 Soup Spoon Café
 State Side Deli
 Frandor Deli

SEAFOOD

Mitchell's Fish Market
 Red Lobster
 Maru Sushi
 SanSu Sushi
 Ukai

STEAK

Knight Cap
 Texas Roadhouse

Outback Steakhouse (West Side)
 Outback Steakhouse (Okemos)
 Logan's Roadhouse

SUSHI

SanSu Sushi
 Maru Sushi
 Al Fusion Sushi & Grill
 Ukai II
 Xiao

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN

Purple Carrot Truck
 Woody's Oasis Bar & Grill
 Aladdin's
 Golden Harvest
 Fork In the Road

BEST HANGOUTS

COFFEE SHOP

Artie's Filling Station
 Avenue Cafe
 Decker's Coffee Company
 Espresso Royale (East Lansing)
 Grand River Coffee

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 8741 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
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 2006 S. Cedar St., Holt

See Final Five, Page 15



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Final Five

from page 14

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 1331 E. Grand River Ave. # 111, East Lansing
 3499 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing
 One Union Square, East Lansing
 1429 W. Saginaw St., East Lansing
 2055 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
 4756 Marsh Road, Okemos
 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, Okemos
 3520 Okemos Road, Suite 7, Okemos
 914 Charlevoix St. #110, Grand Ledge
 13181 Schavey Road, DeWitt
 12821 Crossover Dr., DeWitt
 504 Lansing St., Charlotte
 1077 S. Whittemore St. #14b, St. Johns
 661 N. Cedar St., Mason

■ DANCE/CLUB SCENE

Green Door
 Spiral Dance Bar
 Bar 30
 The Loft
 Mac's Bar

■ GAY/LESBIAN BAR

Spiral Dance Bar
 Esquire Bar
 Preston's Bar
 Sir Pizza, Old Town
 Mac's Bar

■ HAPPY HOUR

Houlihan's
 Crunchy's
 Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
 Green Door
 Tavern on The Square

■ KARAOKE

Crunchy's

Sir Pizza Grand Café
 Buddies Pub & Grill
 Leroy's Classic Bar & Grill
 Darb's Tavern & Eatery

■ MOVIE THEATER

NGC Cinemas
 Celebration! Cinema
 Studio C!
 Sun Theater (Grand Ledge)
 Sun Theater (Williamston)

■ OPEN-MIC NIGHT

Connxtions Comedy Club
 Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
 Green Door
 Mac's Bar
 Sir Pizza Grand Cafe (Old Town)

■ PLACE TO BE SEEN

Downtown Lansing
 East Lansing Art Festival
 Old Town

Bar 30
 Golden Harvest

■ PUB/TAVERN

Dagwood's Bar & Grill
 Moriarty's Pub
 Stober's Bar
 Claddagh Irish Pub
 Irish Pub & Grill

■ SPORTS BAR

Buffalo Wild Wings (East Lansing)
 Champps
 Nuthouse Sports Grill
 Reno's West
 Reno's East

BEST LOCAL MUSIC

■ COVER BAND

Starfarm
 Root Doctor

See Final Five, Page 16



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Final Five

from page 15

Global Village
 Frog and the Beeftones
 Showdown

■ HIP HOP ARTIST

Big Perm
 Araphat
 Mr Fox and the Hounds
 Philthy
 Jimi Kanklez

■ LIVE CLUB DJ

Craig Doepker
 Donnie D
 James
 Skitzo
 Scotty V

■ MUSIC VENUE

The Loft
 Green Door
 Mac's Bar
 Uli's Haus of Rock
 Dublin Irish Square

■ ORIGINAL BAND/SOLO ARTIST

Root Doctor
 Steppin' In It
 Frank and Earnest
 Frog & the Beeftones
 Big Willy

■ RADIO STATION

88.9 The Impact
 94.1 The Edge
 97.5 NOW FM
 100.7 WITL
 94.9 WMMQ

BEST PEOPLE

■ BARTENDER

Craig Doepker (Mac's Bar)
 Alissa (Harem Urban Lounge)
 Josh (Capitol City Grille)
 Kevin Angell (Soup Spoon Café)
 Judy (Mayfair)

■ ENVIRONMENTALIST

The Nature Conservancy of
 Michigan
 Pat Lindemann

VOTE RI

Jessica Yorko
 Ben Hassenger
 Julie Powers

■ LOCAL FM/AM RADIO PERSONALITY

Alabama (97.5 NOW)
 Tim Barron (92.9 FM WLMI)
 Banana Don & Stephanie (100.7 WITL)
 Deb Hart (94.9 WMMQ)
 Josh Strickland (97.5 NOW)

■ LOCAL POLITICIAN

Gretchen Whitmer
 Virg Bernero
 Rick Snyder
 Carol Wood
 Sam Singh

■ LOCAL TV NEWS PERSONALITY

Evan Pinsonnault (WLNS)
 Jason Colthorpe (WILX)
 AJ Hilton (WILX)
 Andy Provenzano (WILX)
 Jane Aldrich (WLNS)

■ SPARTAN ATHLETE

Tom Izzo
 Le'Veon Bell
 Kirk Cousins
 Draymond Green
 Coach Mark Dantonio

BEST SERVICES

■ ALTERNATIVE HEALTH

Creative Wellness Holistic
 Health Center
 Just B Yoga
 Hilltop Yoga
 Better Health
 Craft Chiropractic

■ AUTO REPAIR

Brogan's Tire and Auto Service
 Belle Tire
 Liskey's Auto & Truck Services
 Frankie D's
 Bill & Charlie's
 Bud Kouts Chevrolet

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MSU Federal Credit Union
Lake Trust Credit Union
LAFCU
C.A.S.E.
Dart

BARBER SHOP

Jude's Barbershop
Douglas J. Aveda Institute
Barber Love
Great Clips
Frاندor Barber Shop

BICYCLE SHOP

Riverfront Cycle
SPIN Bicycle Shop Old Town
Velocipede Peddler
Denny's Central Park Bicycles
MSU Bikes

CAR WASH / DETAILING

Kwik Car Wash (Cedar)
Showroom Shine (East Lansing)
Wash World (Okemos)
OutShiner Car Wash & Quick Lube (Okemos)
Fast Eddies WestSide

CATERING

Amy's Catering
Morton's Fine Catering
Catered Affair
Grand Traverse Pie Co.
Purple Carrot

CELLULAR / WIRELESS STORE

Verizon (W. Saginaw)
Verizon Okemos (Grand River)
Verizon (Eastwood)
Wireless Zone of Lansing
AT&T (Frاندor)

CHIROPRACTOR

Delta Chiropractic Center of Lansing
Craft Chiropractic
Total Health Chiropractic
Russel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic
East Lansing Chiropractic Clinic

ELECTRICAL

Bohnet Electric Co.

Capitol City Electric Co.
F D Hayes Electric Co.
IBEW 665
Consumers Energy

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Fitness USA

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Radisson Hotel
Lexington Lansing
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PET CARE/SERVICES

AnnaBelles Pet Station

See Final Five, Page 18



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Final Five

from page 17

Doggy Daycare & Spa
Dr. Patterson
Miller Animal Clinic
Wag'n Tails Pet Resort
Waverly Animal Hospital

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jena McShane Photography
Autumn Luciano Photography
Chris Holmes
Dave Trumpie
Art & Soul Photography
Natosha Cribbs Photography

PLUMBER

Michigan Plumbing
Meridian Plumbing
Hedlund Plumbing
Mark Woodman
T. H. Eifert

RESTAURANT WAIT STAFF

Golden Harvest
Soup Spoon Café
Bravo!
Texas Roadhouse
Mitchell's Fish Market

SALON/SPA

Douglas J Aveda Salon - Okemos
Douglas J. Aveda Institute
Zoe Life Spa & Salon
Bella Rio
Studio 109

TANNING SALON

Tanzmania
J2
Cabana Sun Tanning
VIP (East Lansing)
Tanfaster South

TATTOO PARLOR

Splash of Color
Fish Ladder Tattoo
Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery
Vivid Ink
Liquid Tattoo

BEST SHOPPING

ANTIQUÉ SHOP

Mega Mall
Lambs Gate Antiques
Little Red Schoolhouse
Love, Betti
Mason Antique District

