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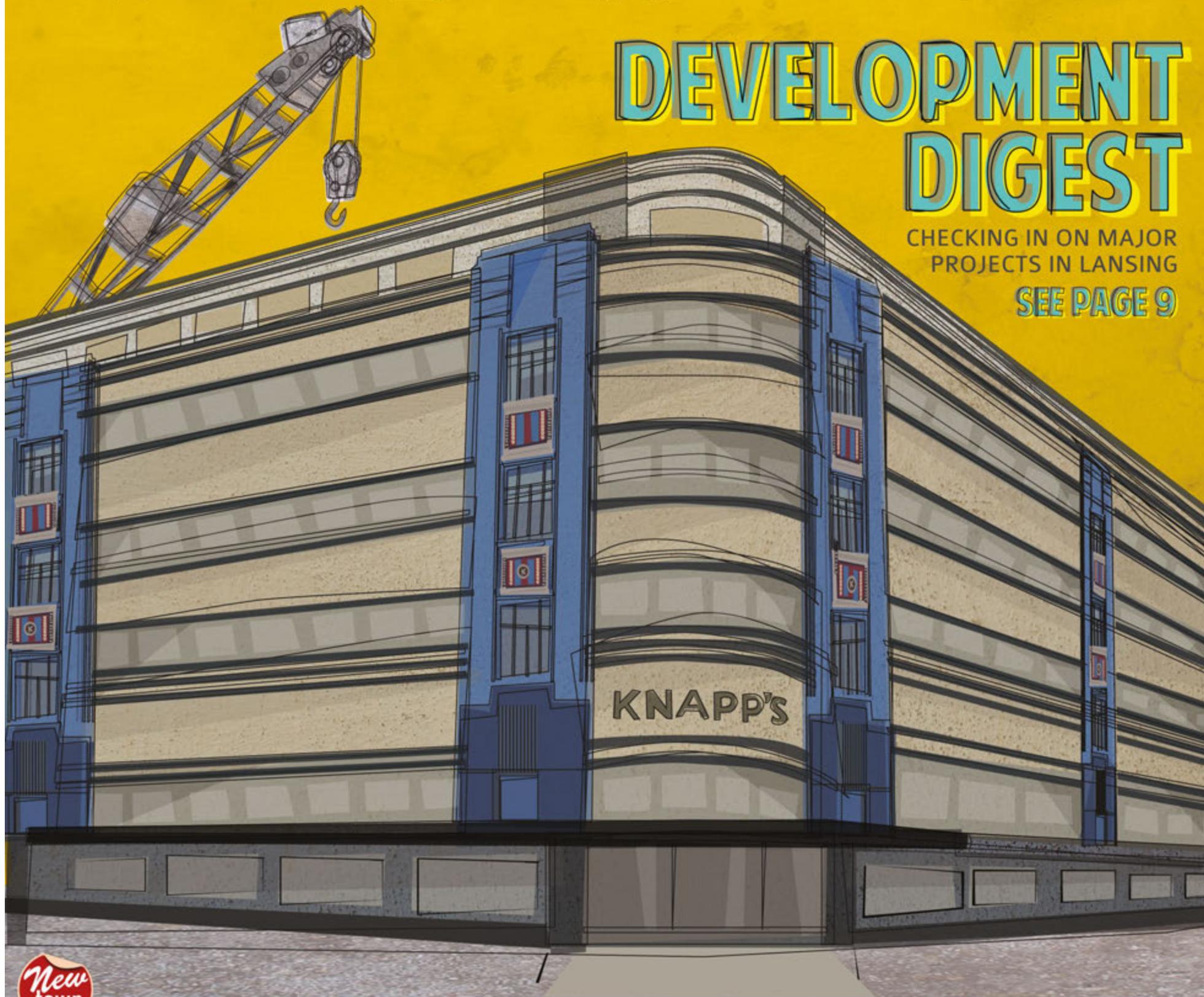
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September 19-25, 2012

DEVELOPMENT DIGEST

CHECKING IN ON MAJOR
PROJECTS IN LANSING

SEE PAGE 9



Capital City Homebrew Supply opens on the eastside — Plush Consignment in Williamston focuses on clothing for plus-sized women, see page 28

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets from the Ingham County Animal Shelter call (517) 676-8370. 600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854. ac.ingham.org



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Feedback

Hall's no tea partier

I thought the City Pulse prided itself on its open mindedness. I was therefore disappointed to see the paper so quick to label Republican nominee for Supervisor Jeff Hall as a member of the Tea Party because he feels it's important to go door to door and favors responsible budgeting that avoids the next tax increase ("Delhi blame game," 8/29/12). After all, there's a lot of room to the right of the Democrat endorsing former Supervisor Stuart Goodrich. 72% of the GOP primary voters selected Hall over Goodrich because they want a Supervisor who listens to them, not because they are tea partiers. Democracy thrives in disagreement; Lincoln had his

team of rivals, not his team of comfortable friends. Contrary to the Democratic candidate, I believe families and businesses will choose Delhi because of Hall's argument that we should build the best Delhi we can with what we have.

— Derek Bajema
Delhi Township Trustee

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

Write a letter to the editor.

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

(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.)

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Walnut Neighborhood residents display their frustration



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BluesFest rolls through Old Town this weekend, highlighting a unique Lansing sound



PAGE 26

Corned Beef Quest: Food Fight team takes on deli favorite



COVER ART

DEVELOPMENT by RACHEL HARPER

What's with people named Gary Glenn?

Gary Glenn the Lansing sign painter is sounding like Gary Glenn the well-known homophobe who runs the American Family Association-Michigan.

Here's what Gary Glenn the sign painter posted on City Pulse's Facebook page on Thursday:

"Do you realize 5 years ago when I painted 'Welcome to Old Town' wall mural, City Pulse OFFICES were right across the street and NEVER have pictured my mural in that rag paper????!!!! NEVER, not once!! WHY? because I would not take out a display ad in a GAY newspaper....I don't condone the gay crowd, hell, half the artists are gay....I just don't need that label on Artrageous Studios... tell me I'm wrong on this issue, City Pulse."

Glenn is referring to the Old Town mural on a wall overlooking Cesar Chavez Plaza (aka Lot 56), where many festivals occur — including the annual statewide Gay Pride celebration. And ironically on the side of a building owned by gay businessman Tom Donnell.

Glenn popped off on Facebook in response to our coverage of the young man accused of defacing the Capitol and the war memorial.

About that young man, Glenn wrote on

his own page: "maybe the county jail guys will shave that stupid friggin' gay hairdo off.....we can only hope."

I admired Glenn's mural — until now, when I saw his posting and discovered he's a bigot. A bigot whose mural is on full display in a place where all of Lansing in its full diversity comes together for Sun and Moon festivals, JazzFest, BluesFest, Cesar Chavez Festival and others.

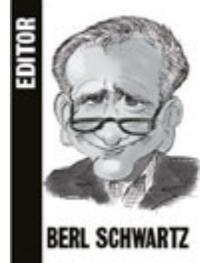
It's one thing to get an occasional piece of hate mail, like the one that showed up a few days ago with the City Pulse banner on our cover torn off and the words written on it: "rest of us (rest uv us) uberchic elitists from the GLBT and medical marijuana communities," referring to our motto "a newspaper for the rest of us." The latest "Savage Love" column was ripped up and stuffed into the envelope as well.

It's another thing to have to look at a hater's art in a public place. Should we have to?

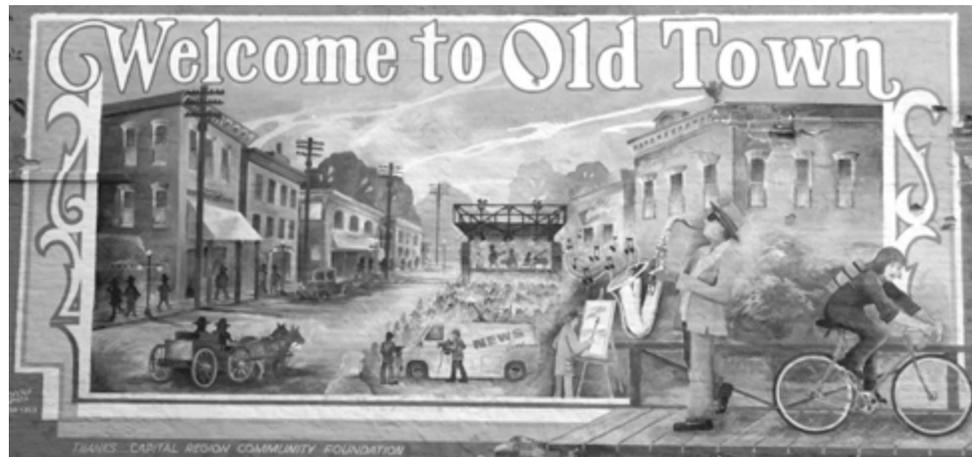
The mural, which is signed by Glenn, says under it, "Thanks ... Capital Region Community Foundation."

I'm confident the foundation had no idea of Glenn's views. Perhaps the foundation and the Old Town Commercial Association would reconsider whether the location of the mural is appropriate, given the views of the artist.

Oh, and Mr. Glenn: Congratulations: Your mural finally made City Pulse.



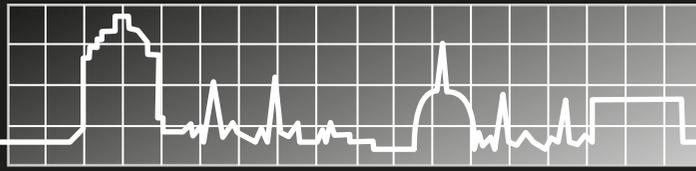
EDITOR
BERL SCHWARTZ



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Lansing Township Planning Director Steve Hayward
7 p.m. Wednesdays
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THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW

PULSE



news & opinion

The Geoph Espen Files

A deeper look at the man who tagged the Capitol

A young artist defaces the Capitol and a state war memorial in retaliation after authorities prevent him from illegally holding an art show in an abandoned building. He gets caught and faces up to five years in jail. He says he will plead guilty. If you think this young man has already received enough publicity, then read no further. If, however, you are curious who this Lansing native is and how he came to commit a crime that received attention across the state, then read on.

Identity: formed and renamed

The 20-year-old's real name is Jeffrey Scott Handley Jr., but he identifies himself by a pseudonym: Geoph Aldora Espen.

"When I was 15 I started flirting with the idea to change my name," he said. "In a lot of ways it was a chance to have my own identity — one separate from (his father, Jeffrey Scott Handley). Also just the merit of a name being too important to just casually let your parents choose for you."

After researching different names, Handley said he liked the way the new name rolled off his tongue and found it "quite befitting" of his character.

According to Handley, he found — online — "Geoff" to mean "God's peace," "Aldora" to mean "winged gift" and "Espen" means "bear of God" or achieving something "larger than life."

Handley was born in Lansing on Dec. 30, 1991, and attended the Lansing School District until he was in seventh grade. His parents divorced when he was in middle school. He moved and went to school in Eaton Rapids, where his mother lives, until 10th grade and moved back to Lansing to finish high school at Eastern.

Jeff's mother, Heather Handley, spoke of the "ups and downs" of her son's childhood — particularly the relationship with his father, which may suggest Handley's search for a separate identity. Some have made claims on the Internet that son Handley has been charged with domestic violence, but he has no prior criminal history. However, his father's criminal record turns up one domestic violence conviction in 2001. Handley said he no longer speaks to his father.

"They don't tend to see eye to eye — he's not a creative person in the way Jeff

is. Even I don't understand him a lot of times," she said. "But I can love him even though I don't understand him."

Growing up alongside Handley was his uncle on his mother's side, 26-year-old Dave Strickland. Strickland said through middle school, Handley was a talented wrestler and has always been "very physically gifted." Handley says he enjoys long distance running and maintains extreme discipline with his physical fitness.

After high school he did what may not be expected — but perhaps true to Handley's form — of a young artist: he joined the Marines.

"I wasn't really sure what I was going to do after high school, so I just enlisted. They didn't quite live up to the commercials, though," he said. "I got out shortly after I graduated boot camp" on an administrative discharge.

Strickland said Handley couldn't take the rank-in-file culture of the Marine Corps. He believes Handley felt like the Marines "stripped him of his individuality," which made him feel more like "property" than a person.

Turning away from the machine-like culture of the Marine Corps, Handley pursued his true passion: art. He enrolled at the Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids but dropped out about a month later. He moved back to Lansing to be a bassist in the punk band Charlatan, but was kicked out over "creative differences."

Since returning to Lansing he has worked three jobs: one in retail, one at an art supply store and one as a shot boy at Spiral (which he wrote about for City Pulse). He didn't hold any of those jobs for very long; he was fired from the latter two.

In what could be called a fun attempt at showbiz, Handley and two friends concocted a "fake gay love triangle" and pitched the scenario in December to "The Jerry Springer Show." It wasn't long after that when Handley and his friends traveled to Connecticut to appear on the show that same month. (The segment is on YouTube.) Handley identifies as bisexual.

"I'm biologically driven towards women, but I have such a love for mankind in general that I certainly love the male figure," he said.

For the past year, Handley has been living off the profits of his art. He does commissioned work and sells pieces from several exhibitions he has around town. His paintings are on display in State of the Art Tattoos, Ruby's Paradise Salon and Mac's Bar.

Impulses

Handley has been obsessed with



Sam Ingot/City Pulse

Jeff Handley on a public sidewalk in front of the Capitol building that he admitted to tagging with graffiti. As part of his bond conditions, he is not allowed on the Capitol grounds.

art "ever since he could hold a pencil," Strickland, his uncle, said.

"When I paint, it's a series of impulses. I've developed a lot of self-trust where I have the freedom to act on those impulses," Handley said. "Having the strength to act, and act confidently, and act passionately and act sometimes sporadically and impulsively is relatively necessary to being able to consistently put out great work."

Those "impulses" have landed Handley in serious legal trouble. He's been charged with a felony and two misdemeanors for his suspected spray painted graffiti of stick figures on two pillars on the Capitol building and for a phrase which was emblazoned on a nearby war memorial that read: "give art a chance." Handley said he committed the crime and plans on pleading guilty to the charges.

The felony can carry a sentence of up to five years in jail. His court-appointed attorney, Denise Hairston, said he waived the right to a preliminary trial and the case will go to circuit court. A court date has yet to be set, she said.

Strickland believes Handley did it to vent his frustration after authorities blocked an art exhibition that Handley planned to hold illegally in an abandoned building on the old School for the Blind campus. Handley said some "resentment" over the event played a part in his actions,

Eyesore of the week



Property: 722 N. Chestnut St., Lansing

Owner: Ingham County Land Bank

Assessed value: \$0

Owner says: Future is uncertain

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: One glance at 722 Chestnut and it's clear that one of its character-defining features is a large front gable dormer stationed prominently on the roof. Gables are clever architectural features that increase light and useable space to an attic or loft area. Sure, houses look good without a dormer — but it gives the building height, mass and an eye-catching feature that breaks up an expanse of dark shingles. Simple fact: Dormers make houses look more impressive.

X normally marks the spot for buried treasure, but in this case X marks the spot where no one wants to live. To use the words "big" and "red" when describing this house is an insult to the chewing gum. Red vertical paneling covers the first story, along with plenty of sealed up windows, while the second floor is encased in wooden shingles that look like big wood chips. The house sits amid a sea of shin-high grass and plants, some of which almost reach up to the roof.

Eric Schertzing, chairman of the Ingham County Land Bank, says this house was foreclosed on for taxes last year and didn't sell at auction. For now, "That property is at a standstill," he said.

— Sam Ingot

"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.