ART GALLERY

Broad Museum
Creole Gallery
Lansing Art Gallery
1212 Gallery
October Moon

BOOKSTORE

Schuler Books & Music
(Eastwood)
Barnes & Noble (Lansing Mall)
Schuler Books & Music
Curious Book Shop
Everybody Reads

See Final Five, Page 19

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Final Five

VOTE RIGHT NOW! lansingcitypulse.com/finalfive

from page 18

■ BUTCHER

- Merindorf Meats (Williamston)
- Merindorf Meats (Mason)
- Goodrich Shoprite
- Mert's Meats
- Gorman's Market

■ CLOTHING STORE

- Kohls
- Grace Boutique
- DEFYE Clothing
- Urban Outfitters
- Old Navy

■ CONSIGNMENT SHOP

- Second Time Around
- Kellie's Consignments
- Plato's Closet
- Goodwill Emporium
- Plush Consignments

■ FLORIST

- Horrock's Floral
- B/A Florist
- Smith Floral and Greenhouses
- Jon Anthony Florist
- Bancroft

■ GROCERY

- Horrocks
- Meijer
- Goodrich's ShopRite
- Kroger
- Foods For Living

■ JEWELRY STORE

- Becky Beauchine Kulka
- H&H Jewelry Design
- Wheat Jewelers
- Kay's
- Medawar (Lansing)

■ LIQUOR STORE

- Oades Big Ten Party Store (Clippert St.)
- Tom's Party Store
- Goodrich's ShopRite
- Big Ten Party Store (E. Grand River Ave.)
- Big Ten Party Store (Jolly Road)

■ MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STORE

- Elderly Instruments
- Marshall Music
- Music Manor
- Meridian Winds
- Best Buy

■ PET STORE

- Preuss Pets
- Soldans
- Petco - Frandor
- Petsmart (West Side)
- PetSmart (Okemos)

■ PRODUCE

- Horrocks Farm Market
- Meijer
- Lansing City Market
- Meridian Farmers Market
- Allen Neighborhood Farmers Market

■ RECORD STORE

- Flat Black & Circular
- The Record Lounge
- Schuler Books & Music (Eastwood)
- Elderly Instruments
- Best Buy (Okemos)

■ SPORTING GOODS

- Dicks Sporting Goods (Eastwood)
- Dicks Sporting Goods (Meridian Mall)
- Playmakers
- Dunham's
- Modern Skate & Surf

See Final Five, Page 20



Thanks for voting us in the
Final 5 for
Best Coney Island
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 Top of the Town Awards for

- Best Pub/Tavern
- Best Bar Food
- Best Chili
- Best Fries
- Best Happy Hour
- Best Open Mic Night

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Thank you for voting us
 into the **Final 5** for
Best Liquor Store
 in the City Pulse/WLNS Top of the Town Awards

**East Lansing, Lansing,
 Okemos and Holt Locations**

Final Five

from page 19

■ WINE SHOP

Dusty's Cellar
Horrocks
Goodrich's ShopRite
World Market
Vine and Brew

BEST WHATEVER

■ ANNUAL EVENT/FESTIVAL

Common Ground Music Festival
East Lansing Art Festival

Silver Bells
BWL Chili Cook-Off
Be A Tourist in Your Own Town

■ BEST-LOOKING BAR STAFF/WAIT STAFF

Hooters
The Exchange
The Firm
Mac's Bar
Spiral Video Dance Bar

■ LOCAL THEATRE GROUP

Riverwalk Theatre
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Williamston Theatre
Lansing Civic Players
Lansing Community College
Wharton Center

■ PLACE TO GO ON FIRST DATE

Connxtions Comedy Club
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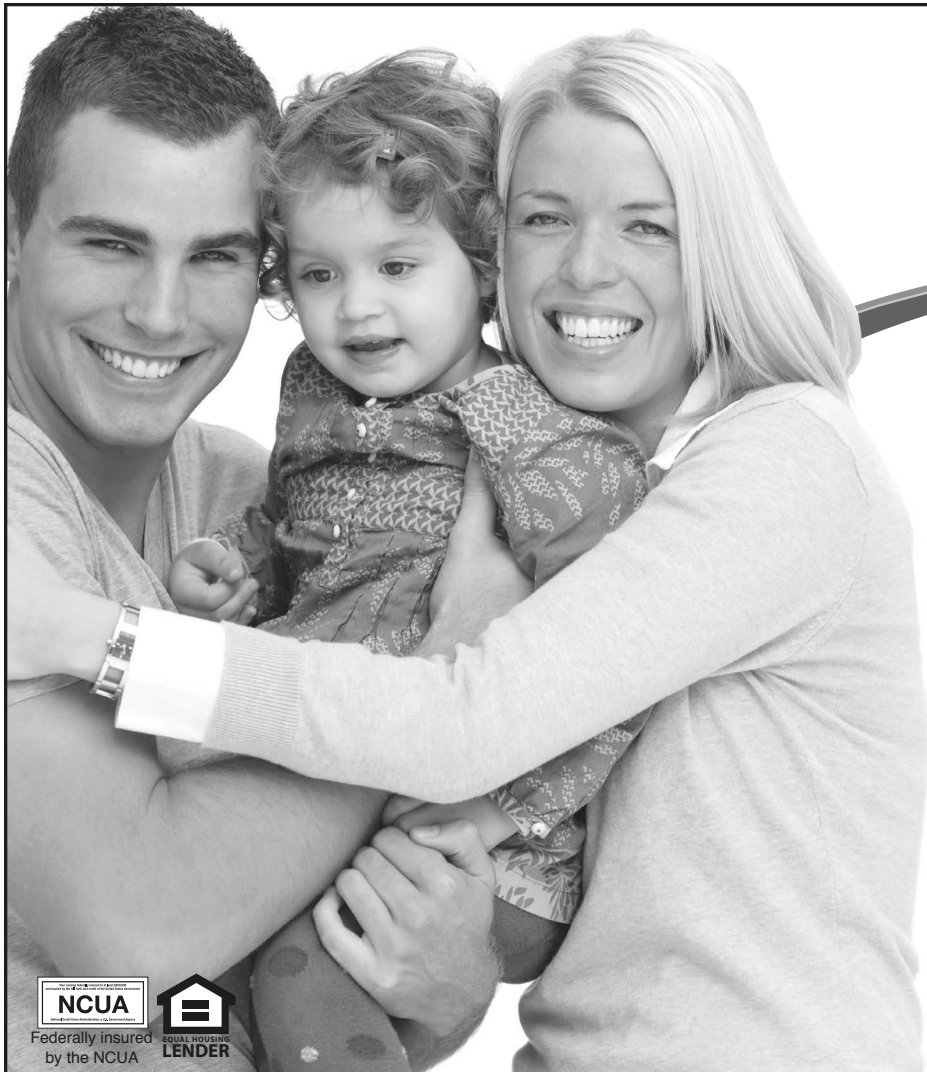


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Delicate infiltration

Jazz trio joins Lansing Symphony for powerful night of music

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It felt like a security breach at a gated community when a man in the audience at the Wharton Center alerted his wife to an unfamiliar glint on the stage before a Lansing Symphony concert Saturday night.

“That guy’s got a guitar!”

To his chagrin, the man piped up just when the crowd hushed, and probably didn’t mean to sound a general alarm, but the outcry came from his gut. Yes, that guy (Lansing jazz musician Neil Gordon) had indeed smuggled an electric guitar past the century-old maze of earthworks and moats that surround the classical castle. What’s more, Gordon’s comrade, Larry Ochiltree, had somehow slipped a glittery drum kit past Checkpoint Tchaikovsky, while the trio’s third member, principal bassist Ed Fedewa, brazenly worked both the classical and jazz sides — a double agent on double bass.

It turned out to be a delicate infiltration. Thanks to well crafted music, sensitive playing and the warmth and power of soprano Allison Sanders, all fears of clashing idioms evaporated when the symphony embarked on “Ancestral Waters,” a stately jazz-and-classical voyage by composer Brian Gaber.

Toggling from symphonic music to jazz — with wha-daht-dahts of orchestral emphasis during the transitions — isn’t a new thing. From the 1950s, great composer-arrangers like Oliver Nelson, Gerald Wilson and Lao Schifrin painted pleasingly on the same ex-



Courtesy Photo

Lansing Symphony conductor Timothy Muffitt pulled out all the stops at last week’s genre-defying concert, leading the orchestra into a tremendous climax.

tended sonic palette, often in film scores.

But Gaber mixed musical styles for a more serious purpose than to track a 1970s movie detective from confrontations to cocktails. “Ancestral Waters” takes two profound poems for a multi-layered cruise of regret and reflection on the African-American experience.

There was fleeting balance problem when Gordon’s guitar struck a couple of notes that rang oddly loud, but otherwise, the transitions from symphonic to jazz and back were deftly done, and, more important, built a coherent arc of feeling.

The process was strikingly fluid. Several times, after a purely orchestral melody would unfold, the tempo gently kicked up, the jazz trio seemed to appear out of nowhere, and Gordon’s angular, trumpet-like guitar lines bounced the music back, over the same chord sequence, but in the language of jazz.

Gaber’s hip-to-it-all idiom is a tad anachronistic for “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” a Langston Hughes poem written in 1920. But by jetting into jazz while Sanders (still in

classical mode) sang a litany of great rivers, the music suggested a timeless perspective, a present day pilgrim taking a reflective ride on the ancient waters. (I pictured Hughes on a pontoon boat, in a trench coat and fedora, smoking and thinking.)

All forces navigated the polystylistic shoals well, but Sanders provided the fire in the boiler room. At 25, Sanders exudes uncanny maturity, warmth and wisdom, dusted with the right amount of childlike wonder. Her rich, warm voice and clear commitment to this music made every syllable throb with life.

Not only did Sanders send the words soaring over a full orchestra and an electrified jazz trio, but she also kept it real when the music threatened to get too wooden. The middle movement, “Prayer,” veered toward the kind of film music you hear when Abraham Lincoln, Spartacus or some noble personage gazes at a sleeping spouse on the eve of a battle. With Sanders singing a wordless “ooo” on top, the music melted from a stiffish formula into a natural blend of comfort and mourning.

Choose your own adventure

Local thriller author makes it big by e-publishing

By BILL CASTANIER

More than half a million readers can’t be wrong. That’s the number of e-books sold by Holt thriller writer Rick Murcer.

Writing & Publishing a Book Today

A Conversation between a Self-Published and Traditionally Published Author, with Rick Murcer and Jenny Milchman
Schuler Books & Music
1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos
7 p.m. March 9
FREE
schulerbooks.com

York Times and USA Today combined print and e-book best sellers lists.

“At one point in July 2011, the book sold 9,700 (copies) in one day,” Murcer said. “It just exploded.”

Murcer, 58, held numerous customer service jobs in the mortgage service business and credit collection industry before he launched his career as a writer. He said after he received no good responses from traditional publishers, he decided to take the e-book path to publication.

In a time span of less than 20 months, he published five serial killer thrillers featuring fictional Lansing police officer Manny Williams. In the first book, Williams encounters a serial killer on a Caribbean cruise. He said the difference between his books and traditional thrillers is that his protagonist is a family man and has what Murcer describes as “a moral character and moral fiber.”

“He loves his wife and is spiritual, but not a Boy Scout,” Murcer said. He said that the advent of e-books and self publishing allowed him to circumvent the traditional publishing process, and he’s not alone — more than 400,000 books were self published last year,

according to Publishers Weekly magazine. Murcer also knew that the traditional path didn’t fit his personality.

“I couldn’t wait 20 months to see a book published,” he said. “I wrote out of desperation. My goal was to make money.”

You do the math: 575,000 books ranging in price from 99 cents to \$3.99; it looks as if Murcer has achieved his goal. He said that since his success, over 20 publishers have contacted him to sign a contract, which he hasn’t ruled out yet, but there’s a catch.

“Some of those contracts are close to servitude” he said. “All they all wanted were the rights.”

Jenny Milchman, 44, followed the more traditional process to publication, including 13 years of toil and finding an agent before getting a publishing contract with Ballentine Random House. She’s now on a seven-month, 45-state tour to promote her debut book, “Cover of Snow” thriller set in the Adirondacks. She will engage with Murcer in a friendly debate of the pros and cons of publishing Friday at Schuler Books & Music in Okemos.

In the third movement, Sanders dialed her power back and found a new level of inner conviction to grapple with the unseen chains stretching across the Atlantic from West Africa to the New World. Her restraint gave the delicate verse, by Ghanaian poet Joe Coleman de Graft, a quiet but wicked undertow. Starting with an over-the-top crash of symphonic spray and ending with the sweet jingle of djembe and agogo bells, the music seemed to arrive from some deep source in West Africa.

Thanks to Gaber’s craft, the musicians’ skills, and everybody’s restraint, this mix of musical styles never felt like a mix. Neither W.A. Mozart nor Wes Montgomery had cause to turn in their graves.

“Ancestral Waters” was an explicit nod to the major work on Saturday’s slate, Antonin Dvorak’s “New World” Symphony, a self-proclaimed amalgam of African-American and “classical” elements. The symphony is grand and leisurely, like a trip out West, and expansive music director Timothy Muffitt didn’t stint the scenic views. (Gretchen Morse’s lovely English horn solo in the second movement alone was cause to send a postcard home.)

Languor almost got the best of the orchestra in the third movement, when the pace started to droop and a few transitions got sloppy, but all forces converged with a bang for the fourth movement. How could they not? The symphony ends with a buffalo stampede that tramples everything flat, save for a few shreds of themes from earlier movements. To make the finale sound extra final, Muffitt pulled out a stop or two that hasn’t been pulled for a quite while, whipping up a tremendous climax. Even if you’re tired of orchestras’ programming the “New World” over and over, it was hard not to have a little fun. The last chord is a suddenly subdued echo that only sounds right in the concert hall, with your ears still throbbing from the hoofbeats. You don’t stand up, brush off your lapels and grin like that after listening to a CD.



Courtesy Photo

Holt’s Rick Murcer has sold over 575,000 e-copies of his debut e-book.

The New Jersey author said in reality her debut book is her eighth novel in 11 years, but the first published. Milchman parlays her profession as a psychotherapist into a thriller which featuring what she calls “an ordinary family in extraordinary circumstances.”

Murcer and Milchman may have taken decidedly different paths to publication, but both are showing remarkable results for first-time authors.

THE SCREENING ROOM by ALLAN I. ROSS

Catching fire

Documentary on cash-strapped Detroit Fire Department has power to inspire change

If it weren't a true story, it would seem like a cliché: The dead city handling its own cremation, one abandoned building at a time. For decades, Detroit has been slipping from obsolescence into an all-out hell on Earth. But according to the Detroit firefighter documentary "Burn," not everyone has given up on the decaying metropolis just yet.

"It's like Katrina without the hurricane," says one of the firefighters of Engine Co. 50 as he surveys the third-world landscape consuming his neighborhood block by smoldering block. And he'd be right, if the eyes of the world were turning compassionately toward it as they did to New Orleans. Instead, Detroit has become an international punch line, a torched effigy to everything that's wrong with America.

More than just a post-mortem on a city that was once a worldwide industrial powerhouse, "Burn" is, most important, a call to arms for a nation to reform its civic policies. A better metaphor could not be found than seeing a city burning to the ground and not having the money, the manpower or more than a passing interest to put itself out. The city's been all but abandoned — a population down to about 700,000 from 1.8 million in its heyday — and there's hardly enough tax revenue to keep it protected. In "Burn," we spend a year with the front line of men and women risking their lives to keep Detroit from going up in smoke.

Watch as the firefighters wrap their boots in duct tape to seal the holes worn into the



Courtesy photo

Detroit firefighters battle a burning chemical factory in the documentary feature, "Burn."

toes. Wince as you hear about firefighters who work for less than minimum wage and haven't had a raise in 10 years. Fume as you follow news reports of a little girl who died because the fire truck that showed up at her blazing home didn't have a ladder on it (that truck was in the shop for repairs). Read between the lines: help, help, help.