Espen

from page 5

suggesting his impulsivity may have taken care of the rest. Handley said he has more underground art events planned and wants to one day make a living off them.

And there was a social message behind his poorly drawn graffiti. Handley said the stick figures — one male and one female — represented “gender equality” in a time when heated public discourse on the subject finds itself in the middle of election season.

“I think my mind was more on the realm of the most absolute public place possible,” he said. “Those pillars were definitely enticing.”

He didn’t even realize his other target was a war memorial, he said he just saw a “big empty space.”

Facing reality

Handley and his friends and family realize the serious repercussions he faces because of the Capitol graffiti.

“It’s a game-changer as far as life goes,” Handley said.

Micole Dibble, 19, has been friends with Handley since high school. She said Handley “doesn’t follow society in a regular way” and “doesn’t take life as seriously” as other people living in the mainstream. But she says that he’s harmless and doesn’t deserve to be locked-up for a non-violent crime.

“It would be ridiculous for him to go to prison,” she said. “Prison is no place for a crazy artist.”

Handley has no prior criminal record. Handley said he was “shocked” at the amount of attention his actions received across the state — from TV stations in Detroit to Grand Rapids — and thinks the act was blown somewhat out of propor-

tion.

“Nobody was injured or hurt, nobody’s life is drastically changed,” he said. “Well, except mine.”

Handley said he doesn’t regret the messages behind the graffiti, but admitted it was a mistake. The night his apartment was searched by the police, Handley wrote four goodbye notes to his mom, uncle, a girl he’s been seeing and his roommate, which are still nailed to his kitchen wall. He was ready to skip town on a bus to Las Vegas, but turned back to face his reality.

“Since it isn’t my property I was very much in the wrong,” he said. “I’m confident in my decision to stick it out and take responsibility for my actions. I intend to make the most of it, whatever goes down.”

— Sam Inglot



Advocates rally against medical marijuana changes



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

Medical marijuana advocates are tired of the Republican-led Legislature and Attorney General Bill Schuette chipping away at the 2008 voter-initiated law. Today they’re planning on letting them know.

At least 1,000 are expected to gather at the Capitol at noon to protest the source of their latest outrage — a four-bill package supporters say adds structure to Michigan’s medical marijuana law, but opponents like Joe Cain of the National Medical Marijuana Coalition see as the legalized singling out of patients.

The Senate was slated to take up the bills last week. Cain said he suspects political pressures are keeping the package bottled up until after the General Election in the hopes the bills’ passage doesn’t inflame the electorate to lash out against Republicans.

Cain said he hopes they stay corked.

“The medical marijuana law has never really been implemented,” Cain said. “We’ve had people harassed, arrested, injured in some cases. Military tactics have been used against us.”

The bills’ primary purpose is to mandate that medical marijuana recommendations come from a physician with an existing relationship with the patient. Right now, any physician can sign the state form patients need to get medical marijuana cards. Bill opponents see this as a lawsuit waiting to happen. How many visits define a relationship? Two? Three? Four?

Cain said he fears it will push patients underground since traditional family physicians are reluctant to put their name to a medical marijuana script.

There are also concerns that doctors will be put in a box because doctors aren’t legally allowed to recommend treatment with a Schedule 1 drug.

“We have no choice but to stand up to these changes because our community is at risk,” wrote one advocate from the Michigan Medical Marijuana Association. “Join us my friends and stand up to tyranny.”

Matt Abel of NORML said the legislation slaps medical marijuana patients with strict, unique regulations. Medical marijuana would need to be stored in the trunk of a car. Law enforcement could look up a person’s medical information to double-check the marijuana was legitimately prescribed.

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Melinn

from page 6

If put into law, these regulations would conflict with federal HIPAA regulations designed to protect patient privacy, Abel said.

“This would be the most aggressive access to the registry,” he said.

And then there are the offending changes Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rick Jones made last month. Originally, only violent felons were banned from being caregivers under the bills that passed the House overwhelmingly in May. Jones roped in all felons as being banned.

Jones also expanded the universe of law enforcement personnel who could check a person’s medical records to park rangers.

Jones said advocates should appreciate the legislation because it adds legitimacy to the medical marijuana law. It weeds out the 19-year-old man who told him he needed medical marijuana because of the kink he got on his neck sometimes when he slept funny on it, while still allowing access to vulnerable, sick patients.

It smokes out the bad actors by banning those with a felony record away from those who could be further abused, Jones added.

The bills also protect the general public by keeping medical marijuana only in the hands of those who need it as opposed to it becoming some pseudo-legal drug legitimized by quack doctors.

“It’s important for the police to know who can legally have medical marijuana,” Jones said. “It protects patients because under these circumstances they have to be treated slightly differently.”

Abel said he wouldn’t feel so skeptical if he didn’t know Jones’ past as an ardent opponent to the medical marijuana law with designs to dismantle it.

Jones, the former Eaton County sheriff, went on record weeks ago with his belief that voters should be given another crack at the medical marijuana law, that the law has generated so many unintended consequences that the voters would repeal it if given another chance.

So far, Jones has generated some interest with Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville. But the head of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, isn’t on board.

Yet, medical marijuana advocates haven’t liked what they’ve seen from state government, in general. Schuette, who ran the “No” campaign four years ago, is pushing for stricter laws.

Court rulings have cracked down on dispensaries — those still open appear to be operating at the mercy of sympathetic local authorities — added strict new rules on growers and held up convictions of legitimate caregivers.

The latest test for the Supreme Court

will be whether cooperative growing — plants being grown by several caregivers — is OK.

Abel is convinced the mood of the electorate is running counter to the actions of these alleged get-tough-crime polls.

If legalizing was on the ballot opposite a repeal of the medical marijuana law, Abel said it wouldn’t be close.

“We’d win,” he said.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)



Eviction diversion

Pilot program aims to keep tenants in their homes

A new program starting today in the 55th District Court is an attempt by social service organizations and the court system to curb evictions by settling disputes between landlords and tenants outside of the courtroom.

Last year approximately 9,000 Ingham County residents received summons for eviction due to non-payment of rent, said SuAlyn Holbrook, director of the Ingham County Department of Human Services.

“I do believe if we don’t intervene we’re going to be past that 9,000 mark,” she said.

Roughly 2,200 eviction cases passed through the 55th District Court in Mason last year, she said. Unemployment, high utility bills and medical bills are common reasons people can’t afford to pay rent. The eviction diversion program is designed for people who can’t afford rent — not deadbeat tenants who choose not to pay it.

“It’s for those who have run into some kind of hardship but have been good tenants,” Holbrook said. “They’ve hit a bump in the road and now they just need some assistance to get back on board.”

The pilot program will be a collaborative effort between the court system and various social service groups and will have two aspects. The first part is addressing the eviction notice and getting the rent paid, she said. When tenants are summoned to court for eviction or payment of rent, the program coordinators can head off tenants before they even enter the courtroom. She said the tenants will then be able to work with DHS or other community groups like Volunteers of America to see if there is funding assistance available for them. The goal is to pay their landlord without having a court judgment made against them.

“Depending on what they need and what they’re eligible for, the social service agency will attempt to help them get funding,” she said.

Financial education will be the other component of the program. By teaching people about financial issues like credit scores and responsible saving, the hope is that they don’t end up back in court later down the road under similar circumstances.

Holbrook said the pilot program is based on a system that started in Kalamazoo several years ago. Dave Ackerly, director of public relations for the Michigan Department of Human Services, said the court — along with Volunteers of America, Capital Area Community Services, Capital Area United Way, 2-1-1 and the Michigan State University Mobile Law Clinic — will be part of the program. The state is helping to spread information about the eviction diversion program, which is designed to make the legal realm less intimidating.

“We’re doing more to bring more

defendants into court so people have a better chance to get help,” said 55th District Court Chief Judge Thomas Boyd, who helped get the program going. “A lot of times tenants simply don’t come to court. We want to create a culture where court is a place you can get help. It’s an entirely new way of looking at courts. It’s a paradigm shift in terms of what it means to go to court.”

Boyd said the program is only the second of its kind in the state. The plan is to pilot it in the 55th District Court and eventually roll it out in the 54A and 54B district courts in Lansing and East Lansing, respectively.

Ackerly said the program won’t require any additional funding.

“This is not an expansion of resources — we’re doing this with existing resources in a different way,” he said.

The cost of eviction is greater than some may realize, Holbrook said.

“Our (homeless) shelters are full,” she said. “We’re second to Wayne County in

See Eviction, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

SLU-6-2012, 3124 S. ML King Blvd.
Special Land Use Permit – Church

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 1, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-6-2012. This is a request by Allyssa Narvaez, City of Refuge Ministries, for a special land use permit to utilize the building at 3124 S. ML King for a church. Churches are permitted in the “H” Light Industrial district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, October 1, 2012, at the City Council Offices, Tenth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK



PUBLIC NOTICE OF BRUSH CONTROL HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS

The Board of Water & Light hereby provides notice to the public of Brush Control Applications, as required by Rule 11(5)(d) of Regulation 637 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 451 of 1994, Pesticide Control. Brush Control Applications will be on some electric transmission and distribution right-of-ways. Applications will be made between the dates of September 19, 2012 and April 30, 2013. The products to be used for the foliar applications will be “Arsenal” (imazapyr) and “Krenite” (fosamine). The products to be used for the basal bark applications will be “Garlon 4” (triclopyr) and “Stalker” (imazapyr). For Further information please contact:

Peter Baker, Utility Forestry Supervisor
Electric Transmission and Distribution Department
1140 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 702-6552

This notice is published in conformance with Regulation No. 637 of the Michigan Administrative Code, PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

M. Denise Griffin
Corporate Secretary
(517) 702-6033

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for the **Lead Based Paint Hazard Risk Assessment and Clearance Services**. The Proposal Packet can be obtained at the Ingham County Land Bank office located at 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at our website: www.inghamlandbank.org. Proposals will be due at the Land Bank offices before 4:00 pm on September 26, 2012. Proposals will be opened September 26, 2012 at 4:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

Eviction

from page 7

terms of paying out for shelters.”

Not only does homelessness due to eviction cost the county money, it means the landlords don't get paid either. Boyd said the program would create a “win-

win” on both fronts. He said landlords have been involved with the program development, and he hopes after the program gets some legs, landlords can provide information about the service to struggling tenants.

As for the number of people the program will help in its debut week, Boyd and Holbrook are uncertain. But they were

both looking forward to the launch.

“I think it's very promising,” Boyd said. “There will be some bumps along the road because it's different, but I think we're going to iron those out and it will be for the benefit of the entire community.”

— Sam Inglot

Signs go up

Walnut Neighborhood residents, fed up with another Niowave no-show, display their frustration

Three or four weeks ago, Walnut Neighborhood resident Dale Schrader had 100 lawn signs made urging neighborhood company Niowave to “fix the facade!” of its new 14,000-square-foot pole barn in the residential neighborhood west of Old Town.

When Mayor Virg Bernero learned about the signs, he thanked the neighborhood for not installing them while the city, Niowave and neighbors could agree to maintain a dialog among each other. Up until Wednesday, the signs sat in Schrader's garage.

By 10 Thursday morning, nearly a dozen signs lined neighbors' properties. By Monday night, the number was closer to 30. The move is in response to the company's postponing a neighborhood meeting that was scheduled for Sept. 13. Bernero announced the postponement at a City Council meeting last week; other neighbors found out from the city's Planning and Neighborhood Development Office.

It's the latest chapter in the Walnut Neighborhood's ongoing frustration with the company.

“It's very frustrating,” Schrader said last week. “I feel bad about doing this, but it seems like we still somehow have not got their attention — which is pretty astounding, really.”

Schrader said the neighbors reached a consensus about bringing out the signs.

At Monday's Lansing City Council meeting, Niowave President Terry Grimm and chief operating officer Jerry Hollister addressed the controversy surrounding the company's unsightly structure.

“We decided to fast track this project to keep up in the growth of contracts,” Grimm said during the meeting. “We understand the con-



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Walnut Neighborhood residents began displaying their frustration with Niowave last week after what they perceive to be the company's not taking their concerns about a nearby pole barn seriously.

struction has been creating concerns. We apologize for not involving” neighbors.

Hollister then proposed creating a “site improvement working group” composed of neighbors, Council members, Bernero administration representatives and Niowave officials.

When asked about his reaction to the signs after the meeting, Grimm responded plainly: “Free speech.”

Hollister said he's been scheduling meetings with Council members to discuss the issue and wants to move forward with the working group “as soon as possible,” without specifying a timeline. “We know we moved quickly initially,” he said of the pole barn's construction. “We want to move quickly now to come to a resolution.”

Most recently, residents have been upset at what they perceive as a lack of involvement by the company itself. In July, company representatives didn't appear at a neighborhood meeting on the issue. At an Aug. 22 meeting that included Bernero and members of his cabinet, three City Council members and about 25 neighbors, Niowave sent its landscape architect on retainer, Bob Ford, to discuss the problem — even though it was one of Ford's first encounters with

the controversy. (He said he was “naive” about the situation and was on a fact-finding mission to report back to the company.)

“I feel bad this had to happen. The agreement was with Mr. Bernero that we would hold off and see what happens. This has just been long enough,” Schrader said.

Bernero acknowledged the signs at the Aug. 22 meeting and thanked the group for not displaying them. He has said that last week's meeting came “at a time when Niowave is involved in a couple of projects” and that staff was too busy to attend.

“Mayor Bernero remains hopeful that Niowave and their neighbors will continue to work toward a ‘win-win’ solution,” Chief of Staff Randy Hannan said in an email last week.

A ceremony in early July celebrated Niowave's \$10 million expansion at its headquarters at the intersection of Walnut and Kilborn streets. The company, which specializes in manufacturing particle accelerators, renovated the vacant Walnut School in 2006 for its headquarters. A personal property tax abatement, worth more than \$200,000, is on hold with the City Council as the pole barn controversy is resolved.

— Andy Balaskovitz

Are you better off?

Hoping to inherit political capital enjoyed in the '80s by their sacred leader, Ronald Reagan, Republicans are once again using this question as a way to gain an advantage on President Obama this election.

Maybe it's a fair question. Maybe it's pointless — after all, economies don't radically shift every four years.

Leading up to the Nov. 6 election, City Pulse will take to the streets to ask residents from all walks of life this inherently loaded — or plainly simple — question: “Are you better off than you were four years ago?”

— Compiled by City Pulse intern Randiah Green. Edited by Andy Balaskovitz



Everett Root

Residence: Haslett

Age: 51

Occupation: State employee

“From an economic standpoint for me and my family, things are fine. Things haven't necessarily gotten better but we've held our own. I have worked four years without a raise now. It's harder on my son because he's gradu-

ated and now he has to pay off his student loans. My wife is thinking about finding a different job and we anticipate that to be hard. In that regard, we are not sure what the next year will look like. It does seem tougher to make ends meet or to find extra money to do something with, or to save to help our son pay off his student loans, for example. I've watched a lot of family members leave the state — nieces and nephews from 20 to 30 years old — because they are underemployed for their qualifications.”



Matthew Samuels

Residence: Lansing

Age: 28

Occupation: Student

“It was tough finding a job out of undergrad and when I finally did find a job, it still wasn't anywhere where I thought I should be. That led me to go back to law school. It was a negative impact that had a positive result. I think

it's gotten worse trying to find a job after being an undergraduate. I will say that when I was in school, the student loans were tough. The whole student deferment where you could consolidate all of your student loans into one and then defer them if you were unemployed was a major thing for me when I finished my undergraduate degree.”