Ostensibly, "Burn" is a documentary about a fleet of perpetual underdogs fighting a losing battle. But, like any art meant to instill social change, look a little closer and you see it ain't just the city that's broken — it's the system. Producers/directors Tom Putnam and Brenna Sanchez have crafted a raw, unapologetic look at what happens when everyone just gives up and moves to the suburbs, leaving the keys to the city to

the thieves, murderers and arsoners.

Left unsaid is the racial unrest and charges of corruption that have plagued the city since the 1960s. The names "Coleman" and "Kwame" are never even uttered. The name that is flaunted, fairly or not, is Donald Austin, who took over as fire chief two years ago and summarily held culpable for the department's woes. Yes, in a speech, he accidentally calls the city "Los Angeles" (his previous post). And sure, he does seem overly optimistic about a department whose payroll accounts for 95 percent of its budget. But you realize Austin is just a fall guy, sent in to give the city a face to hang its hatred on. He will be gone eventually — probably with no more money coming in, but no less — and the fires will burn on.

Much like the similarly inflammatory "The Thin Blue Line" and "Paradise Lost," "Burn" has the potential to inspire change. Some documentaries are meant to enlighten. Some, merely to entertain. "Burn," however, was built to enrage. It is the very best kind of documentary filmmaking, and a must-see for anyone who gives a damn about the state of the state.

"Burn" is showing exclusively at Studio C! in Okemos for the next month. After the March 16 showing, there will be a talkback session with some of the firefighters from the film, giving you a chance to see what a real hero looks like.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

Wednesday, March 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

Coupon Swap. Meet other coupon enthusiasts, exchange coupons & more. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Family Storytime. Stories, rhymes & activities, kids 6 & under. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

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

Preschool Open House. Learn about program. Call to reserve a day. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107.

Star Trek, Equal Rights & Socialism. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

EVENTS

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

Grande Paraders Square Dance. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 non-members. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Open Jam. All ages & levels welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

Thursday, March 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Polarity Yoga & 5 Tibetan Rites. With Danelle Hutcheson. Drop-ins welcome. 12:10-12:50 p.m. & 5:45-7 p.m. \$10 per class, \$48 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.

Family Storytime. 10:30 a.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

WED. MARCH 6 >> 'POTPOURRI OF ART SONGS'

Potpourri is usually a mixture of dried, fragrant plants — or if you're Joey Tribbiani from "Friends," it's "summer in a bowl." Today, potpourri will be referred to in music, at the Lansing Matinee Musicale concert, "Potpourri of Art Songs." The first part of the program features soprano Barbara Freiberg, violinist Anna Kortmeyer, and pianist Robbie Pemberton, playing songs composed by Brahms, Rachmaninoff and Amy Beach. The second half will feature a string ensemble — Pat Smith, Liz Febba, Marilyn Kesler and Nancy Martilla — playing music by Beethoven, Borodin, Shostakovich and Mozart. Light refreshments will be served following the performance. 1 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-1363.



THU. MARCH 7 >> PINK SLIP MID-MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT EVENT



Greater Lansing is known for many things, with the Capitol and Michigan State University instantly springing to mind. But did you know that East Lansing is home to Biggby Coffee, which still has its headquarters here? This Thursday, hear how co-founder Bob Fish keeps the company going strong (coffee pun intended) at Pink Slip Mid-Michigan's employment event. In March 1995, co-founders Fish and Mary Roszel turned what used to be an Arby's into Biggby's first location, which has expanded to 200 stores across nine states. The evening will also have workshops on subjects such as resume building, interview skills and open networking. Pre-registration is encouraged. 4:45-8 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 975-4958. pinkslipmidmichigan.org.



MARCH 8-9 & 15-16 >> 'THE CURIOUS SAVAGE'

One of the best combinations for a night out is dinner and a show. This weekend, get both in the same place. After eating the definition of homey food — meatloaf, twice-baked potatoes and cheese tortellini — sit back and watch "The Curious Savage." The Starlight Dinner Theatre's comedy tells the story of Ethel Savage, who pursues the dream of her youth — becoming an actress — after her husband dies and leaves her a boatload of money. Her stepchildren don't like this idea and decide to institutionalize her, but that's only the beginning of the John Patrick comedy. Be sure to wear comfy pants — there will be dessert, too. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Show, 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$33 show & dinner, \$10-\$15 show only. Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

SAT. MARCH 9 >> CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN

Ever watch an episode of "My Super Sweet 16?" The show hosted some of the most lavish birthday parties ever seen on TV. This Saturday, witness another big milestone, albeit a slightly older one (and with fewer tiaras) as the Barbershop Harmony Society celebrates its 75th Anniversary. The Capitol City Chordsmen will take viewers through the ages while bringing some mind-bending harmonies, and acapella magic, to the stage. The real humdinger for the evening is a 75-man chorus made up of barbershoppers from all over Michigan. New York quartet Up All Night, The Patch Chords, The Blendy Boys and five other local quartets will also join the party. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

SUN. MARCH 10 >> FASCINATING RHYTHM

The heart and soul of many bands is the drum, or if you're a marching band, it's the percussion session. The constant rhythm keeps the group in time and can lead to some badass solos. Ever seen the 2002 Nick Cannon film "Drumline?" If so, you understand. This Sunday, the Lansing Concert Band brings the Alma College Percussion Ensemble to the stage as the centerpiece of their winter concert, "Fascinating Rhythm." Alma Percussion Ensemble founder David M. Zerbe will conduct the ensemble in several works while Gary Sullivan will direct the Lansing Concert Band, featuring guest Mack Pittard, a percussionist turned composer. Henry Nelson will also conduct. 3 p.m. FREE. Okemos High School Auditorium, 2800 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 641-4264.

WED. MARCH 13 >> COWBOY COTILLION

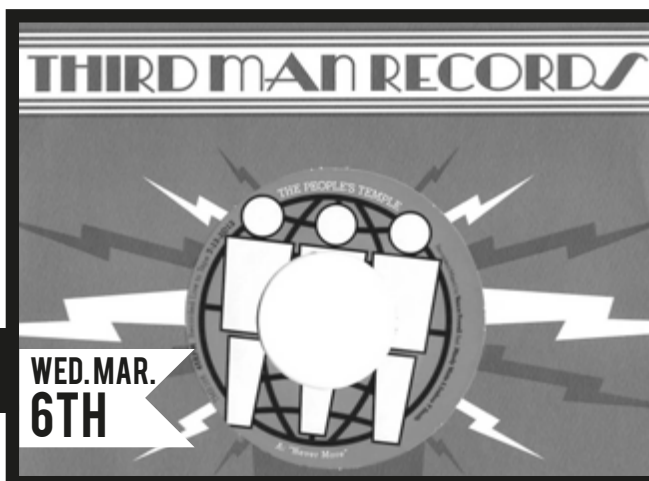
Time to get out your 10-gallon hats and cowboy boots. Next Wednesday, the Hannah Community Center will host the Cowboy Cotillion. Elementary and middle school-aged children, along with a parent or guardian, are invited to get their boot scootin' boogie on at this year's event. There will be dancing, activities and refreshments served. Oh, and miniature horses from Sierra Rose Farms in DeWitt will be there. (So cute!) If you want to go but don't feel like wearing your spurs, that's OK too. Western attire and casual clothes are both welcome. If space allows, tickets will be available at the door. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



PEOPLE'S TEMPLE 'THIRDMAN' 7" RELEASE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$7, 8:30 p.m. thirdmanrecords.com

Grammy winner Jack White's Third Man Records is known for pressing records from the likes of Beck, Wanda Jackson and The White Stripes. Last week, the famed label released some Lansing-based rock n roll, the "Never More" 7" single by The People's Temple. A release show for the single happens tonight at The Avenue Café. Warming up the stage are legit Lansing punks, The Hunky Newcomers. The single was recorded live at Third Man Records in Nashville and released on vinyl and iTunes Feb. 26. The label's write-up for the release calls the band one of the "most intriguing and rawkus bands currently blowing up the rock-n-roll underground" and "Lansing's finest psych band since (defunct '70s rock band) Earthen Vessel."

COVEN 13 AT MAC'S BAR



FRI. MAR. 8TH

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

In 1985, Nordic doom metal legends Coven 13 formed in Detroit. By 1992, during the height of grunge, the group split. In the years following the disbandment, bootleg copies of its cult-classic 1987 debut album, "Worship New Gods," were selling all over the web, and the band eventually discovered it had a dedicated fan base in Europe. That viral interest from Euro head-bangers encouraged the original members of Coven 13 to reunite in August 2012. A much buzzed about reunion show at Small's in Hamtramck soon followed. The five-piece has been active ever since. Coven 13 recently inked a deal with Shadow Kingdom Records, who re-issued "Worship New Gods" in February 2012. Friday, the band comes to Mac's Bar.

CRANE WIVES AT THE LOFT



SAT. MAR. 9TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$8, \$6 adv., 8 p.m.

Since August 2010, The Crane Wives have played a self-described "home grown indie-folk." Saturday, the Grand Rapids-based group brings that rustic sound to The Loft. The Crane Wives utilize three-part vocal harmonies and eclectic instrumentation. Aside from the usual combo of instruments, The Crane Wives also mix in banjos and ukuleles. The band's tunes range from whisper-quiet ballads to danceable grooves, which are documented on the band's two albums, "Safe Ship, Harbored" (2011) and "The Fool in Her Wedding Gown" (2012). Fans of Fleet Foxes, Avett Brothers or Mumford and Sons might want to check out this show. Opening The Loft show is Dragon Wagon, Billy Strings and Arielle Puuri.

SISTA OTIS AT SIR PIZZA



SUN. MAR. 10TH

Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, FREE, 6 p.m., all ages until 9 p.m.

Detroit-native Sista Otis plays an intimate show Sunday at Sir Pizza in Old Town. Living in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sista Otis (real name Shawn Marie Tinnes) tours the country playing her powerful brand of soulful, Americana rock. The grit of her sound comes from her Detroit rock roots and her love of southern sounds from Memphis' Sun Records. She released her first disc in 1999, and since then she's gigged non-stop while releasing a string of recordings on Wholly Roller Records. Her debut studio album appeared in 2004, earning her a record number of Detroit Music Award nominations and receiving airplay in 12 countries. In 2004, she was praised by Rolling Stone Magazine. Soon after The Advocate named her one of the country's "Top Indie Artists."

DAVID MCWILLIAMS QUINTET AT BAR 30



SUN. MAR. 10TH

Bar30, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing, all ages, FREE, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For those in search of authentic, old school jazz, the David McWilliams Quintet might be worth checking out. The trumpet-led jazz group plays Sunday at the Bar30 Jazz and Blues Series, a free concert series that "brings in some of the finest players from around Michigan." Williams said the Bar 30 gig will be a "seriously bluesy evening." McWilliams graduated from Eaton Rapids High School, after which he attended the Michigan State University Jazz Studies Program. After graduating from MSU, he hit the road for two years playing gigs and honing his jazzy craft. He also released his debut solo album, "Night Hawk." The disc features all original tunes and arrangements. Bar 30's next jazz show is Arlene McDaniel Trio on March 24.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL LIVEANDLOCAL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet, 9 p.m.	Mighty Medicine, 8 p.m.	Marhsall Rock Bands, 8 p.m.
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Patrick Garrity, 8 p.m.	Patrick Garrity, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Patrick Garrity, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Wine Night, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	D.J. McCoy, 9:30 p.m.	From Big Sur, 9:30 p.m.	Still Rain, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Keith Harkin, 7 p.m.	Salute Your Shorts, 8 p.m.	The Crane Wives, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		The Flatliners, 6 p.m.	Coven 13, 9 p.m.	ABK & Blaze Ya Dead Homie, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 10 p.m.	Blastica, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 7:30 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			DR. ME, 9 p.m.	Shallow Side, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	One Ton Trio, 8:30 p.m.	One Ton Trio, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.

Sunday Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. Monday Friday, 9 p.m., The Firm.
Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

Out on the town

from page 25

(Please see details March 6.)

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.

Tai Chi Class. Learn the slow moving martial art. 9-10 a.m. & 6-7 p.m. Donations only. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260. justbyoga.com.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

LinkedIn 101. How to use the professional networking site. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392.

Drawing Class. For all levels, with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

March SmArts Workshop. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$10 non-members, \$5 basic SmArts members, FREE Level 2 SmArts members. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. ansingarts.org.

Drop-In Art Class. For preschoolers. 10-11:30 a.m. \$1 per child per class. Delta Township

Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555.

EVENTS

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

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.

Preschool Round-Up. For parents of preschoolers for next school year. 6-7:30 p.m. Memorial Lutheran School, 2070 E Sherwood Road, Williamston. (517) 655-1402.

Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive. 2-8 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 483-9804.

Bananagrams Night. Timed word game. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Meet Charlie LeDuff. Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist & author, "Detroit: An Autopsy." 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316.7495.

children, FREE 4 & under. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 394-4639.

Fish Fry. Take-out available. 5-7 p.m. \$9.50, \$9 seniors, \$5 kids five & under. St. Mary Catholic Church, 157 High St., Williamston. (517) 655-1159.

Pasta Bar Dinner. 5-8 p.m. \$7, FREE children 4 & under. St. Andrew Orthodox Church, 1216 Greencrest Ave., East Lansing. (517) 202-2892.

Lenten Friday Fish Fry. 5-7 p.m. \$10 all you can eat, \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 kids 5-13, FREE under 4. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. (517) 882-8665.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner. Featuring De De and The Dreamers & Doc Yankee. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

Life Supports. 9:15 p.m. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-2013.

THEATER

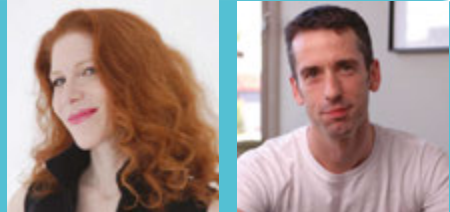
"Willy Wonka." Doors open, 6:30 p.m. Curtain, 7 p.m. \$8. Lansing Catholic High School, 501 Marshall, Lansing. (517) 267-2187. lansingcatholic.org.

"Yankee Tavern." Thriller by Steven Dietz. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

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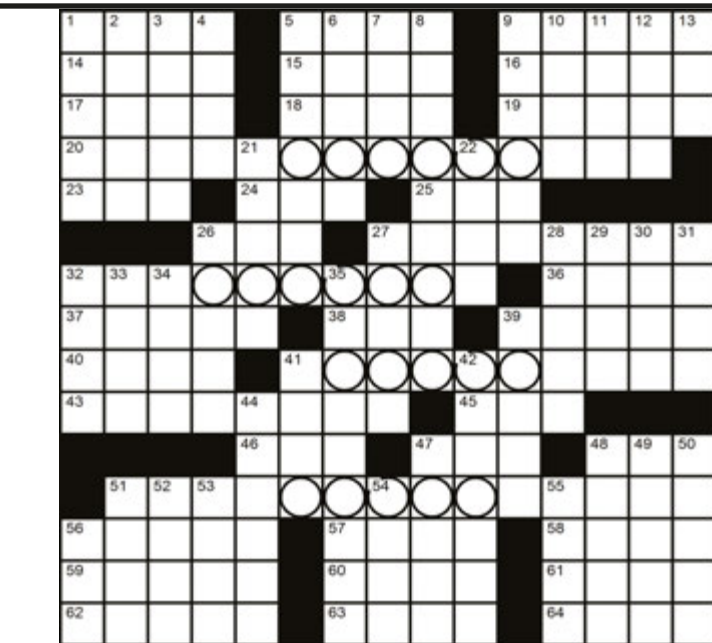
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Nuclear Disasters"--stuck in the middle with...ewwww.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Cool, in 1990s rap parlance
- 5 Disaster, like the four movies in the theme entries
- 9 Hide words from the kids, maybe
- 14 Host with rumors of retiring in 2014
- 15 One woodwind
- 16 The present
- 17 "Edit" menu option
- 18 It may be more
- 19 Orange Muppet
- 20 Pattern for high-land families
- 23 ___ Majesty
- 24 Mass ___ (Boston thoroughfare, to locals)
- 25 Word after Gator or Power
- 26 "Now I see!"
- 27 Richard or Maurice of 1940s fast food
- 32 Trips around the earth
- 36 Village Voice award
- 37 Golfer Palmer
- 38 Yoko of "Dear Yoko"
- 39 SeaWorld star attraction
- 40 Geometric shape: abbr.
- 41 Outside the box
- 43 Comet, for example
- 45 "I'm amazed!"
- 46 Columbus Day's