Katherine Hunt

Residence: Lansing

Age: 23

Occupation: Student

“The insurance policies where people are able to stay on their parents' plans a little longer has been helpful. My best friend recently had knee surgery and was able to be covered by her parents' plan. She is 24, and she

has had medical problems all of her life and probably will continue to. So this will probably be helpful to her even in the future, because I'm sure she is going to need it.”

DEVELOPMENT DIGEST

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? THE GREATER LANSING AREA'S MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND WHERE THEY STAND, REVISITED.

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

Of seven major development projects waiting to rise in Lansing in 2009, four — Capitol Club Tower, City Center Studios, Lansing Gateway and SOBI Square — never got off the ground.

The other three — Pat Gillespie's Market Place and Ball Park North projects and the Lawton Group's The Lenawee (now called Reutter Park Place) — are still waiting to be built.

Where do those three, and five more that have come along since then — with a total investment potential of \$200 million — stand in what remains a rock economy?

How many, if any, will meet the fate of the City Center II project at the prominent Abbot Road/Grand River Avenue intersection in East Lansing projected at \$105 million, languished in late June after the investment became too risky for East Lansing taxpayers? Earlier this month, city officials solicited public input on how to move forward on the renamed Park District Planning Area, cutting all ties (at least in name) with City Center II.

These eight projects are at various stages in the road to completion. You'll see some familiar names (Gillespie, Ferguson, Eyde) and some lesser-known

ones (Weaver, Elliot). The list of major projects is not complete in light of major uncertainties: There's still the prospect of developing up to 120 acres of the former Waverly Golf Course in Lansing Township, for which no plan has surfaced. Then there's the vacant entryway into REO Town where the Deluxe Inn once stood: Two years ago, local developers unveiled a \$30 million vision for the property that's owned by the Ingham County Land Bank. Most recently, it's been the site of various art events. "Those conversations are not completely inactive, but nothing very active" is happening, Land Bank Chairman Eric Schertzing said of the

initial plans. In Lansing Township, the government is partway through a public/private development at Eastwood Towne Center; in REO Town, the Lansing Board of Water & Light is well along on its \$182 million cogeneration power plant, with an expected completion in July. And, of course, the legal battle of whether the city of Lansing can partner with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to build a downtown casino is just getting started — and will likely take several years.

Meanwhile, here are the major projects that are either just getting underway or have been promised for years.



REUTTER PARK PLACE

(formerly known as **The Lenawee**)

Location: 301 W. Lenawee St., downtown Lansing

Price tag: \$28.7 million

Developer: The Lawton Group

Status: Brownfield plan subject to City Council approval

After this project was unable to secure financing a few years ago with unanimous Lansing City Council support, a revised plan that involves the city's buying an adjacent parking lot is now being pitched to more skeptical Council members.

Developer Dan Essa of the East Lansing-based Lawton Group says the project couldn't happen without the city's Brownfield Authority purchasing a public parking ramp that would be attached to mixed-use apartments and retail spaces.

The project calls for replacing the old YMCA building here — which was built in 1951 — with a new four-story, 144,000-square-foot, mixed-use apartment and commercial building. That was the case last year when the Council approved a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for a project featuring 228 apartments and 228 parking spaces. A revised brownfield plan before the Council calls for six more apartments and 22 more parking spaces. But the big difference this time around is that the Bernero administration supports buying the adjacent parking ramp, through the city's brownfield authority, for \$4.2

million from the developer once the project is constructed. The plan is to do so by issuing bonds that would have to be repaid within 18 years.

For the developer, the parking structure is "really the portion that drags it down from a financing standpoint," Karl Dorshimer of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership said at a Council committee meeting last week. "It's very expensive to build and doesn't generate enough revenue."

The city's brownfield authority would own and operate the structure that would be open to the public.

However, the property is not located within the city's Tax Increment Finance Authority district, meaning new revenue from the project would not go directly into the city's precarious TIFA fund, which may need a \$1.6 million influx from the General Fund by fiscal year 2014. Whether the project would indirectly benefit the TIFA district by increased economic activity with new people living downtown was the subject of recent debate between Dorshimer and Council President Brian Jeffries.

The Council's Development and Planning Committee plans to meet again on Sept. 26 to discuss the project.



OTTAWA/BUTLER

Location: Downtown Lansing

Price tag: \$7 million

Developer: Scott Gillespie

Status: Waiting for a Council committee hearing

While Reutter Park Place is at least having its day

in a Council committee, the same can't be said for Scott Gillespie's plans for an apartment complex on the mostly green space near the Capitol Building and Hall of Justice. Gillespie may give up on it.

Developers — including Scott Gillespie's brother, Pat — have for years tried to develop the area commonly known as Ottawa/Butler, which consists of 5.3 acres bounded by Butler Boulevard and Ottawa, Sycamore and Ionia streets.

Reacting to neighbors, Gillespie scaled back his original \$7 million plan for mixed use retail and housing to include just rental apartments. He has an option to buy the property — which he said is going to expire soon — but that depends on the City Council's approving an amended brownfield redevelopment plan for the site.

Problem is, Gillespie can't understand why — after making his plans public about six months ago — the Council's Development and Planning Committee won't discuss the project. That committee's chairman, Councilman Derrick Quinney, said repeatedly Monday night that the committee is "working on it." Some had speculated back in June that the project was being held up over concerns that Gillespie would not hire local, organized labor on the job. Quinney (who chairs the committee overseeing development projects coming through the city) is employed full time as health and safety director of the state AFL-CIO, but has denied the rumor, saying the committee was "backlogged."

Gillespie said the time is approaching when he needs to make a "decision on whether or not I can proceed with the development." Also, he said, a Michigan Business Tax incentive approved for the property stipulates that the project must be done by 2013 in order to qualify for it. "It's getting to a point where I'm not sure if the project is going to be complete in that time frame."

Gillespie said he stands to "lose a substantial amount of money in investments I already put in if I let the option expire," as well as time spent planning with neighbors. He declined to say how much money he has spent on the project so far.

And the latest Ottawa/Butler saga doesn't end there. Gillespie and Council President Brian

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Jeffries, who also sits on the Development and Planning Committee, have acknowledged rumors that a nearby resident, Chris McCarus, is leading an effort to buy the three houses owned by Lansing Community College at the corner of Saginaw Street and Capitol Avenue and move them to the Ottawa/Butler block in an effort to preserve the houses' historical integrity.

"I've had some conversations. I've heard about it," Gillespie said. "I have told certain people I would be interested and open in talking about it."

McCarus, who submitted the only proposal to LCC to relocate the houses, declined to comment on the rumor.

Bob Johnson, director of planning and neighborhood development with the city, said he had told McCarus, "My No. 1 priority is working with" Gillespie's proposal. "That's the project my boss and me support. If that were to change, there would be opportunities for others."

Jeffries, however, has other concerns about the project, which include issues raised by neighbors relating to density and increased traffic and whether the city needs another residential development. "I want to see a market study. I'm not sold on the idea that the capacity (need) is there."



KNAPP'S CENTER

Location: 300 S. Washington Square, downtown Lansing

Price tag: \$36 million

Developer: The Eyde Co.

Status: Opening expected fall 2013

One of the final ingredients in the Knapp's building's complicated financial incentive soup — a \$5.9 million federal loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development — is yet to be closed on, but "it's getting closer," said LEAP's Dorshimer. The loan to the city, which will be paid back by the developer with revenue from the building, is "very significant" to the project's completion, Dorshimer said — it's "going through the administrative approval" at this point.

But inside the building's architecturally historic exterior, the 190,000-square-foot former department store is coming back to life. Dorshimer said the tear-out of the inside is complete, which gives visitors a "really good feel for the space. It's pretty exciting." That's a sign of progress for the building that has faced setbacks when it came to obtaining financial incentives.

Dorshimer said construction is expected to end in fall 2013, but LEAP's business incubator focused on fashion design — called "The Runway" — could open within the building as soon as this winter or spring. The Eyde Co. is planning for retail and restaurant space on the ground floor, commercial space on the second, third and fourth floors and apartments on the fifth floor.

The building is still subject to certificate of occupancy approval by the city, and other smaller financial incentives are still being worked out, Dorshimer said, but once the HUD loan is wrapped up, "I think at that point everything will be set and locked in place."



MARKET PLACE

Location: North of the City Market

Price tag: \$23 million

Developer: Pat Gillespie

Status: Hopefully "moving dirt" in three to four months

Five years have passed since the city and developer Pat Gillespie announced a \$23 million development for the 3.64 acres immediately north of the City Market downtown. Early estimates had Gillespie starting construction on the mostly residential complex of three to four structures in fall 2009. The old City Market was torn down to make room for it and a new one built nearby from the sale proceeds of the city property. Then a start date, which the original development agreement said was supposed to be 15 months after the City Market opened, was pushed to earlier this year. On Monday, Gillespie said crews will start "moving dirt" in the next three to four months for constructing the first 72 housing units to go up closest to the City Market. He is still waiting on final approvals from the state Department of Environmental Quality. Gillespie said the "unknown is always a challenge" when trying to see these projects through, adding that there is "no guarantee" that the latest timelines will be met.

"You never know what's going to come up," he said.

Across Cedar Street, though, when or what will go up is far less certain. Originally, Gillespie's plan for Ball Park North (so-named for overlooking Cooley Law School Stadium) included mixed-use housing and retail. Now, the project waits on whether the city can partner with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to build a casino downtown. If the casino happens, which could take several years, Ball Park North would become a 2,000-plus space parking deck with mixed use spaces on the first floor, developed by investors in the casino. If the casino doesn't happen, Gillespie said he doesn't

plan to move forward with a parking ramp, but will re-examine his original plans.

Market Place, however, will get going regardless of the casino, but it could influence what goes into the other two or three buildings, Gillespie said.



CAPITAL GATEWAY

Location: Former Red Cedar Golf Course, nearby car dealerships

Price tag: Up to \$100 million

Developers: Joel Ferguson and Chris Jerome

Status: Pending voter approval

After a major redevelopment of a prominent East Lansing intersection fell through in June, the Capital Gateway project could take its place as the most transformative and expensive project in greater Lansing. Standing in its way is approval from city of Lansing voters to authorize selling off up to the remaining 48 acres of the former Red Cedar Golf Course (12.5 acres of which they approved in November). Voters will decide on Nov. 6 whether to permit selling more acreage.

The development team of Chris Jerome and Joel Ferguson has big plans for the golf course: student and professional housing, hotels, an amphitheater, restaurants and green space. The proposed project also includes building on two vacant car dealerships owned by the Jerome family.



PARK DISTRICT PLANNING AREA AND ST. ANNE LOFTS

Location: Downtown East Lansing

Price tag: Uncertain and "south of \$8 million"

Developers: Uncertain and Kris Elliot

Status: Soliciting ideas for an RFP and partly finished

In downtown East Lansing, it's back to the drawing board in one case and closely following a developer's

Developments

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moves in another.

In late June, the East Lansing City Council put an end to Strathmore Development Co.'s \$105 million plan for more than five acres of privately and city-controlled property immediately west of the Grand River Avenue and Abbot Road intersection because the project posed "unacceptable financial risks," according to the city's website. The plan called for a performing arts center, a 10-story mixed-use building with residential, office, retail and restaurant space, and a hotel. The Council's vote to end the project came 11 years after the city's Downtown Development Authority purchased property in the area, setting off the first stages of the project.

Earlier this month, the city solicited ideas for what else could potentially be located on the property near Valley Court Park. The city expects to issue a Request for Proposals for the publicly controlled land in October.

Meanwhile, less than a quarter-mile away, a controversial five-story luxury loft project is on its way to completion, despite multiple setbacks and a reportedly suspect relationship between the city and developer Kris Elliot. The St. Anne Lofts project, which East Lansing planning director Tim Dempsey said is "south of" a reportedly \$8 million investment, has so far included a fifth story built without a permit, a floor collapse mid-construction and a four-story cross built into the façade that city officials have acknowledged caused discomfort among residents but is nonetheless legal. City Attorney Tom Yeadon issued an opinion that said the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment was not violated because public funds were not used on the structure itself and that the city would be violating the First Amendment by "precluding such an architectural feature on this private property and/or requiring its removal."

The State Journal reported last week that a temporary occupancy certificate has been extended, as people are living in some of the 31 apartments already completed while construction is finished on the top and bottom floors. A permanent occupancy permit is still subject to city approval.

DOUGLAS J EXPANSION

Location: *Downtown Okemos*

Price tag: *Uncertain*

Developer: *Doug and Scott Weaver*

Status: *Waiting for township approval*

Will White, owner of the Traveler's Club International Restaurant & Tuba Museum, is putting up a fight to block a

development in downtown Okemos that would force him out of his long-time establishment. But he acknowledges that his efforts may not pan out in his favor.

Doug and Scott Weaver, president of Douglas J Aveda Institute headquartered in East Lansing, want to buy the bank-owned property where White's restaurant and music store sit near the Hamilton and Okemos roads intersection to construct two buildings for a salon and mixed-use apartments and retail. Douglas J's salon across the street from the planned expansion would serve as corporate offices.

The Meridian Township Board of Trustees was scheduled to vote on a pair of permits for the project at its meeting Tuesday night. White said he is due in court today to settle whether Comerica Bank can evict him from the properties, which he lost to foreclosure two years ago.

Both sides of the deal — White and Douglas J — have sought public support for their positions via petitions. White says the project would ruin the historical integrity of downtown Okemos, eliminating his longtime business presence there, a 142-year-old house and two 150-year-old trees. Scott Weaver said he and the company are as equally invested in the community and that it's impossible to expand the business at the current site.

White said the Traveler's Club "will probably have to close" if Douglas J's project becomes a reality, but that it might be easier to move his White Bros. Music store. "It's kind of a shock. Landmarks will be gone."

Weaver, who said he's "very sympathetic" to White's concerns and his

foreclosure process, counters: "After 40 years, moving out of the village of Okemos did not sit easy with us as a family. As an organization, we really wanted to develop there."



All Photos by City Pulse Staff

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Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

This is a good headline

Lansing's Eric Dennis invents the icon you can't refuse

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Last week, a lady in an ankle cast stopped me at the grocery store. "Why don't you write more about the good things people are doing?" Journalists are often asked this question.

Sorry I stepped on your wrist, lady. I was having a bad day.

Here's my real answer.

Perhaps you've noticed small, diamond-shaped, yellow signs reading "THIS IS A GOOD SIGN" sprouting up around town, at coffee shops and so on.

The sign is the brainchild of Eric Dennis, a Lansing man who — but I defer to WLNS-TV's Jane Aldrich, "Your News Leader," who, befitting her title, got to this story first.

"Since the beginning of time, people have been looking for signs," Aldrich said on "Tell Something Good," a series of spots designed to please people like the ankle-cast lady. "Signs that they were headed in the right direction, making the right choice, or even getting close to the promised land. Well, now, a mid-Michigan man ..."

Eric Dennis appeared on the screen, flashing a jumbo "Good Sign" at Lansing Community College and talking about a "movement."

"He decided it was time to stop focusing on all the fear, anger and division in the world," Aldrich explained.

I ached for more detail. Buddha sat under the Bo tree. Newton sat under the apple tree. Where did Dennis find enlightenment?

I visited with Dennis at his downtown Lansing apartment and asked him for some background.

"My name is Eric Dennis, and I'm the Good Sign Guy," he said, as if he were a prisoner of war.

He was reluctant to talk about himself. "This isn't about me," he said.