- mo.
- 47 Dizzy Gillespie genre
- 48 Gp. that regulates carry-on luggage
- 51 Itinerary collected by a rock historian
- 56 The South
- 57 "___ Window"
- 58 Vizquel of baseball
- 59 "Fanny" author
- Jong
- 60 Prefix meaning "within"
- 61 Clue weapon
- 62 Ford's famous flop
- 63 TV chef Paula
- 64 Scrape spot

Down

- 1 Stuffed doll material
- 2 Therefore
- 3 Conjunctions seen with a slash
- 4 Honk the horn

- 5 Simon in South American history
- 6 With a high BMI
- 7 ___ pit
- 8 Category for Daniel Day-Lewis
- 9 Sound purchase?
- 10 After-dinner wine
- 11 Krabappel of "The Simpsons"
- 12 ___ to rest
- 13 Soapmaking caustic
- 21 California/Nevada lake
- 22 Makes new friends?
- 26 Hill of the Clarence Thomas scandal
- 27 Secondary study
- 28 Not in any way
- 29 Having ___ hair day
- 30 Super-long ride
- 31 Two, in Toulouse

- 32 Pop singer Anthony
- 33 "Moral ___" (Cartoon Network show)
- 34 Way back when
- 35 Exhausted
- 39 Market divisions?
- 41 Maritime patrol gp.
- 42 Club on the fairway
- 44 Option given by Howie Mandel
- 47 Wesley Snipes title role
- 48 Pumbaa's cartoon buddy
- 49 Rickman, in the "Harry Potter" films
- 50 Terms and conditions option
- 51 Snipe or thrush
- 52 Line on a graph
- 53 Pleasant
- 54 It may be spliced
- 55 Monkees member Peter
- 56 Wallace of "E.T."

Friday, March 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Vacation in a Chair. Instructor Simone Ranes. Dress comfortably. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

Oil Painting. All levels, with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

Travelogue Series. Mike Stacy, tour of Singapore, Malaysia and Borneo. 7 p.m. \$2 suggested donation. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4233.

EVENTS

Kindergarten Round-Up. For parents of kindergartners for next school year. 9:30-11 a.m. Memorial Lutheran School, 2070 E Sherwood Road, Williamston. (517) 655-1402.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry. All-you-can-eat. Noon-1 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors, \$6 children 6-11, \$10 take-out, FREE under 5. St. Casimir Church, 815 Sparrow Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-1346.

Fish Dinners. Portion of proceeds benefit Holt Community Food Bank. 4:30-7 p.m. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 kids 5-10, FREE four & under. Messiah Lutheran Church, 5740 W. Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-1280.

Fish Fry. Food & entertainment. 5-7 p.m. \$10, \$8

Saturday, March 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Tai Chi for Beginners. 8-9 a.m. Donations only. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Tai Chi 2. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Donations only. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Staying Connected with Facebook. How to connect with friends and family. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392.

Urban Chickens Workshop. Basics of housing and more. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

Lunch and Learn: Raw Food. Taught by Cricket Lott. Light lunch. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Backbone Chiropractic, 802 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 316-1277. backbonechiro.com.

Get a Jump on Spring. How to start plants from seeds. Pre-registration required. Noon-2 p.m. \$20. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6085.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

SUDOKU



BEGINNER

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.

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 29

Out on the town

from page 27

EVENTS

Writing & Publishing a Book Today. Discussion with authors Jenny Milchman & Rick Murcer. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave. Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Winter Fundraiser. Proceeds go to fund athletics at Okemos Public Schools. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$40. MSU Spartan Club, MSU Stadium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 481-6020. okemosboosters.org.

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

Southern Michigan Winter Beer Festival Trip. Tickets must be purchased in advance. 11 a.m.-5:45 p.m. \$40. That's How We Brew, 3000 Vine St., Lansing. (517) 708-7548.

Annual Authentic Italian Dinner. Fundraiser for Italian American Club. 6-10 p.m. \$17, \$8.50 ages 6-12, FREE 6 and under. Immaculate Heart of Mary, 3815 S. Cedar St., Lansing. lansingiac.org.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Student Rock Band. 7 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550. marshallmusic.com.

Tim's Big 52nd Gig. 9 p.m. FREE. Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (616) 437-0709.

THEATER

"Willy Wonka." 6:30 p.m. \$8. Lansing Catholic High School, 501 Marshall, Lansing. (Please see details March 8.)

"Yankee Tavern." 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details March 8.)

"The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later." Reading & discussion. 7 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-0945. lansingarts.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books and Bagels. "Eight Keys," Suzanne LeFleur. For grades 4-6. 2-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Sunday, March 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. One of Mata Yoganandaji's "Inspiring Talks." 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

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

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Grace UMC, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

EVENTS

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

Showbiz Sundays Drag Review. Carbon Copy celebrity impersonation. 11:30 p.m. \$5. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221.

Vegan Potluck. Bring plant-based dish to pass & copy of recipe. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Clerical Technical Union, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-5485.

THEATER

"My Favorite Year" Auditions. Come prepared with song & read from script. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

"Yankee Tavern." 2 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details March 8.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Author Timber Hawkeye. "Buddhist Boot Camp." 3 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Monday, March 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tech Bytes: Twitter. Learn the basics. Noon-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Recipe Club. Make a favorite ethnic food to share. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Kundalini Yoga. No experience needed, Emily Emersen. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.

American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers. Presentation on colors, Pam Henrys. 6:30 p.m. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 699-8062.

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

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Alzheimer's 101. 7-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Monday Movie Matinees. Intended for adult audience. 1 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Blues, rock and spoken word. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

THEATER

"My Favorite Year" Auditions. Come prepared with song & read from script. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

Tuesday, March 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi & Qigong. Taught by Bruce Ching. Drop-ins welcome. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Intro to Computers. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better

LANSING'S FIRE HOUSE NO. 8



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

The new owner of Lansing's Fire House No. 8 wants to turn the building into a performing arts academy.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

One of two things lay ahead for Jeff Brenner, who purchased Lansing's iconic Fire Station No. 8 in January: Either make it the new headquarters for his company, **Brenner Heating and Cooling**, or transform the 9,000-square-foot building into a theater and launch a performing arts school inside.

"My wife and I had been saving money with the idea of opening a theater in Lansing," Brenner said. "It worked out perfectly — I had no idea the building was for sale until a friend told me about it last October. This place has so much theater history, and I intend to be a good steward."

Since 1977, the firehouse, 2300 E. Michigan Ave., has been home to **Lansing Civic Players**, an 85-year-old theater company that's suffered a variety of setbacks in recent years. Diminishing members and audiences reduced the once-thriving company to a "skeleton board" of three, said President Joe Dickson.

"My main focus is keeping the organization solvent," Dickson said. "There's not much left to the organization now except for the costumes."

The LCP Costume Shop

lives in a 2,300-square-foot space on the firehouse's second floor. Until last year, it was staffed several days a week so other theater companies and the public could rent the props, wigs and dresses for Halloween or theatrical production use. When Brenner takes ownership of the space on May 1, those costumes will need to find a new home.

"I have three basic goals for the collection," Dickson said. "Keep it available, keep it together and keep it local. It's an incredibly valuable community resource."

Lansing-based **Christman Co.** built the firehouse in 1931, where it served as both a home for the firefighters and as community meeting place. In 1977, the city sold the building to LCP, which renovated the structure in time for its 49th season. Although that was the company's headquarters, LCP never used it for performances, instead leasing other spaces.

However, Brenner, 45, thinks he can make the firehouse into a one-stop-shop for theater rehearsal, performance and education, including building a 150-seat black box stage on the main floor. He said his plan would be to have classes that will be taught by local theater specialists and master level instructors who will be paid based on the type of class and number of students per 10-week semester.

Brenner has an illustrious theater history. He started working full time in theater when he was just 13 with a Detroit-area theater company. He started college at Michigan State University, where he received a talent scholarship. After his freshman year, he accepted an offer to study at Roehampton University in London with an apprenticeship at the National Theatre. Upon returning from London, he was offered another scholarship to attend New York University's Tisch School for the Arts, but returned to Michigan to finish his bachelor's degree at MSU.

"And then I was part of the team that opened **Riverwalk Theatre** in 1989," he said. "At the same time, I was hired to build and design shows for the Lansing Civic Players, and over the next decade I directed, acted, built and designed about 80 shows. Theater is a very important to me."

But family was apparently more important, as Brenner stepped out of the spotlight 13 years ago to spend more time with his family and start his own business. Running his own theater academy, he said, is a long-held dream he looks forward to realizing.

"There's no model that I know of, but I won't get started for a couple years at least," he said. "I've waited over 10 years for this. It's pretty exciting to see it finally start coming together."

Out on the town

from page 28

speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg. 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

Greater Lansing Weavers Guild Meeting. Mingle, 6:30 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m. FREE. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2418 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-0978. smchurch.org.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Typing & Mouse Use Class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392.

How to Write & Publish Essays. Learn what magazines are looking for. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$29. Lansing Community College East Campus, 2827 Eyde Parkway, East Lansing. (517) 483-1860.

Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to Impartial Justice? Forum. 7-8:30 p.m. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Drop-in Writer's Workshop. Peer discussion & critique. 6-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

EVENTS

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Classics Book Group. "Of Mice and Men" book talk. 1 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Books on Tap. "Gone Girl," Gillian Flynn. 6:30-8 p.m. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100. jimmyspub.net.

Wednesday, March 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels & drawing boards provided. Bring other supplies. 7:30-10 p.m.

\$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

Family Storytime. 10:30 a.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (Plesae see details March 6.)

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

Saint Patrick's Day. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Writing Your Life. Write a memoir. Register, email kathleendeeganveith@yahoo.com. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$80 for 8 weeks. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

Market Revolution. Speaker Dr. Yaron Brook. 7 p.m. FREE. 105 S. Kedzie Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

EVENTS

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

Grande Paraders Square Dance. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 non-members. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Women's History Film. "Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines." 8 p.m. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Jeremy Rifkin Book Talk. Discuss the author's books. 7 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Lansing Author James J. Pecora. "One Way: The Road to Mass Murder." 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

City Pulse Classifieds

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

March 6-12

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Maybe you're not literally in exile. You haven't been forced to abandon your home and you haven't been driven from your power spot against your will. But you may nevertheless be feeling banished or displaced. It could be due to one of the conditions that storyteller Michael Meade names: "We may experience exile as a lack of recognition, a period of transition, an identity crisis, a place of stuckness, or else having a gift and no place to give it." Do any of those describe your current predicament, Aries? The good news, Meade says, is that exile can shock you awake to the truth about where you belong. It can rouse your irrepressible motivation to get back to your rightful place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do you have a recurring nightmare that has plagued you? If so, I suspect it will recur again soon. Only this time, Taurus, you will beat it. You will trick or escape or defeat the monster that's chasing you. Or else you will outrun the molten lava or disperse the tornado or fly up off the ground until the earth stops shaking. Congratulations on this epic shift, Taurus. Forever after you will have more power over the scary thing that has had so much power over you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The following request for advice appeared on Reddit.com: "My identical twin is stuck in an alternate dimension and she can only communicate with me by appearing as my own reflection in mirrors and windows. How can I tell her I don't like what she's done to her hair?" This question is a variant of a type of dilemma that many of you Geminis are experiencing right now, so I'll respond to it here. I'm happy to say that you will soon get an unprecedented chance to commune directly with your alter egos. Your evil twin will be more available than usual to engage in meaningful dialog. So will your doppelganger, your shadow, your mirror self, and your stuntperson.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Usually I advise Cancerians to draw up precise borders and maintain clear boundaries. As a Crab myself, I know how important it is for our well-being that we neither leak our life force all over everything nor allow others to leak their life force all over us. We thrive on making definitive choices and strong commitments. We get into trouble when we're wishy-washy about what we want. OK. Having said all that fatherly stuff, I now want to grant you a partial and temporary license to get a little wild and fuzzy. Don't overdo it, of course, but explore the smart fun you can have by breaking some of your own rules and transgressing some of the usual limits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the course of formulating his theory of evolution, Charles Darwin read many books. He developed a rather ruthless approach to getting what he needed out of them. If there was a particular part of a book that he didn't find useful, he simply tore it out, cast it aside, and kept the rest. I recommend this as a general strategy for you in the coming week, Leo. In every situation you're in, figure out what's most valuable to you and home in on that. For now, forget the irrelevant and extraneous stuff.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here's a passage from Charles Dickens' novel *Great Expectations*: "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." Judging from the astrological omens, Virgo, I suspect your life may be like that in the coming days. The emotional tone could be sharply mixed, with high contrasts between vivid sensations. The nature of your opportunities may seem warm and bright one moment, cool and dark the next. If you regard this as interesting rather than difficult, it won't be a problem, but rather an adventure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I worked as a hair stylist in Chicago's Gold Coast for 20 years with some of the most gorgeous women and men in the world," writes sculptor Rich Thomson. "Once I asked a photographer

who shot for the big magazines how he picked out the very best models from among all these great-looking people. His response: 'Flaws. Our flaws are what make us interesting, special, and exotic. They define us.'" My challenge to you, Libra, is to meditate on how your supposed imperfections and oddities are essential to your unique beauty. It's a perfect moment to celebrate — and make good use of — your idiosyncrasies.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The genius of Leonardo da Vinci was in part fueled by his buoyant curiosity. In his work as an artist, musician, inventor, engineer, and writer, he drew inspiration from pretty much everything. He's your role model for the coming week, Scorpio. Just assume that you will find useful cues and clues wherever you go. Act as if the world is full of teachers who have revelations and guidance specifically meant for you. Here's some advice from da Vinci himself: "It should not be hard for you to stop sometimes and look into the stains of walls, or ashes of a fire, or clouds, or mud or like places, in which, if you consider them well, you may find really marvelous ideas."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ready for a reality check? It's time to assess how well you know the fundamental facts about where you are located. So let me ask you: Do you know which direction north is? Where does the water you drink come from? What phase of the moon is it today? What was the indigenous culture that once lived where you live now? Where is the power plant that generates the electricity you use? Can you name any constellations that are currently in the night sky? What species of trees do you see every day? Use these questions as a starting point as you deepen your connection with your specific neighborhood on planet Earth. Get yourself grounded!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's a writer I know whose work is brilliant. Her ideas are fascinating. She's a champion of political issues I hold dear. She's well-read and smarter than me. Yet her speech is careless and sloppy. She rambles and interrupts herself. She says "uh," "you know," and "I mean" so frequently that I find it hard to listen, even when she's saying things I admire. I considered telling her about this, but decided against it. She's an acquaintance, not a friend. Instead, I resolved to clean up my own speech — to make sure I don't do anything close to what she does. This is a strategy I suggest for you, Capricorn: Identify interesting people who are not fully living up to their potential, and change yourself in the exact ways you wish they would change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The German word *Verschlimmbesserung* refers to an attempted improvement that actually makes things worse. Be on guard against this, Aquarius. I fear that as you tinker, you may try too hard. I'm worried you'll be led astray by neurotic perfectionism. To make sure that your enhancements and enrichments will indeed be successful, keep these guidelines in mind: 1. Think about how to make things work better, not how to make things look better. 2. Be humble and relaxed. Don't worry about saving face and don't overwork yourself. 3. Forget about short-term fixes; serve long-range goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Telling someone your goal makes it less likely to happen," says musician and businessman Derek Sivers. Numerous studies demonstrate that when you talk about your great new idea before you actually do it, your brain chemistry does an unexpected thing. It gives you the feeling that you have already accomplished the great new idea — thereby sapping your willpower to make the effort necessary to accomplish it! The moral of the story: Don't brag about what you're going to do someday. Don't entertain people at parties with your fabulous plans. Shut up and get to work. This is especially important advice for you right now.

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.