Fortunately, I didn't need to pull out Mr. 9mm to get him to open up a bit more. Dennis is from Connecticut. He moved to Michigan from Florida a year ago, via Atlanta. For a day job, he services photographic printers, but he spends much of his time running "Team Good Sign," about a dozen staffers and volunteers, from his loft

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

"Good Sign" creator Eric Dennis and friend Ally May Grabel cavort outside Dennis's downtown Lansing apartment near the Capitol.



near the northwest corner of the Capitol lawn. Sometimes he hops onto the roof and "Good Signs it up" for the benefit of passing motorists.

The idea for "Good Sign" came to him in February 2010, not under a Bo tree, but in a shopping mall parking lot in St. Augustine, Fla. He was sitting in his car with his brother, brainstorming about coming up with a sign. "It has to be a good sign," Eric said. Bing!

"It was an immediate lighting bolt moment, where you just know," he said.

What bad things in the world drove him to this?

"Things I could see that didn't seem quite right, whether you want to say, in society, or in general, with life. I noticed things, patterns, issues I thought should be addressed."

That's as specific as he would get. Specificity is kryptonite to the power of Good Sign.

"This is a completely universal icon as far as what it is," Dennis said. "It's created to be universal and totally impartial and it can speak to everyone. It kind of bypasses the intellect and speaks to the heart."

Dennis is a nice guy. I could let this whole thing go if he and Team Good Sign weren't so shameless about blowing big, wet bubbles of platitudes. On the WLNS spot, Good Sign team member Jessie

Magoon told Aldrich that Good Sign is "about accepting and loving people for who they are."

Dennis asked me not to talk to Magoon, as he was no longer with the Good Sign team.

There's no question Dennis is onto something. Shortly after thinking up the sign, Dennis wrote excitedly in his notebook of thoughts: "There is nothing negative you can say about this sign."

Even a fortune cookie or a smiley face gives you something to argue with. Hell, a peace sign can get you tire-ironed in Ypsilanti. Have a Nice Day? Look at this lip sore and tell me to have a nice day.

Good Sign asserts only itself. It is a perfect rhombus of solipsism, the sign you will find at the vanishing point of human discourse.

But it turns out that Good Sign is for something after all. It is for sale.

"The sign is fully trademark protected," Dennis said. The trademark certificate is framed on his wall.

"It's to keep that element of control and allow it to grow out into certain channels, like retail and design and that sort of thing," he explained.

"A Good Sign is a great promotional vehicle for YOUR brand," reads the "Promote your business" tab on the Good Sign website. "It helps to create a faster,

stronger more emotional bond with your customer. It will get your business TONS of positive attention; in person, on social media, traditional media etc ... " Et cetera.

A Good Sign line of apparel is in the works. When I visited Dennis, he had four silk-screened shirts displayed on the floor. For now, Dennis passes the little yellow signs to businesses and people for free, but who knows how far Good Sign will go?

"We're looking for more Team Good Sign members," Dennis said. "We offer them a way to help their fellow man out by carrying a Good Sign."

Good Sign has already gotten a thumbs-up from Arnold Schwarzenegger (true) and hundreds of cell phone photos on Facebook. When it really goes viral — influenza-in-1918 viral — who knows how much businesses will pay to use Good Sign fliers and promos?

"The best way I can describe it is that if you get on the back of a good sign, you're going to go far," Dennis said.

All right, so Dennis wants to spread hope and make a few bucks at the same time. Why not? He's Obama and Romney rolled into one. You get twice the America.

Last week, Dennis's team hired a licensing agent "to showcase our design world through retail channels like Target or a clothing manufacturer that sells Hot Tops."

Courting controversy

'Spring Awakening' delivers, despite some technical snafus

By PAUL WOZNIAK

What happens when teenagers start exploring their own sexuality? No, this isn't the lead to a Dan Savage column, just a timeless question posed by the musical "Spring Awakening," now playing at Riverwalk Theatre. Like their production of "Hairspray" two seasons ago, Riverwalk's production of "Spring Awakening" has the potential to be the best of community theater. Save for a few crucial, chronic technical issues, it still could be.

In 2006, "Spring Awakening" redefined what a pop musical looked and sounded

"Spring Awakening"

Riverwalk Theatre
Through Sept. 23
7 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 2
p.m. Sunday
228 Museum Drive,
Lansing
\$20 adults/\$18 seniors
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

like, similar to what "Rent" did for the art form in the '90s. Steven Sater's book and lyrics explore the issues of budding pubescent urges and inadequate sexual education in a late 1800s provincial German town. The plot and dialogue range from uncomfortably funny to blatantly political and melodramatic. But it's Duncan Sheik's indie-sounding musical hooks that truly set "Spring

Awakening" apart with an acoustic rock sheen.

Adam Woolsey heads a strong cast as Melchior Gabor, an intellectually defiant teenager whose distrust of the parentocracy makes him the ladies' choice. Woolsey owns his character in posture and voice, giving youthful gravitas to songs like "All That's Known." Brittany Nichols plays his naïve and emotionally wanting counterpart Wendla with the right balance of feistiness and fear.

Zachera Wollenberg shines in the supporting role of Ilse, particularly during "Don't Do Sadness/Blue Wind," her second act duet with Moritz (Nick Gnagi). And Elitza Nicolaou and Graham Lundeen tackle a myriad of authoritative characters, from sneering, conspiring teachers to barely empathetic parents. Nicolaou and Lundeen provide developed villains for the unknowing children to verbally rail against.

Virtually all of the 15 cast members shine as soloists, but their full ensemble blends are transcendent and magical. From the playful first act number "My Junk" to the semi-hopeful epilogue "The Song of Purple Summer," the actors nail every dissonant harmony, multiplying their sound with intense power. That power peaks during the ultimate second act showstopper, "Totally Fucked," the play's ode to embracing one's fate.



Courtesy Photo

The cast of Riverwalk's "Spring Awakening," which continues its run through this Sunday.

Kelly Stuble's direction and choreography borrows as necessary from the Broadway production, but adjusts blocking appropriately for the challenging Riverwalk space. Music director Nicole Martin leads an overall tight pit orchestra aided particularly by percussionist Ben Gedoshian.

But a few chronic, crucial problems keep "Spring Awakening" from sounding as polished as it should. Mainly, the sound system that supports the hands-free and hand-held microphones barely

functions and often hisses like an antique Victrola when it does. Consequently, entire verses are lost in some songs under the orchestra. It's a tribute to the tenacious professionalism of the entire crew that every song doesn't devolve into an out-of-time trainwreck. Furthermore, a persistently off-pitch violin often distracts more than it supports.

But for fans of the Broadway production, the Riverwalk attempt is a real treat that takes on the challenging and racy content with full force.

Death becomes her

Star wattage lights up dark comedy, 'Vigil'

By TOM HELMA

What exactly does a man say to a barely recognizable family member he hasn't seen in 30 years, and what if she's not as close to death as he was led to believe? Morris Panych, the playwright behind Lansing Community College's production of "Vigil," explores this dark little corner of family decorum, taking the audience through a macabre process that is enlightening, comedic and poignant to the end.

Kemp (Timothy Busfield), nephew to and last living relative of Grace (Carmen Decker), arrives at his aunt's bedside after he receives a letter informing him of her imminent demise. Kemp expresses every



Courtesy Photo

Timothy Busfield and Carmen Decker in LCC's production of "Vigil."

real and imagined slight that has happened to him throughout his life. He is quite the bitter loner, a sad, sorry-assed excuse for a human being with no apparent sense of compassion. This is demonstrated by his acerbic observations of neighbors walking

by the window and the stories he tells of his emotionally painful upbringing. Like a bedridden Freudian analyst, Grace smiles, stares and occasionally grunts.

The key to making material like this work is having some sense of issue

resolution to guide the audience. In this respect, Panych's writing is superb. We can guess where the story is going, and when it goes elsewhere, we experience a sense of delightful surprise.

Both Busfield and Decker are at the top of their respective games. Her character is mute for most of the play, relying on facial expressions to communicate. Busfield, meanwhile, displays a witty, comedic depth never before seen in his TV and movie roles. He also pulls off a comic bit worthy of the best of Jerry Lewis near the end of Act I, eliciting enthusiastic applause.

"Vigil" does more than simply provide a sense of empathy for the social contract that many of us, at some point, will have to embrace (namely, that one shall die and another shall attend to that death) — it is also damned good theater.

"Vigil"

Lansing Community College
Through Sept. 23
8 p.m. Friday and
Saturdays, 2 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
LCC Black Box Theatre
Room 168 Gannon
Building
\$15 adults/\$12
seniors/\$10 students
(517) 372-0945 : box
office (noon to 4 p.m.
Tuesday through Friday)
(517) 483-1488:
information
lansingarts.org

Evan almighty

Versatile TV-6 newsmen has big plans for his next 3 years in Lansing

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Spending an afternoon on a bar patio with Evan Pinsonnault, you don't so much get the feeling you're hanging out with a TV morning news anchor as you are being charmed by a consummate performer. As he knocks back a beer, he sweet talks the wait-staff and enthusiastically greets passing fans before casually running down the list of roles he's juggling.

Journalist. Actor. Singer. Comedian. Professional emcee. Scratch golfer. You half expect to hear him to say "adopted father to a couple of Cambodian refugees," but he stops short at "co-chair of local United Way chapter."

"Can you work in a line about my stand-up and how I perform with (local '80s cover band) Starfarm?" he says with a devilish grin. "It will help with my mass appeal."

Like he needs it. The human Swiss Army knife recently signed on for three more years (with an option to leave after two) as morning anchor for Lansing's CBS affiliate, WLNS-TV. A big part of the reason was the splash he's made in the community since he's been here.

"I mean, why wade in the shallow end when you can jump in the deep end," he says. "I've made a lot of friends and become very involved in the time I've been here. I can't believe I've only been here three years — it seems so much longer."

A native of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts, he graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in broadcast journalism. He honed his television news chops

in Georgia before landing in mid-Michigan in 2009. Since then, he's wasted no time rising to the top of the pop culture landscape. He's active, foregoing sleep — a morning newscaster is supposed to be early to bed — to make a name for himself in a variety of local arenas, including the bustling community theater scene where he's cranked out an impressive eight shows on local stages.

"I love it here in Lansing, it's a phenomenal town," he says. "There's that Midwest sensibility here you don't get in bigger cities. When I see people on the street and they say they watch my show, I know they mean it. It's a personal connection, and that means something."

You wait to see if he's going to crack a smile, but he doesn't. What do you know ... sincerity. In addition to providing traffic and weather updates every morning, you may have also seen his mug introducing bands at Common Ground, emceeing any of a number of local charity events, or presenting awards at the annual Pulsar Awards ceremony. (He's also scored two Top of the Town Awards as "Best TV Personality" in the annual City Pulse popularity poll.) But don't let that charm fool you — Pinsonnault got ambition.

"What I'd really love to do is host my own show, do something that could go national," he says. "Most kids grew up going to the mall. My parents took me to shows and I loved it. I used to try to duplicate what I'd seen on stage. I guess I've known since I was little that I want to be in front of people."

So, here we have a natural ham making



Sam Inglot/City Pulse
WLNS-TV morning anchor Evan Pinsonnault recently re-signed for three more years with the station. He's also appearing this weekend in Owosso Community Players' production of "Into the Woods."

a splash in the broadcasting world on his way to starting his own show. Could Lansing have the next Regis on its hands?

"Wouldn't that be perfect!" he says. "I think the people in Lansing are good judges of character, so I know that if I launched something and they liked it, it would be something that everyone would like. If I start something here and branch off, the possibilities are endless."

Considering he couldn't initially make up his mind between a career in politics and one in theater, Pinsonnault seems to have found a niche for himself.

"First and foremost, I see myself as a storyteller," he says, as the sun dips behind the building, shrouding the patio in a shadow. "As far as I'm concerned, I've already hit the

jackpot."

He finishes his beer and asks for the check. Later tonight, he's on his way to Owosso, where he's playing two roles (why not?) in the Owosso Players' community theater production of "Into the Woods." This marks the third time he's made his way through the Sondheim piece. But of course, wouldn't you know, it's not just for the applause.

"This particular production is going to put them over the top for their goal to raise funds for rebuilding their theater, which burned down and really hurt their local economy," he says. (the Hallmark Hall of Fame script writes itself.) "It was such an honor that they asked me to do this."

Of course they did. He's Evan fricking Pinsonnault.

Sound and sexuality

Dennis McFadden, of the University of Texas at Austin, is the third speaker in MSU's semester-long series "Whom You Love: the biology of sexual orientation," which aims to demonstrate that homosexuality is a natural occurrence in humans. His lecture, 4 p.m. Monday, is in Wells Hall room 115B and is free and open to the public.

McFadden is Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus in UT's Department of Psychology and Center for Perceptual Systems. He is an auditory psychophysicist, specializing in measuring sounds that come out of the

ears, known as otoacoustic emissions. These sounds are affected by the prenatal exposure to hormones experienced by all developing fetuses, and they differ depending upon a person's sexual orientation. His lecture is called "Physiological Evidence about the Origins of Sexual Orientation."

What ground will your lecture cover?

I plan to talk about how difficult it is to distinguish between inborn and acquired differences between the sexual preferences of men and women. I also hope to briefly discuss a few measurable, physiological differences between straights and gays that do appear to be inborn, such as birth weight, finger-length ratios and the fraternal birth order effect. Then I will explain our auditory findings about sexual orientation.

What types of physiological differences have you discovered?

We found that both otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) and brain waves known as auditory

evoked potentials (AEPs) can differ in people of differing sexual orientations. Otoacoustic emissions are sounds given off by the inner ear when it is stimulated by a sound, causing the outer hair cells to vibrate. This produces a nearly inaudible sound that echoes back into the middle ear that can be measured with a small microphone. Auditory evoked potentials are very small — but measurable — brain waves recorded from electrodes on the scalp in response to an auditory stimulus. Both of these measures exhibit sex differences in newborns, suggesting that they are affected by events occurring during prenatal development.



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'Sisters' in 'Show Business'

MSU repertory theater goes meta with overlapping, Chekhovian-themed shows

By DANA CASADEI

A play can take anywhere from weeks to years to get off the ground, with hours of rehearsals, costume fittings and making sure each beat has been perfected. Directing two shows at one time? Some would call that crazy. But Rob Roznowski, a Michigan State University professor and head of acting, saw it as a just the type of challenge he wanted to tackle. Again.

"Three Sisters" & "Anton in Show Business"

Michigan State University
Department of Theatre
Sept. 18-29

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays
through Thursdays, 8 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays,
2 p.m. Saturdays and
Sundays

Auditorium Arena Theatre,
East Lansing

\$20 adults/\$10 students

(517) 353-1982

whartoncenter.com

and Sympathy" and "The Children's Hour" in repertory. This season's theme is (New) Plays in New Ways," and the two opening shows are "Three Sisters" and "Anton in Show Business." They have similar themes and characters, with a novel central conceit: one play is actually "about" the other one.

Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters" is the

classic tragicomedy, which was legendarily inspired by the relationship between the Brontë sisters. The title characters are members of the Prozorov family, who yearn to return to escape the confines of their rural life to an idealized Moscow. The overarching theme of the decay of the privileged class certainly echoes in today's 99 percent occupy-happy society. "Anton in Show Business," meanwhile, is more satirical in nature, following the journey three women who are about to tackle the roles of "Three Sisters" in a regional production.

"One is purely comedic and one is sort of ... Chekhovian," he said with a laugh. "What's interesting about it is they are two completely different styles, so it really tests your work as a director. For me it was figuring out the location and that sort of thing and then working backwards from that."

"Anton in Show Business" won the American Theatre Critics' Steinberg New Play Award in 2001, which Variety called both "a love letter and a poison pen letter to the American theater." In it, the three actresses offer tongue-in-cheek solutions to their characters' existential crises.

Both shows share the same stage and will be conducted environmentally, which means that the audience sits in the characters' homes. Student set designer Shannon Melick created the rooms to allow the audience to see offstage action, including the



Photo by Steve VanMaale

Jocelyn Elyssa (left) and Sarah Goeke tackle multiple roles in "Three Sisters" and "Anton in Show Business," opening this weekend at MSU.

characters' intimate relationships and tragedies. The sets will seamlessly transition into bedrooms and kitchens, among other places. Some of the actresses are in both shows, and similar music and blocking to tie the two shows together.

"I really wanted to make sure that the audience would recognize characters from one show to the other," Roznowski said. "The three sisters are so indelible in terms of what their characteristics are, so I wanted to mirror and mimic those in casting for 'Anton.'"

With actors playing actors playing characters beyond their depth, keeping things

straight gets to be a little tricky. The roles of the three sisters may have similarities, but the same women aren't playing them. Roznowski says that this meta quality will enhance the original work.

"I love how flawed the characters are in Chekhov's plays," Roznowski said. "His work is unbearably delicate and considerably difficult. Both shows capture this essence."

Whom You Love

from page 14

What do these findings tell you about a person's sexuality?

Our findings for both OAEs and AEPs reveal inborn physiological differences that are attributable to the degree of exposure fetuses received to certain types of hormones during prenatal development. The differences are group effects and cannot be used to predict any individual person's sexuality, but they are informative about the biological causes of non-heterosexuality. Although the link between exposure to androgen (the hormone we study) and sexual orientation is still speculative, the circumstantial evidence is substantial and, to me, pretty darn convincing.

The OAEs and AEPs in the undamaged ears of young adults also exist in newborns, implying that the measurements we find in young adults will be good indicators of the measurements they had at birth. If there are sex differences at birth, then the cause obviously could not be lifestyle differences, and must be attributable to something that happened during prenatal development. The most likely event

is the process of exposure to androgens prenatally.

Exposure to high levels of androgens leads to a weakening of the cochlear mechanisms, responsible for OAEs. The link between OAEs, AEPs, and androgen exposure is a logical one, not an experimental one. Because the degree of androgen exposure is known to be responsible for dozens of differences in body, brain and behavior between the two sexes, a reasonable working hypothesis is that androgen exposure also is responsible for the sex differences in OAEs and AEPs seen in newborns.

So now let's apply this logic to the differences we observe between straights and gays. We are measuring young adults, but we have good reason to believe that their OAEs and AEPs are reasonably accurate representations of their OAEs and AEPs at birth.

What inspired you to follow this line of research?

As Art Carney used to say on "The Honeymooners" about how he ended up working in the sewers, I just kind of fell into it. I followed my experimental nose — anyone would have done the same given the hints that existed in the research literature. My experimental nose also led

me to study the OAEs of spotted hyenas, rhesus monkeys, and sheep, because we found some animals that had been treated with androgenic or anti-androgenic agents during prenatal development, and basically all of the important comparisons with those animals supported the prenatal-androgen-exposure interpretation we had about OAEs and sexual orientation.

What do you think the speaker series could do for the social perception of homosexuality?

A person's identity is largely determined both by the genes we received from our parents and from the conditions of the prenatal environment we were exposed to. My hope is that once reasonable people understand this, they will see that discriminating against homosexuals makes about as much sense as discriminating against left-handers. Both conditions likely result from the degree of exposure to certain hormones during our development, and no conscious choice was involved — just as no conscious choice was made by people who are heterosexual or right-handed. People simply are who they are.

For more information on this series, go to whomyoulove.com.

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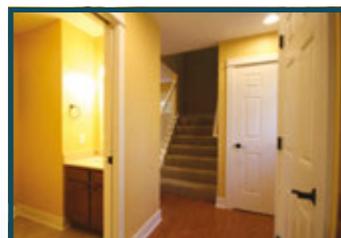
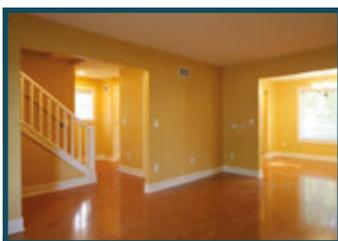
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1317 W Lenawee, Lansing
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11
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916 W Genesee, Lansing
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Courtesy Photos

Twyla Birdsong (left) and Those Delta Rhythm Kings perform at the Old Town BluesFest this weekend.



Blues brothers — and sisters

BluesFest rolls through Old Town this weekend, highlighting a unique Lansing sound

By RICH TUPICA

In Lansing, there are two key fixtures that support the area's vibrant blues scene, keeping that 12-bar chord progression within two degrees of separation at any time: The Green Door, which has become a hallowed institution for the blues, attracting national and international acts with its electric atmosphere, and the annual Old Town BluesFest, which rolls into town like a storm once a year, shaking north Lansing to the quick. Wait a second — was that thunder rumbling? Nope, just a stampede.

"I like to tell people it's like the Super Bowl for local blues guys," said vocalist/guitarist Will Rideoutt, who plays BluesFest with his band Big Willy this weekend. "It's the weekend we get to walk around and be recognized all together. It's nice to catch up with your friends, hang out in the green room, and play on a big stage in front of a lot of people."

This year's two-day festival features diverse touring blues performers like Lady Champagne & the Motor City Blues Crew, Eric Culberson and one of the state's most prominent bluesmen, John Latini. The Queens, N.Y.-native has made southeast Michigan his home, and his upbeat, radio-ready style has racked up awards for playing and songwriting since he set up shop. The

wailing guitar of Culberson, meanwhile, is perfectly suited to reverberate off Turner Street's storefronts like a thunderclap. The sultry Lady Champagne will keep the testosterone in check, balancing out the men's growling with her crisp, clear voice.

Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art is coordinating the festivities, with board member Mike Skory helping oversee the 200 volunteers. He says he knows where to keep the focus.

"I push the local bands a lot," Skory said. "As far as the headliners, I kind of stay away from that and let others decide. I just make sure there is a good representation of local bands and they're all getting paid."

As for the difference between local blues and the traveling troubadours skipping through town, Skory has his own theory.

"It's a long story, identifying the Lansing blues sound," Skory said. "People have been trying to figure it out for years. It's a very soulful blues sound, but it's a bit different. Maybe it's because we're only an hour and a half away from Detroit. We heard the best of the best, like the Temptations, Marvin Gaye and Bob Seger. Musicians around here were like, 'Let's absorb it, let's figure it out.' Lansing has a long history of putting a little soul into it, but still keeping it blues."

Rideoutt, meanwhile, is just happy to see

the faces of all the fair-weather blues fans.

"It's the biggest gig of the year," Rideoutt said. "We can get all the people who won't come out to see us late at night at a bar. This is something during the day you can bring your family and your dog to and make a day of it."

So what can festivalgoers expect to hear from the local performers at this year event? It's hard to decipher. Rideoutt agrees that the sound is varied.

"We're just really diverse and inclusive because we all play with each other in so many different bands, we play different styles, but we'll sit in with each other's bands," he said. "Around here, you have Those Delta Rhythm Kings who do that swinging jump blues with a lot of horns. You have Frog & the Beeftones — that Frog is a blues guy who likes to rock. Then Lansing has Steppin' In It, who cover a lot of ground, but with Andy Wilson in the group they play a lot of blues."

As much of an honor as it is to be the home to a unique style of blues, Lansing really isn't all that big. Is there a possibility of there being a case of too many guitarists and not enough stages?"

"We're not a cutthroat, backstabbing sort of scene that larger cities have," said Rideoutt. "I think I can speak for everyone when I say we need to support each other. Because we're the biggest musical audience

at this point — really, it's other musicians. The good thing about Lansing is there are so many people who want you to succeed."

But the blues is tough — real tough. Rideoutt said in today's scene he has to play in five or six bands to make ends meet.

"It's kind of like any other industry in a downturn economy, you have to diversify and you have to be willing to think outside the box," he said. "And I hate using that phrase. It's like any other small business startup: you have to be willing to take chances and make sacrifices."

While Lansing has some choice spots for live, original music venues — Uli's Haus of Rock, Mac's Bar, The Loft — East Lansing is another story. The bars there often opt for DJs or solo acoustic-type acts than multi-piece outfits.

"When I see a guy at a bar with a laptop, playing guitar over backing tracks, I think, 'This isn't exciting me,'" Rideoutt said. "I don't know how everyone else feels. I tend to look around the room and I don't see many people who are into it."

If it rained all the time, though, would we appreciate it as much? No, the blues is something special, something that makes you want to seek it out. So that's why we only get BluesFest once a year. But if you want more, you know where to find it.

THE STAGES

Bud Light,
south end of Turner Street

MessageMakers Stage,
north end of Turner Street

MICA Stage,
Cesar Chavez Plaza (the parking
lot of the former Chrome Cat)

OtherStage,
1215 Turner Street

Friday, Sept. 21

Bud Light Stage

4-6 p.m. — The Automatic Blues Band
7:30-9 p.m. — Those Delta Rhythm Kings
10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. — Eric Culberson

MessageMakers Stage

6-7:30 p.m. — Heather Jones and Jones'n
9-10:30 p.m. — Sena Ehrhardt

MICA Stage

5-6 p.m. — Blues Guitar Workshop
6:15-7:15 p.m. — Peaches Staten Clinic
7:30-8:30 p.m. — Twyla Birdsong & Mike Eyia

OtherStage

7:30-9:30 p.m. — Open Jam

Saturday, Sept. 22

Bud Light Stage

2-3 p.m. Bosco-Gee Blues Band
featuring Martila Sanders
4-5 p.m. Big Willy
6-7 p.m. The Alligators
8-9:30 p.m. Peaches Staten
11 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Champagne &
the Motor City Blues Crew Band

MessageMakers Stage

3-4 p.m. — Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree
5-6 p.m. — Creole du Nord
7-8 p.m. — Bryan Michael Fischer
9:30-11 p.m. — Sherman Moody Thomas

MICA Stage

2-3 p.m. — Harmonica for Kids
with Andy Wilson
3-3:45 p.m. — Creole du Nord Clinic
4-4:45 p.m. — Tunes 'n Tales by Tricia
5:15-7:15 p.m. — Dr. Fab & Off The
Couch Band with Taylor Fernandez
7:30-8:30 p.m. — John Latini

OtherStage

6-9:30 p.m. — Open Jam

Phoenix with nine lives

Disaster-prone Williamston pub expands with live performance venue

By RICH TUPICA

When a business proprietor experiences three disasters in as many years, finding a willing insurance company gets to be a thorny state of affairs. Perhaps that's why bar owner Craig Banwell keeps his insurance agent, Ganesh Reddy, by his side — at least during interviews with local media.

"After the third disaster, my liability was so high I couldn't pay it," Banwell said. "So I closed the doors, developed another business, and put the liquor license under that name. I didn't know it would take 15 months for it all to work itself out."

Banwell is the owner of CB's Bucket Bar & Grille in downtown Williamston, a place that falls somewhere between a phoenix and a black cat in the metaphorical animal category. In 2006 a kitchen fire shut it down

CB's Bucket Bar & Grille/Club Rumor'z

132 W Grand River Ave.
Williamston
(517) 992-5060
williamstonbucket.com

for a year. In 2007 a tornado hit, flooding the entire restaurant. Next, in December 2008 an arsonist set fire to the century-old, two-story brick building. Now the

Bucket is on its fourth life under Banwell's management, which just keeps rising from the flames — sometimes literally.

"They emptied the entire local water tower and started calling in fire trucks from other counties —there were 60-foot flames,"



Rich Tupica/City Pulse

The recently reopened CB's Bucket Bar & Grille, 132 W. Grand River Ave. in Williamston, has been damaged three times since 2006. Recent addition Club Rumor'z is located directly upstairs.

Banwell said of the first fire. As for his recollection of the tornado? "I got a call to come get my rooftop off Grand River."

Inside the refashioned restaurant, Banwell was shadowed by the chatty and polite Reddy, who appeared to subtly monitor parts of the conversation. Banwell has owned the pub since 2003, with a large chunk of that time spent repeatedly starting over. Banwell, 50, grew up in Williamston and previously owned the Westside Deli. His newest venture is turning the upstairs of the Bucket, known as Club Rumor'z, into a live music and comedy venue, complete with a new stage, dance floor and sound system. The live entertainment is a key part of his plan to gain a foothold in the town, which isn't known for evening entertainment. He



Rich Tupica/City Pulse

Craig Banwell inside the newly refurbished Club Rumor'z, which he's hoping will attract fans of live music and standup comedy.

said the Bucket has become "the night cap of Williamston."

"I decided to do it because there was no dance floor in town," he said. "And nobody does comedy. There's the Williamston Theatre (featuring live stage performances) and there's the Sun Theatre (a second-run movie house). We've already done one comedy show that was pretty successful — we had about 80 people come out. The live bands have been packing the dance floor, too."

So what are the after effects of three devastations? Aside from getting construction bids, apparently it's also an unending seven-day work week for Banwell. It's all a part of the rejuvenation process.

"Business is not as good as it was before '08, that's for sure, but every day is getting a little bit better," Banwell said. "A lot of people don't even know we're open yet. Our commercial just aired on television. We've also got fliers around town, and we just released our six-page menu."

One thing that keeps Banwell rebuilding the same bar is the Bucket's long history.

"This building has been a boxing arena, a dancehall and a church," he said. "They actually used to do baptisms in the Red Cedar River right out back."

As for the name that comes with the building, at 132 W. Grand River Ave., Banwell said even when past owners have attempted to change the name, locals still called it the Bucket.

"I got the story a few years ago when a 98-year-old lady sent me a letter," he said. "Too bad it burned up in the fire. But she said it became the Bucket because back in the early days guys would get into a lot of fights and the local police took them to the jailhouse to sober up."

"Their wives would come here and the bar would let them buy some to-go beers in buckets. Then they'd take them down to the jail for their husbands to drink. Right from there they started to call it the Bucket. It stuck."



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strictly 21+

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2-11 p.m. 21+ after 7

Old Town Lansing

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Tickets

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- VIP tables available!
- \$13 Seniors (60+) Saturday 2-4 p.m.
- Children's Activities from 2-7 p.m.









Electric 'Ave'

Multimedia project gives some love to Michigan Avenue

By **HOLLY JOHNSON**

The road running from Michigan State University to the Capitol may share the name of Chicago's biggest shopping district, but the East Lansing-to-Lansing version of Michigan Avenue is no Magnificent Mile.

For the most part, it's a humdrum street full of flavorless storefronts and one golf course gone wild — with Frandor, it should be noted, a pale comparison for the Loop.

The Ave

Various locations along Michigan Avenue
Official launch 1 p.m. Sept. 25
The Avenue Café (formerly Gone Wired)
2021 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing
517-501-3165
theave.us

However, a group of MSU students and faculty members have started an innovative project — called The Ave — that they hope will bring some positive attention to the strip through a unique blend of

filmmaking, history and storytelling.

"It's not all about the businesses on

Michigan Avenue — it's about the people," said Emanuele Berry, an MSU student and contributing producer of The Ave. "So many people from different cultures and backgrounds are driving and surviving in this area. We've all come together to create a life along this street."

The Ave consists of a collection of eight lime-green placards positioned in front of select businesses along Michigan Avenue, including The Listening Ear, the Soup Spoon Café and, in a fun bit of synchronicity, the newly renamed Avenue Café (formerly Gone Wired). Each placard comes with telephone numbers and QR codes that allow users, depending on their level of technology, to be routed to either a recorded message or linked to a two-minute video. This is the same kind of technology frequently used for self-guided museum tours.