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From Pg. 27

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Buzzing in Benzie

Wine enthusiasts can soothe their need for mead at St. Ambrose Cellars

By MICHAEL BRENTON

Tucked away in rural Benzie County, west of Traverse City, sits St. Ambrose Cellars, a honey of a winery — I mean, meadery. Given its remote location, it's unlikely to be an accidental drive-by while exploring the beautiful northwest region near Sleeping Bear Dunes. But whether skiing at nearby Crystal Mountain in the winter or touring in the summer, it is well worth taking the time to buzz over to St. Ambrose and check it out.

Depending upon the time of year, visitors may first be struck by the hundreds of bee hives resting behind the winery/warehouse/production facility/tasting room. This is not a typical winery. The utilitarian tasting room is sandwiched between stainless steel fermentation tanks and the business end of the winery — no frills here. The tasting room staff is friendly, and the visitor might even be greeted and hosted by the passionate and affable proprietor/wine maker, Kirk Jones.

A visit here can be a three-for-one

experience, presenting the opportunity to taste a variety of meads, traditional grape wines and a variety of honeys created by sister company, Sleeping Bear Farms — one of the largest apiaries in the country. Indeed, its bees pollinate almond trees in California, star thistle in Benzie County and tupelo trees in Florida. That tupelo honey can be purchased at the tasting room or in its fermented form as the delicious tupelo mead.

Mead is one of the oldest fermented beverages. In its traditional form, mead is a combination of honey and wine, but it is sometimes flavored with other additives. Michigan has an ever-expanding array of wineries making wine from grapes, but very few with an added mead specialty.

The St. Ambrose Benzie County star thistle mead is a traditional style with overtones of citrus, flowers and honey in the nose, a soft, viscous texture and a sweet edge — but not too sweet. It is light-bodied with a citrusy component to the bouquet, and is a good food wine. The tupelo ambrosia mead presents with pronounced honey aromas and deeper, richer flavors with a lasting finish. There is also an oak barrel reserve mead, adding a layer of complexity including notes of vanilla, apple, citrus and a tangy acid component on the finish. Semi-dry Riesling drinkers may enjoy this mead, although Riesling typically does receive oak aging.

Crossing over into hybrid territory, Dancing Bear Amber is made from 34 percent grapes and 66 percent honey. A semi-sweet pyment (mead made partially with grapes), it presents with a sweeter profile but still smells of star thistle. A rosé ambrosia, with a similar blend, leans more toward a traditional grape wine nose with a peppery component. There is also elder flower nectar, made with elder flower petal infusion and star thistle honey and cherry amoré — a tasty combination of cherries, local grapes and honey. Cherry dominates this flavor profile. It is not too tart, with cherry cobbler and cherry cough syrup components (in a good way) and a cleansing finish.

St. Ambrose also has an expanding portfolio of 100 percent grape wines, including a port style wine made from the Frontenac grape, showing pipe tobacco overtones and chocolate torte. There are also a variety of traditional



Michael Brenton/
City Pulse
St. Ambrose Cellars' owner/operator Kirk Jones stands beside a batch of mead.

wines including Cabernet Franc, Marsanne-Viognier (a southern Rhone style white wine which is rich and complex), late harvest dessert wines from Vignoles and Riesling, Traminette from southwest Michigan's Berrien County, Pinot Noir from Benzie County, Merlot and Cabernet Franc from the Herman Vineyard in Berrien County and a variety of other offerings.

A visit to the winery/meadery/apiary is both fun and educational. For an advance virtual taste, check out stambrose-mead-wine.com and sleepingbearfarms.com.

MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit

Closer to home, mid-Michigan wine aficionados simply should not miss the MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit at 7 p.m. March 15 at Kellogg Center. This is a premier annual wine tasting opportunity. Approximately 25 tasting tables will present more than 150 wines from dozens of national and international wineries.

Consumers can taste a variety of wines in distribution, make evaluative decisions about wines to purchase for the cupboard or the cellar at home and either order the wines on site for later delivery at Goodrich's Shoprite or construct a list of wines that can be ordered later.

The event also includes appetizers, live music, and a silent auction. Many of the wines will be presented by importers, distributors and proprietors who will answer questions about the wines. This event is akin to 25 tasting rooms wrapped up into one giant event.

Tickets are \$45 and available at the MSU Museum store, Goodrich's Shoprite and online at museum.msu.edu. As a bonus, your ticket will provide a dinner discount at Kellogg's State Room restaurant before or after the event.

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your wine knowledge — and your cellar!

In Vino Veritas
(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly.)

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UPSCALE CUISINE

RED HAVEN — Eclectic organic and local tapas. 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, Okemos. 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays; 5 p.m.–10 p.m. Thursday–Saturday. Closed Mondays. (517) 332-6960. eatredhaven.com, FB, OM, TO, RES, \$\$.

THE STATE ROOM — Upscale cuisine, extensive wine list. 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing (inside the Kellogg Center). 6:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Sunday, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday–Saturday. (517) 432-5049. stateroomrestaurant.com, OM, TO, WB, RES, WiFi, \$\$\$\$.

STILLWATER GRILL — Surf and turf. 3544 Meridian Crossings Drive, Okemos. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Friday, 3 p.m.–10 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m.–9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 349-1500. stillwatergrill.com, FB, WB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$\$\$.

TAVERN ON THE SQUARE — Small plates. 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Monday–Sunday. (517) 374-5555. tavernonthesq.com, FB, TO, RES, P, OM, WiFi, \$\$\$.

TROPPO — Upscale dining. 111 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m.–12 a.m. Wednesday–Friday, 4 p.m.–12 a.m. Saturday, Dinner served beginning at 4 p.m. each day. Closed Sundays. (517) 371-4000. troppo.org, FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$\$.

CASUAL FARE

ALTU'S ETHIOPIAN CUISINE — Featuring many vegetarian options. 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Tuesday–

Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday. (517) 333-6295. eatataltus.com, OM, TO, P, \$.

BAGGER DAVE'S — Burger tavern. 1351 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday–Saturday. (517) 492-5052. FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$

BEGGAR'S BANQUET — American cuisine. 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 11 a.m.–11:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 11 a.m.–midnight Friday; 10 a.m.–midnight Saturday; 10 a.m.–10:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 351-4540. beggarsbanquet.com, FB, WB, \$\$.

BIG JOHN STEAK & ONION — Sub sandwiches. 748 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday. (517) 203-0761. bigjohnsteakandonion.net, TO, \$–\$.

BLUE GILL GRILL — Seafood and traditional bar food. 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Monday–Saturday; 12 p.m.–2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 339-4900. bluegillgrill.com, FB, TO, OM, RES (eight or more), WiFi, \$\$

CENTER STAGE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE — Burgers, pizza and steaks. 1785 W. State Road, Lansing. Noon – 8 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Tuesday – Wednesday; 11 a.m. – midnight Thursday; 11 a.m. – 2 a.m. Friday – Saturday. (517) 482-2280. centerstagelansing.com, FB, \$

CLARA'S LANSING STATION — American comfort food; Sunday brunch. 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday and

Saturday; 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday for brunch. (517) 372-7120. claras.com, OM, TO, FB, WiFi, P, RES, \$\$–\$\$\$.

CLADDAGH IRISH PUB — 2900 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing Charter Twp. 11 a.m.–midnight Sunday–Thursday; 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Friday–Saturday. (517) 484-2523. claddaghpubs.com, FB, WB, OM, TO, \$\$–\$\$\$.

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CONRAD'S COLLEGE TOWN GRILL — Breakfast, lunch and dinner. 101 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.–3 a.m. Sunday–Wednesday, 11 a.m.–4 a.m. Thursday–Saturday. (517) 337-2723. conradsg Grill.com, D, OM, \$.

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DAGWOOD'S TAVERN AND GRILL — Bar food and burgers. 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing Charter Twp. 11 a.m.–1 a.m. Monday–Saturday; 11 a.m.–midnight Sunday. (517) 374-0390. dagwoodstavern.com, FB, TO, \$.

DIMITRI'S — Breakfast, Coney dogs and sandwiches. 6334 W. Saginaw, Lansing. 7 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Monday–

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EAGLEMONK PUB AND BREWERY — In-house made specialty pizzas, beer, wine and soda. 4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing. 3 p.m.–10 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday; noon–11 p.m. Friday – Saturday; noon–8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 708-7350. WB WiFi, \$\$

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