Project coordinator Vincent Delgado says similar municipally themed, "place-making" projects were hatched in New Orleans and Toronto. He said one of the main purposes of the project was to make Lansing more attractive on an innovative level to that vital local population segment— you know, the one that leaves the area right after college.

"The great creative minds overflowing MSU's campus don't know there is a very vibrant, creative community happening all around them," Delgado said. "They're not going to stick around because they don't understand how they can connect to it. The

things they are looking for are right here."

So what does place-making have to do with enhancing the Lansing community? Katie Wittenauer, communications manager for MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, the program behind the project, says it has everything to do with creating a tangible representation of the lives of those surrounding it.

"When stories become more visible there's increased conversation and a greater sense of knowledge about those stories," she said. "And that knowledge spreads beyond the immediate location."

The stories range from profiles of local artists to the histories of local businesses. Berry and other MSU students generated content for the first set of stories, which includes an ode to Michelle Obama read by Liz McMurray of Liz's Alterations and Gifts, and details about a benefit show at The Loft. Each tale has its own charm and a playful, personal tone.

"For both visitors and residents, people don't see Michigan Avenue as special," Berry said. "It doesn't get the credit it deserves. Maybe The Ave will generate dialogue or encourage people to become advocates for Lansing and this area."

If they get a good response, The Ave team hopes to expand the project into Lansing's Old Town and REO Town districts, as well as on to Grand River Avenue in East Lansing. Whatever it accomplishes, the project's con-



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Placards for The Ave project can be found in front of eight businesses up and down Michigan Avenue in Lansing, including this one, hanging in front of The Listening Ear, 2504 E Michigan Ave

tribution toward promoting Lansing's community feel is definitely something worth texting, Tweeting, Facebooking, Instagramming or doing whatever these kids today are doing.

Apotheosis of Ralph

Votapek wows hometown crowd with two concertos plus encore

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

There is no elevator to the top of Ralph Votapek. You have to take the stairs to get to the summit. But once you get there, the view is panoramic, the air is clean, and you feel like you're on top of the world.

Review Friday night, the Lansing Symphony teamed up with MSU's piano monument and artist-in-residence for 36 years to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Votapek's win in the first Van Cliburn competition in 1962.

Votapek is old school. He doesn't ingratiate, camp it up, weep over the keys or exhibit any of the extra-musical tics and tricks that make a so-so performance seem deeper than it is. He doesn't stoop to conquer — he just conquers. You climb to his level, the same way you would approach a sequoia or a skyscraper.

With almost total success, he reprised the two big concertos he played 50 years ago, Beethoven's Fourth and Prokofiev's Third.

Lansing Symphony conductor Timothy Muffitt's big secret — and sorry for blowing it, maestro — is that despite his boyish



Courtesy Photo

Ralph Votapek

charm and approachable approach, he's just as old school as Votapek. Muffitt is the genial park ranger who hands you a cookie and a Boy Ranger badge and then marches you to the top of a glacier.

Friday night's cookie was "Millennium Canons," a formless wad of major-chord frosting and tinkly sprinkles by postmodern composer Kevin Puts. The sudden sugar overload made "The Star-Spangled Banner," led spiritedly by Muffitt at the start of the evening, sound as stern as Mussorgsky.

When the climb to Votapek finally began, the foothills didn't look promising. Muffitt usually excels at bringing out the throb in any kind of music, but as Beethoven's circuitous first movement unfolded, he and Votapek couldn't seem find a heartbeat. Consequently, Votapek's precise, clean articulation gave an impression of diffidence, even calculation.

All that changed dramatically in the slow movement, when the cellos and basses began to snort and shamle around the piano like grizzly bears. In response, Votapek ventured a series of tremulous, quiet phrases, as if he were trying to make peace with doom.

Votapek's startling fragility drew the audience close for the first time in the evening. The shared vulnerability lubricated the way toward a joyful finale that came almost as a physical relief.

Then came the apotheosis of Ralph Votapek. The pounding, mechanistic rhythms and toothy, Gershwin-esque glitz of Prokofiev's third concerto seemed to sum up the energy of the 20th century. The music is a glorious mashup of high Art Deco and Russian Constructivism, Busby Berkeley let loose in a tractor factory. And Votapek is above all a 20th century man, a shark in a black shirt and trousers, known for decades as a definitive Gershwin interpreter. In this world, his ultra-clean articulation and cool agility are supreme assets.

The closest Votapek came to losing that cool was at the end of one stupendous run to the high end of the keyboard, when he leaned so far to his right from sheer momentum that he almost tipped over.

The rest of the time, he was working almost too fast to follow, but Muffitt and the crew stuck with him nearly every second. Many concertos pit the soloist "against" the orchestra, but Prokofiev's Third is a continuously self-orchestrating piano masterpiece. Many times, the violins or woodwinds had to dance in lightning lockstep with the pianist, pulling off feats of timing that boggled the mind.

After a while, the sheer force of the performance scotched my feeble attempts to track technical feats. A couple of minutes into the finale, everybody really went for broke, in a way you don't expect 80-odd sober people with clothes on to do. When a wild new theme swept like a gale over the ground-based, bouncy main melody, soloist and orchestra summoned up an overwhelming vortex of sound. Goosebumps don't lie. I had a vision of Votapek, on a silver platform atop the Chrysler Building, crowned by architectural spikes and scallops, pierced by pink stripes of sunset, spinning into the blue.

Needless to say, Votapek's hometown audience went nuts. Muffitt slyly waved his arm from soloist to the audience and back, as if to say, "Don't you want more?" He'd done plenty already, but he chose an encore proportionate in difficulty to his two-concerto feat. After settling back on the bench, he switched the blender from "pulverize" to "liquefy" to wade into Maurice Ravel's "Jeux d'eau," ("Play of Water"), a fabulous fountain of notes that merged and swirled and bubbled until everyone in the hall was thoroughly cleansed.

THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Missing pieces, disjointed performances fail to keep Anderson's latest film together

Following World War II, Americans began to question the conventions of society as never before, explaining the enormous popularity of novels like Somerset Maugham's "The Razor's Edge" and the rise of the self-help book culture. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's "The Master" explores this national challenge of the status quo through Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix), a Navy vet who is either unable or unwilling to reintegrate himself back into "normal life." Quell falls under the spell of Lancaster Dodd (Phillip Seymour Hoffman), the cryptic and charismatic leader of The Cause, a movement devoted to increasing self-awareness through hypnosis, aggressive questioning and a regime that will supposedly separate human nature from its basest impulses.

Although "The Master" has been touted as a thinly veiled expose of L. Ron Hubbard and Scientology, it's decidedly more complex and challenging than that. Anderson, whose films include "There Will Be Blood," "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia," never takes the easy path. "The Master" is a jumbo-sized puzzle with numerous missing pieces that Anderson asks the viewer to fill in. Is Dodd a flamboyant fraud or a visionary? Is Quell truly troubled or merely putting on an act? What's the story with Dodd's wife, Peggy (Amy Adams), whose cool remove could either suggest deep serenity or tightly coiled paranoia? That's up to the viewer to decide; Dodd is the one providing answers, not Anderson.

The movie unfolds like a 1950s prestige picture, the kind of film that wore its self-importance and sterling credentials as shining badges. Anderson shot "The Master" in 65mm, which gives nearly every scene a lushness and radiance that delights your eyes, even as the drama bedevils your brain. When Quell gets a gig as a portrait photographer in one of those 1940s department stores that looks like the Taj Mahal with cash registers and man-



Courtesy Photo

Phillip Seymour Hoffman is "The Master"

nequins, Anderson effortlessly sweeps us into a land of long-lost glamour (backing up the sequence with Ella Fitzgerald divinely crooning "Get Thee Behind Me, Satan" doesn't hurt a bit). Like Dodd, "The Master" is extraordinarily seductive and alluring.

It's also a movie that ultimately leaves you unsatisfied. All the skillful foreplay turns out to be a build-up to a letdown. Asking an audience to fill in a few blanks is fine, but there is so much in "The Master" that is left unexplained that the film becomes almost frustratingly opaque.

A large part of the problem lies in Phoenix's characterization, which aims to be repellent and works all too well. Determined to be eccentric and electrifying, he pulls tricks from a shallow grab bag of tics and mannerisms — plac-

ing his hands slightly behind his hips, speaking out of the left side of his crooked mouth and coughing up raspy chuckles. He comes across as a cartoon instead of a character. If this were Phoenix's final project at the Academy of Overacting, he'd be an honors graduate.

Only when he's up against Hoffman and Adams does he tone it down slightly, and when he does, "The Master" becomes truly entrancing. Hoffman plays Dodd as a kindly, jovial Wizard of Oz, happily manipulating everyone around him and basking in the admiration of his devotees. When a Philadelphia socialite (Laura Dern) makes the error of pointing out inconsistencies in his work, Dodd explodes in anger and you half expect the screen to crack. Phoenix could take a few lessons from Hoffman's meticulous modulation of his words and expressions — a few perfectly timed outbursts are far more jolting than continually stomping around, scowling and growling.

Dodd's techniques are at times ludicrous: "The secret is laughter," he proclaims at one point. But his questions — which come in one-on-one sessions that mimic the Scientology practice known as "auditing" — are occasionally downright odd. (Sample question: "Do you linger at bus stations for pleasure?")

Adams is outstanding, carefully and craftily treading the line between sweet-natured spouse and secretive dragon-lady. "This is something you do for a billion years or not at all," she snaps when Quell's faith begins to falter. "This isn't fashion."

Her husband may be the one pitching the snake oil, but Peggy is unquestionably the engine that keeps the show on the road. In one of the film's most astonishing scenes, she dictates the text of Dodd's next book while he obediently types away. This makes you wonder if perhaps Anderson was telling the wrong tale, if the movie wouldn't have been stronger and more disturbing if he had zeroed in on the eerie relationship of Dodd and Peggy and moved Quell to the sidelines. While Anderson has made a movie with the look of a masterpiece, "The Master," like Dodd's phony-baloney philosophies, doesn't always hang together.

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When Marcia Aldrich's friend took his own life at the age of forty-six, they had known each other many years. In *Companion to an Untold Story*, Aldrich struggles with her own failure to act on her suspicions about her friend's intentions.

7 p.m. Okemos location.

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7 p.m. Lansing location.

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DAN SAVAGE
mail@savagelove.com

Q: Healthy straight male here. The problem is twofold: My girlfriend doesn't like come in her mouth and she feels that doggy-style is objectifying to women. Therefore, we don't do either. She says she wants to get more

comfortable and try these things. But they never seem to happen — and when I bring them up, it turns into a touchy discussion. These are #1 and #2, respectively, on my list of favorite things to do in the bedroom, and I'm not OK with not doing them indefinitely. The sex is otherwise great, but I do think there's a double standard at work here. She had an ex who refused to go down on her. When I said, "He needed to man up and take one for the team, even if he didn't like it," she readily agreed with me. So why can't she "take one for the team" and swallow my come? I would feel bad if she were doing something she wasn't comfortable with, but it disappoints me when she takes my dick out of her mouth and points it at my stomach when I start to come. I think she has a double standard.

— Really Anxious Not Doing Yearnings

P.S. We've been dating only about three months, so I understand there is plenty of time for her to get more comfortable. I love being with her, I can't get enough of her, and I can see this becoming a lifelong relationship. But I don't want to have to miss out on my bedroom favorites for the rest of my life.

A: "The comparison you're making between your girlfriend and her ex isn't really fair. Your girlfriend's ex-boyfriend refused to go down on her. Not only does your girlfriend go down on you, RANDY, she's getting you off. Her blowjobs may not wrap up the way you'd like — with her swallowing your come — but you are getting blowjobs.

Sorry, RANDY, but where you see a double standard on the girlfriend's part, I see only whining on yours. Swallowing is extra credit. It's not a course requirement. I say this as someone who gives and receives blowjobs: If someone sucks your dick until you come, you got your damn blowjob. What a blower does with the blower's come after the blowjob is over—spit, swallow, spread it on toast—is the blower's call to make.

And your girlfriend may have a good reason for not swallowing your come, RANDY. Semen contains prostaglandins — "a group of lipid compounds that are derived enzymatically from fatty acids and have important functions in the animal body," says Wiki — and some people experience explosive diarrhea shortly after ingesting the prostaglandins in semen.

It's possible that your girlfriend isn't swallowing because she doesn't want to have to run to the bathroom two minutes later while her new boyfriend listens in the next room.

Or, hey, maybe your girlfriend just doesn't like the way semen tastes. Or maybe she's had boyfriends in the past who "lost control" and shoved their dicks down her throat as they came. Or maybe swallowing turns her off for the same reason that doggy-style does, i.e., she sees it as objectifying and/or degrading. And maybe if you're patient, RANDY, your girlfriend will come around and your #1 and #2 favorite sex things will enter into regular rotation.

Of course, it's possible that your girlfriend is lying to you. People have been known to make vague and insincere promises about all the blowjobs, three-ways, and kinks they'll get into once they "feel more comfortable" with a new partner. Your girlfriend, like so many other girlfriends and boyfriends before her, may be trying to run out the clock. She may hope that by the time you realize she's never going to do your bedroom favorites, you'll be too emotionally invested in the relationship to dump her.

Q: I'm a female in my mid-20s who loves to give head. The problem is, I think I'm giving head too soon and guys don't see me as relationship material. I've been in only one relationship that was longer than a casual hookup, and that particular ex was a she-comes-first/worship-the-pussy kinda guy. (I didn't get to touch his dick until we were about a month in!) Most of the straight girls I hang out with believe that a guy needs to earn getting his dick sucked. My gay friends don't see the problem. My straight guy friends chuckle and say "depends" when I ask if I'm blowing a guy too soon. I really enjoy sucking dick, so once I'm horny, it's so hard to resist the impulse. How soon is too soon? Do you think that I would actually benefit by stopping this pattern?

— Blowing Losers Or What?

A: Generally, BLOW, I believe a person should do what she likes — and if you like giving head, give head. And if getting head scares a boy off, well, he was the wrong boy for you. (I'm having a hard time picturing a guy who wouldn't want to date a woman who enjoys giving head — are there many guys like that out there?) But there's a simple way to find out if the guys you're meeting make date/dump distinctions between girls who blow 'em right away and girls who make 'em wait: Stop sucking guys off on the first date and see if they stick around longer.

Q: I had to write after reading your response to Wanted Toys Too, the aunt who wanted to buy her niece a dildo. I was once a teenage girl whose older cousin tried to "help me out" this way, and I was mortified. WTT wants to get her niece a sex toy, she said, because WTT experimented with a plastic banana when she was a girl because she didn't want "a penis to be the first thing of substance put in [her] vagina." Guess what? That is exactly what I wanted, so I had no need for a dildo, and I had access to plenty of good sex

advice! Advice that I asked for! This aunt is projecting her crap on her niece! She should back off and mind her own business.

— MYOB About Sex

You goofed in your reply to WTT. Instead of getting information from sex-shop owners, why didn't you get information from a mental health expert? We're talking about a 14-year-old who is emotionally fragile as she struggles through the years of defining self and understanding her own sexuality! Here's what you should've told WTT: "Back off. See a therapist. Get a boyfriend. Get a hobby. MYOB, Auntie."

— EE, LMSW

A: In fairness to WTT, MYOBAS and EELMSW, WTT had her niece's mother's permission to get her daughter a sex toy. My mother encouraged her kids to talk with one of her sisters about any sexual issues we weren't comfortable discussing with our parents, so...

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it's possible that WTT's niece has expressed an interest in a sex toy of her very own. It's also possible that (1) WTT's niece hasn't expressed an interest in a sex toy and would be mortified by the offer, and (2) my response to WTT was colored by my own relationship with my sex-question-answering aunt. With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, to say nothing of a file full of angry e-mails, I'll amend my advice to WTT with this: If your niece hasn't asked for help, info, or a sex toy, better to MYOB.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at the stranger.com/savage.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Whacked-Out

Wordage"—no theme, no sweat.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1) Loud event
- 12) Mauna ____
- 15) She drinks Go-Go Juice and showed her belly to the judges
- 16) Furthermore
- 17) Tudor symbol
- 18) General who's an enemy of Superman
- 19) Keep a ship from leaving port, maybe
- 20) On the line
- 22) Headwear banned by the NFL
- 24) Words that can precede a proverb
- 25) Robert who played A.J. Soprano
- 27) Word in wedding notices
- 28) Big name in skydiving?
- 32) Brown eraser variety
- 36) Banned apple spray
- 37) Had a yearning
- 39) Unit of loudness
- 40) JPEG alternative
- 42) Home to some lifers
- 44) Inseparable
- 45) Give off, like charm
- 46) Actress Nicolette
- 50) Romanian composer George of the opera "Oedipe"
- 55) It goes from box to pan
- 56) Garfunkel and ____ (female comedy-folk duo)
- 57) Folk rocker DiFranco
- 58) Chip slogan
- 62) Metta World Peace's former first name
- 63) Stocking expert
- 64) Fruit in some cookies
- 65) Check alternatives

- 9) German WWII craft
- 10) Utterly befuddled
- 11) "Guys and Dolls" composer/lyricist Frank
- 12) Former file-sharing site
- 13) Mushroom used in Japanese cooking
- 14) Threw in
- 21) African parasite
- 23) Put on, like comfier clothes
- 24) Affixes T-shirt designs
- 26) Pink Floyd label
- 28) Chatter
- 29) Pharmaceutical company ____ Lilly
- 30) Snitch
- 31) At least
- 33) Democrats' rivals
- 34) Article in the Montreal Gazette?
- 35) Dudes

Down

- 1) Freudian concept
- 2) They brought you the Popeil Pocket Fisherman
- 3) The Hulk's catalyst
- 4) Late "Queen of Salsa" ____ Cruz
- 5) Making a segue (to)
- 6) Docs for women only
- 7) "Ruh-__!" (Scooby-Doo phrase)
- 8) "Un momento, ____ favor"

- 38) Eisenhower's command, for short
- 41) Belief in hidden spiritual creatures
- 43) Woodworker, when doing some joining
- 46) Cold-weather wear
- 47) Former capital of French Indochina
- 48) ____ out (managing)
- 49) Musician Hoyt ____ (who also appeared in "Gremlins")
- 51) Alleviated
- 52) Singer on "Shiny Happy People"
- 53) One who gives up
- 54) Site visitors
- 59) Before, before
- 60) "Law," on a bilingual workroom poster
- 61) When doubled, a 1965 Dixie Cups song

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.

SEPT. 20



Courtesy Photo

One Book welcomes former U.S. Ambassador

As part of this year's One Book, One Community, David Mulford, former U.S. Ambassador to India, will discuss the ties between the U.S. and India and India's tremendous growth during the 21st century. Mulford was in office from January 2004 through February 2009, when India-U.S. relations were undergoing a dramatic shift. This year's One Book selection was "Behind the Beautiful Forever," by Katherine Boo. One Book, One Community is sponsored by the City of East Lansing and MSU, encouraging the city-university community to read the same book and discuss it in a variety of settings. 7 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Center Auditorium, 55 S. Harrison Road, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Wednesday, September 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Fall Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. epl.org.

Drawing Class. All levels welcome, with Dennis O'Meara. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Ages 11-17, activities on gardening, nutrition & community service. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. **T'ai Chi Ch'uan & Qigong.** Taught by Bruce Ching. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$60. ACC Natural Healing & Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (517) 708-8510. massageandwellnesslansing.com, meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit.

Tasting and Touring. Meet Jaye Beeler, author of "Tasting and Touring Michigan's Homegrown Food: A Culinary Road Trip." 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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1434 E. Jolly Road, Lansing | 517.882.3115

Celebrate Meridian's history

Meridian Township's annual heritage festival will take place this Saturday. Meridian Township Parks & Recreation department partnered with the Friends of Historic Meridian and the Nokomis Native American Cultural Center to bring the festival to Meridian Township residents. The community's history will be celebrated by a day of pioneer and Native American food, entertainment, games, exhibits and activities for all ages. There will also be Civil War re-enactments from Sisters of the Union and an exhibit on the War of 1812. Live performances will include singer Lee Mulder, the Lost Hitchhikers and Irish dancers. Visitors are encouraged to park at the Meridian Mall and bicycle parking is available. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Historical Village. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

SEPT. 23

Calling all poets

The Old Town Poetry Series will begin its fall season with a reading by Detroit native John Rybicki. Rybicki teaches poetry through the InsideOut Literary Project and has written several books of poetry, most recently "When All the World is Old." The featured poet will be followed by an open mic session. Poets who want to participate will be able to throw their names in the hat at the door. There is a maximum of 10 poets, with each given 3 to 5 minutes to read. Refreshments will be served. 2 p.m. \$5, \$3 for students, suggested donations. The Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. (517) 267-0410.

SEPT. 22

SEPT. 25

The latest MSU adventure

Next Tuesday, MSU Department of Art Professor Susan J. Bandes will lead a community discussion about Michigan Modern, a statewide inventory project to which her art history students will be contributing. Bandes and her students will inventory modernist residences, commercial and religious buildings, as well as research architects, builders and their clients. Students are seeking documentary resources and stories from people who commissioned and lived in modernist East Lansing houses or are familiar with local houses of the period. Michigan Modern, a project of the State Historic Preservation Office, is focused on documenting Michigan's design heritage from 1940-'70. 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6939.



Courtesy Photo

TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

THE BIRD IS THE WORD AT (SCENE)

Breathe Owl Breathe, an East Jordan, Mich. folk group, blends guitar, banjo, cello and vocals into an earthy indie folk sound. The trio's original songs are subtle and heartfelt, but sometimes come with a touch of humor. The band headlines a night of indie-folk Friday at (SCENE) MetroSpace. Local support for the show is Gifts or Creatures, a husband and wife Americana duo made up of Brandon John and Bethany Foote, who sing about Midwestern folklore and old world history. Breathe Owl Breathe is made up of singer/guitarist Micah Middaugh, drummer Trevor Hobbs, and Andréa Moreno-Beals on cello. The group recently toured nationally with French musician Yann Tiersen (known for his work on the "Amélie" soundtrack). Breathe Owl Breathe is currently touring in support of its latest release, a children's book/7-in. vinyl single titled "The Listeners/These Train Tracks."

Friday, Sept. 21 @ (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing, all ages, \$12, doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

WOODY GUTHRIE REVISITED

The iconic folk songwriter who inspired Bob Dylan to pick up a guitar will be honored in song Friday at the Ten Pound Fiddle. The event features local veteran musicians playing their favorite Guthrie tunes. Taking the stage is Jen Sygit, Joshua Davis (of Steppin' In It), Drew Howard and Jim Hall & Cindy Morgan. This show is to celebrate the year of what would have been Guthrie's 100th birthday. Ten Pound Fiddle organizers will have cake and a giant



Courtesy Photo

Breathe Owl Breathe at (SCENE) MetroSpace

card for attendees to sign, which will be sent to Guthrie's daughter, Nora. Guthrie, who was known for having "This Machine Kills Fascists" displayed on his acoustic guitar, wrote his best-known song, "This Land Is Your Land," in 1940. He died at age 55 in 1967 from Huntington's disease.

Friday, Sept. 21 @ Ten Pound Fiddle - Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street East Lansing, all ages. Box office at 7 p.m., doors 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$15 public, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MUTEMATH STOPS AT THE LOFT

Mutemath is an alt-rock band from New Orleans that's been kicking out melodic indie tunes since 2003. This Saturday, the Warner Bros.-signed band plays The Loft with openers Paper Route, a Nashville-based electropop band. The group, which just wrapped up some dates opening for Linkin Park, is led by 36-year old vocalist and keyboardist Paul Meany, who penned some of the band's biggest hits like "Blood Pressure" and "Typical." Before Meany's work in Mutemath, he was a member of Earthsuit, a now defunct Christian rock band. In 2007 Mutemath was nominated for a



Courtesy Photo

Mutemath at The Loft.

Grammy Award for its "Typical" music video. That same year the band landed an opening slot on Alanis Morissette and Matchbox Twenty's "Exile In America Tour." Since then the band has kept busy releasing an EP, live album and a couple full lengths including 2011's "Odd Soul" LP, which touched on new areas like blues and funk riffs.

Saturday, Sept. 22 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$20 advance, \$23 at door, doors 7 p.m.

RUSTED ROOT KICKS OUT THE JAM

Although Rusted Root formed in 1990, the Pittsburgh-based jam band didn't begin receiving national attention until its second album, 1994's "When I Woke." The band is known for merging acoustic, rock, and a variety of world music genres, like African, Latin American, and Native American styles. Over the last two decades, the band has developed a large following, mainly from its energetic live shows, and sold over 3 million records across the globe. Sunday the band plays The Loft along with openers Lucy Stone (indie-folk from Philadelphia) and Covert (Flint-based funky jam

rock). This year is the 20th anniversary of Rusted Root's first album, and also marks the release of "Movement," its seventh studio album which has an October 30 release date.

Sunday, Sept. 23 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$20 advance, doors 7 p.m.

THEATRICAL PSYCHO - CABARET BANDS AT MAC'S

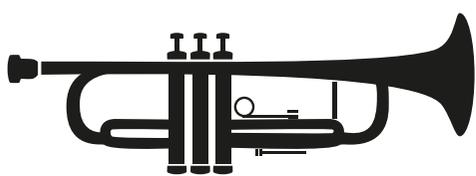
While Hellblink's hometown of Asheville, N.C., might be known as a bohemian mountain region, their repertoire consists of pirate songs and dirty south blues. The theatrical band plays Mac's Bar Wednesday, Sept. 26 with their blend American folk and European cabaret, punk, and noise rock. Fans of Gogol Bordello, Tom Waits or Nick Cave might want to check out this show. Warming up the stage is Devil's Cut (local bluegrass-rock band) and Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, a Gypsy-jazz and Americana band.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over, \$10, 9 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN



LIVE & LOCAL

To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com by Thursday of the week before publication.

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		D.J., 9 p.m.	Modern Day Drifters, 9 p.m.	Modern Day Drifters, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.		J. Chris Newberg, 8 p.m.	Fred Potter, 8 p.m., J. Chris Newberg, 10:30 p.m.	J. Chris Newberg, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Leather & Lace, 6:30 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	The Automatic Blues Band, 8 p.m.	The Automatic Blues Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Krosby's Conspiracy, 9:30 p.m.	Stan Budzybski & Third Degree, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Strange Arrangement, 9 p.m.	Wilson, 7 p.m.	Mutemath, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Ceremony, 7 p.m.		Antique Scream, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.		Blastica, 9:30 p.m.	Blastica, 9:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Klimaxx, 9 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.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 10 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.
Ull's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Mike Evia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Jamboozle, 9 p.m.	Malice Cooper, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Rock Canyon, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; 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., Ull's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babes funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. House music, 9 p.m., The Firm Bar.
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 23

Beginner Peyote Stitch Workshop. Beginner's beadweaving with Jenny Schu. 6-9 p.m. \$45 (by 9/7/12), \$50 after. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.
Poverty Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

EVENTS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Prison Poetry Project. Poems written by incarcerated people, read by community leaders. 7-9 p.m. \$10 suggested donations. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.
Indian Culture 101. Featuring speaker Shashi Karve. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.
Forest View Citizens Association Meeting. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 719-5094.
Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. Meet the political candidates. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750. cvnanews.com.
DTDL Book Club. Discuss "The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.
Allen Street Farmers Market. Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, activities & more. 2:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279.
Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30. \$5, \$4 club members. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.
Mid-Day Mosaic. 12:15-12:45 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring new jazz artists each week. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.
Mountain Dulcimer Performance. Folk musician Ernie Block. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

dewittlibrary.org.
Sammy Gold. 80's Pop-Rock. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Rookies Restaurant, 1640 S. US 27, Lansing. (517) 487-8686.

THEATER

"Anton in Show Business." Play about three actresses preparing for the title roles in "Three Sisters." 7:30 p.m. \$13, \$10 student. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Girls' Night Out. Meet Carmen Bagan, "Burying the Typewriter." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.
Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 402-4481.
Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. Discuss Natalie Babbitt's "Jack Plank." 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Thursday, September 20 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Yoga 2XL. Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
QiGong & Tai Chi classes. Light exercises for those who have physical limitations, senior citizens or just need to unwind. 8 a.m. Up to \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.
Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
Chi Flow Yoga for Longevity. Taught by Julie Huldin. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$10 drop-in, \$80 all 10. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (517) 708-8510. meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit, massageandwellnesslansing.com.
After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Kids time: activities on gardening, healthy recipes & games. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
Marketing Your Nonprofit Organization. Speaker Robin Miner-Swartz. Call to register. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Nonprofit Center at the Armory, 330 Marshall St., Suite, 300, Lansing. (517) 887-4691.
Attracting Beneficial Creatures. How insects & mammals can improve your gardens. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.
Saving Your Memories in a Digital World.

How to upload your photos & more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393.iteclansing.org.

EVENTS

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.
Ice Cream Social. Meet Community Relations Coalition's new interns. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Oakwood Neighborhood, 630 Sunset Lane, East Lansing. WeAllLiveHere.org.
Lewton-Rich Neighborhood Meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing STEM Academy Social Room, 2600 Hampden Drive, Lansing. (517) 372-0784. lewtonrich.org.
Bananagrams Night. Word game fun in the Chapbook Cafe. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.
Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish will be spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Evening Storytime. Stories, songs & crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.
South Lansing Farmers Market. Locally produced food, youth activities and educational opportunities. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.
LAHR town hall. Allow LGBT community & those concered about LGBT rights to meet candidates for upcoming election. 7 p.m. meeting. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.
Evening at WKAR. Preview of British TV show "Call the Midwife." Reserve seats. 7 p.m. FREE. WKAR TV studios, Communication Arts & Sciences building, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-9527. wkar.org.
Day of Peace. Join Lansing interfaith community celebrating call to peacemaking. 7 p.m. FREE. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7030. shalomlansing.org.
Maranatha Church Fundraiser Kitchen. Specialty plate each week. Eat in or delivery. 6 p.m.-1 a.m. \$7 per plate. Maranatha Assembly of God Church, 927 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 372-4106.
MSU Film Collective Screening. Featuring "I Am

Love." Discussion. 8-11 p.m. FREE. B122, Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-4441.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Drum Circle. Hand drumming. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.
Deacon Earl. Live blues. 8-11 p.m. FREE. Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

THEATER

"Spring Awakening." Tony Award-winning rock musical about teenagers in 19th century Germany. 7 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors 55 & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.
"Three Sisters." Chekhov's classic tragi-comedy. 7:30 p.m. \$13, \$10 student. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.
"Boom." A grad student lures a journalism student to his research lab for a "casual encounter." 8 p.m. Pay what you can preview. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime With Ms. Deb. Three books and a craft. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble Lansing, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437.
Meet Adria Libolt. Signing & discussion with author of "A Deputy Warden's Reflections on Prison Work." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.
International Book Club. Discuss "Behind the Beautiful Forevers," by Katherine Boo. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Friday, September 21 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gateway to Infinity. Take a virtual tour of the universe. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. www.pa.msu.edu/abrams.
Our Daily Work/Lives. With Alex Lichtenstein, Department of History, Indiana University. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.
Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. 10 a.m.-Noon, \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art

See Out on the Town, Page 26

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU									MEDIUM
—	2	—	4	6	—	5	—	—	<p>TO PLAY</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit www.SundayCrosswords.com</p> <p>Answers on page 29</p>
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September 20 - October 21, 2012

boom



An epic and intimate End-Of-The-World comedy that keeps you laughing 'til the unexpected end!
 Contains Mature Language and Themes.

Pay-What-You-Can Preview
 Thursday, Sept. 20 @ 8PM

\$15 Previews (Sept. 21-23)
 Fri & Sat @ 8pm, Sun @ 2pm

Directed by Tony Caselli
 Featuring: Aral Gribble,
 Sarab Kamoo and Alissa Nordmoe

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



by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb

Out on the town

from page 25

Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

Cork & Canvas. An instructional art class. We provide the canvas, paint and instruction. 6-8:30 p.m. \$25. Gallery 1212, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

EVENTS

East Lansing Film Society Film Series.

Featuring "Monsieur Lazhar." Discussion. 7 p.m. & 9:15 p.m. \$8, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for students. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Storytime. Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

Teen Advisory Group. Ages 13-18, help plan programs & more. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Peace of Lansing. Join local officials & peace advocates in the first Global Day of Truce. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. peaceoflansing.info.

Nite Ride Around Town. 8-10 mile bike ride around Lansing, stop halfway for food and drinks. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus,

East Lansing. (517) 347-1689.

Peace Day City Hall. "Peace in Prison" DVD, auction of Lansing painting. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Hall Plaza, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-5523.

Play & Shop. Children up to 6 can play while their parent or caregiver shops. 5-8:30 p.m. \$2, 4972 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. playeastlansing.com.

MEO Celebration. Open house. Food & drink, music, tours & silent auction. 4-7 p.m. \$25 suggested donation. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-0422.

Lansing Community Connect. Services to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. South Washington Office Complex, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4477.

Teen Game Show Night. Ages 13-18. Play games. Dinner provided. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

MUSIC

Old Town BluesFest. Variety of live music. 4 p.m.-12:30 a.m. FREE. Old Town, Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-4283. oldtownbluesfest.com.

Ten Pound Fiddle Concert. Woody Guthrie songs by various artists. 7 p.m. \$15 public, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-7744.

Breathe Owl Breathe. Gifts or Creatures will open. 7:30 p.m. \$12. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

Grand River Radio Diner Concert. Featuring Ben Keeler. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710.

The New Rule. Rock music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. CB's Bucket Bar & Grille, 132 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 992-5060. williamstonbucket.com.

Collage VI. Over 300 performers in 20 acts. 8 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$10 students with ID or under 18 years old. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

THEATER

"Vigil." Dark comedy featuring Carmen Decker and Timothy Busfield. 8 p.m. \$15, \$12, \$10. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488. www.lcc.edu/showinfo.

"Spring Awakening." 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

"Anton in Show Business." 8 p.m. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 19.)

Boom. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

Saturday, September 22 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Rock the Ledge! EcoTrek Session with Brenda Rogers & Laura Pung. 9-11 a.m. \$10 for 1 or 2 people. 206 West River Street, Grand Ledge. 517-243-6538. ekotrekfitness.com

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE donations. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Beginner Tai Chi. Build strength & reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Gateway to Infinity. 8 p.m. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 21.)

Race, Class and Non-Violence. Discussion led by Norman Peoples Jr. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Staying Connected with Facebook. For beginner computer users who wants to connect with loved ones. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community

Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar & Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

Williamston Eagles Club. Food & drink, dancing & music. 2 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Eagles Club, 835 High St., Williamston. (517) 655-6510.

East Lansing Film Society Film Series.

Featuring "Monsieur Lazhar." Discussion. 7 p.m. & 9:15 pm. \$8, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for students. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Lego Creation Challenge. Each builder or team provided set of blocks. Registration required. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Lego Builders Club. Ages 6-14, build with Legos. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. cadl.org.

Beer & Wine Tasting. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos.

Urbandale Farm Stand. Purchase fresh, local produce, tour the farm, or volunteer. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. 700 block of S. Hayford Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3916.

Occupy Lansing. General assembly meetings. 1 p.m. FREE. Reutter Park, Corner of Kalamazoo & Townsend St., Lansing.

Auto & Motorcycle Show. LCC's Automotive Technology & Collision Repair programs. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE, \$10 registration. LCC West Campus, W. Mount Hope & Snow Roads, Lansing. (517) 267-5452.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter. Proceeds go to Cedar Chapter. Noon-4 p.m. \$5-\$6 per quart pot. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 337-9282.

Charity Golf Outing. Four person scramble, Mexican food, silent auction & more. 8:30 a.m. \$80. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston. (517) 655-6999.

Meridian Heritage Festival. Entertainment, food, activities & more. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Historical Village, 5113 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-7300. meridian.mi.us.

Art Show. Featuring Rod Kramer & Holliday Martindale. 6 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moxy Studios, John Bean Building, 1305 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 410-1983.

Michigan Pride Red Party. 21+ \$10 wristband, three venues. 18+ Sprial. Start at Spiral, Esquire or Grand Cafe & bar hop. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. MichiganPride.org.

Lansing Pagan Pride Day. Vendors &

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

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- **Edru Skate-A-Rama** in Holt
- **City Limits Bowling Center** in Mason

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See Out on the Town, Page 27

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

LAHR
LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Prism Awards
Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

An advocate by and for
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people and
their allies in the greater
Lansing community since 1979.

www.LAHRonline.org

Out on the town

from page 26

entertainers. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Valhalla Park, Keller & Pine Tree Roads, Holt.

MUSIC

Old Town BluesFest. Variety of live music. 2 p.m.-12:30 a.m. FREE. Old Town, Grand River Avenue and Turner Street, Lansing. (517) 485-4283. oldtownbluesfest.com.

The New Rule. Rock music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. CB's Bucket Bar & Grille, 132 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 992-5060. williamstonbucket.com.

THEATER

"Vigil." 2 & 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 21.)

"Spring Awakening." 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

"Three Sisters." 2 p.m. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

"Anton in Show Business." 8 p.m. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 19.)

Boom. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

Sunday, September 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gateway to Infinity. 4 p.m. Abrams Planetarium, MSU campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 21.)

The Family Show. "Sky Tellers," for children preschool through grade 2 & their families. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

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

Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

"Religious Faith Teachings Regarding Peace and Violence." Part of International Day of Peace. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

EVENTS

East Lansing Film Society Film Series. Featuring "Monsieur Lazhar." Discussion. 7 p.m. & 9:15 p.m. \$8, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for students. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River, Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

East Lansing Farmer's Market. Fresh produce & more. 10 a.m.-2p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing.

Stewardship Work Days. Volunteer to keep Fenner beautiful. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature

Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Fall Color Boat Tour. Travel down Grand River. BYOB, snacks & cups provided. 12:30 p.m. Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. grandriverconnection.com.

Old Town Poetry Series. Reading by John Rybicki. 2 p.m. Suggested donations, \$5 & \$3 students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 267-0410.

Isha Utsav: A celebration of life. Meditation, music & dinner. 2-4:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burchman Drive, East Lansing. (248) 662-5756. BeBreatheBlossom.com.

AIDS Walk. Emcee Tim Barron, trophies, food, live music & more. 10 a.m. FREE, donations. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Crt., East Lansing. (517) 394-3719 ext. 13. kintera.org/faf/home.

Clothing Swap Party. Bring unwanted clothes & trade. 2 p.m. FREE. Lansing Towers, 610 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (313) 443-6863.

MUSIC

Julia Holter. With Hundred Waters. 8 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.

Music on the Patio. Featuring Brad Maitland & Dan Wixo. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 267-3800.

Faculty Recital. Featuring Anne Nispel & Harlan Jennings. 3 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Hart Recital Hall, Music Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-3345.

THEATER

"Vigil." 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing. (Please

see details Sept. 21.)

"Spring Awakening." 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

"Three Sisters." 2 p.m. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

Boom. 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (Please see details Sept. 20.)

Monday, September 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609.

Chronic Pain Support Group. For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Tech Bytes. Learn about library ebooks for Kindle. Noon-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Basic CERT Course. Better prepare for disasters & emergencies. Registration required. 6-10 p.m. FREE. Delhi Fire Department, 2027 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 483-6645.

English Country Dancing. No partner necessary. Room C20. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE MSU students, \$5, \$2 students. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Baseball Talk. Presentation chronicling the

baseball career of Michigan native & Hall of Famer Rick Ferrell. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088. cadl.org.

Fall Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under two. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

Social Bridge & Euchre. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. bridge, 6-9 p.m. euchre \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Homeschool Connect. All ages. Educational activities for homeschooling families. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Monday Movie Matinees. Free movie. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Clifford's Birthday Party. Sing "Happy Birthday" to Clifford the Big Red Dog in a live webcast event. 10 a.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

Film Night. Featuring "Bunty Aur Babli." 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Open Mic Mondays. Sign up to play. Spoken word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. MBC Lansing, 402 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Foxy Shazam. 7 p.m. \$13. The Loft, At Harem Urban Lounge, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

CityPULSE
NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by
Berl Schwartz

CANDIDATES FOR INGHAM COUNTY TREASURER



Eric Schertzing

Jake Davison

Comcast Channel 16 — Lansing, Sunday, Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

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Out on the town

from page 27

Tuesday, September 25 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068.

Yoga 40. All ages welcome. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Intro to Computers. With professional instructors. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

On the Way To Wellness. Nutrition & wellness coaching. 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

QiGong & Tai Chi classes. Light exercises for those with physical limitations, senior citizens or just need to unwind. 8 a.m. Up to \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Computer Class. Learn Excel. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 882-3122.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg. 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 1926.toastmastersclubs.org.

Financial Fitness part II. Get your financial future in shape. 6 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.

Coupon Swap. Meet other coupon enthusiasts, exchange coupons & more. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

LinkedIn 101. How to network online. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

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

Chi Flow Yoga for Longevity. Taught by Julie Huldin. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$10 drop-in, \$80 all 10. ACC Natural Healing and

Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (517) 708-8510. meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit, massageandwellnesslansing.com
Advanced Urban Gardener Series. With Dr. John Biernbaum. 6-8 p.m. \$15, \$40 for all four. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Ages 5-10, activities on gardening, nutrition & community service. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Restoration Works. Demonstration in how to replace wood windows with vinyl. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. 1512 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3924.

People's Law School. Bankruptcy and debtor/creditor law, Jeff Klug. 7-9 p.m. \$25 for 7 weeks. Cooley Law School Auditorium, 217 South Capital Ave., Lansing. michiganjustice.org.

Intro to Computers. With professional instructors. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

Barre Class. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Spartan Dance Center, 3498 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-5415. spartandancecenter.com.

EVENTS

Fall Storytime. Features stories, rhymes & a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

East Lansing Modernist Architecture. Information meeting. 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Afternoon Cinema. Recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Fourth Tuesday Networking Event. 10 over the next 10 awards. Hors d'oeuvres & cash bar. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing. (517) 484-4567.

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.

THEATER

"Anton in Show Business." 7:30 p.m. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Sept. 19.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss Nora Ephron's "I Feel Bad About My Neck." 10:15-11:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Meet Marcia Aldrich. Join the author of "Companion to an Untold Story" for a wine & cheese reception. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Wednesday, September 26 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Home Weatherization Techniques. Ways to reduce your home's energy use. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125

CAPITAL CITY HOMEBREW SUPPLY & PLUSH CONSIGNMENTS



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Capital City Homebrew Supply owner Todd Branstner in front of his new business. The store will sell all the materials Lansing beer and wine makers will need.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Things are brewing across the street from the City Pulse offices on Michigan Avenue. Well, maybe not actually brewing on-site, but a new business is certainly getting things started. On Thursday, owner/operator Todd Branstner opens his venture, **Capital City Homebrew Supply**, where he hopes to separate himself from similar beer- and wine-making supply stores around town. He doesn't just sell the stuff — he's a brewer himself.

"I was in the Upper Peninsula with some friends in 1986, and my friend's uncle sent me home with a can of malt — I've been brewing ever since," Branstner said. "My first couple of batches weren't that great, but they got me encouraged."

After moving to the Lansing area to pursue a degree in history at Michigan State University, Branstner brought his hobby with him. He said he used a couple of different suppliers in the area until they both disappeared, the most recent casualty being Things Beer, the brew-making supply store inside **Michigan Brewing Co.** in Webberville. When that closed in April,

ideas began to bubble.

"That was my impetus to open my own place," he says. "I'd been thinking about doing it for years, but that got me off the pot."

Branstner had to invest in a new roof and performed many infrastructure renovations to the building, which had been abandoned for over a year. (It was formerly The Popcorn Bag, a medical marijuana dispensary. He rents the building from the owners, who live in California.) Branstner says he's going to be stocking some unique supplies, including homemade mash paddles, pots, cleaning chemicals and over 30 different types of malts and hops. He's also carrying winemaking kits, giving equal opportunity to oenophiles in town.

"If we don't have it, we'll get it," he says. "I'm putting most of my budget into inventory to make sure I'll have everything people need."

He's also planning on launching a series of classes with his general manager, Jordan Artuso, which will range in skill level from beginner up to all-grain brewing. "Jordan's going to teach the science behind what's going on, all the hows and whys," said Branstner. "He really takes it to a new level."

Plus-sized model

In June, Jamie Cripe took her online plus-size consignment shop from

the cyber world to the real world when she opened **Plush Consignments** in Williamston.

"Women want to try stuff on," she says. "If you're shopping online, you can't really tell if something's going to fit right. Sizing across brands works so different, so I figured an actual store would be more practical." Cripe says she grew up in an "entrepreneurial family" — her father owned a Lansing screen-printing company. She says she always envisioned being her own boss and sees Plush as just one more step in that process. But why keep the focus on plus-size women?

"The average size right now for a woman is a size 16," Cripe says. "We're an increasing size population. Just because a woman's curvier doesn't mean she doesn't want to dress nice or that she doesn't have a sense of fashion. I could stand to lose a few pounds, but in the meantime, I've got some fashionable clothes to wear."

Capital City Homebrew Supply

1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun. Noon to 4 p.m.
(517) 374-1070
capitalcityhomebrewsupply.com

Plush Consignments

133 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston
Tue. – Fri. 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sometimes by appointment
(517) 992-5020
plushconsignment.com
facebook.com/plushconsignments

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See Out on the Town, Page 29



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Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The Reuben sandwich at Schwartz's Deli near the Frandor Shopping Center received high marks from the Food Fight judges in the categories of taste and authenticity. The accompanying pickle also earned raves.

Corned beef quest

Food Fight team takes on deli favorite



The northwest suburbs of Detroit are home to a large Jewish population and (un-coincidentally) some of the state's finest delicatessens. Many mid-Michiganders who are native to the region still dream of the New York-style bagels, blintzes and marbled corned beef that are all now an hour's drive away. Among the most beloved of these forsaken food items has to be that classic deli staple, the Reuben sandwich, so what better thing to tackle for a Food Fight?

We chose seven of the area's top (or upcoming) sandwich sites and spent an afternoon hitting all of them. The sandwiches were given a score of 1 to 10 based on five categories: cost per portion, authenticity, service, atmosphere and overall taste, with a wild card X-factor category either increasing or damaging the score based on anything from the crispiness of the accompanying chips to the dill-ness of the pickle. Although several variants exist, including the California (or turkey) Reuben, we stuck with the traditional: corned beef, Swiss cheese, 1000 Island dressing and sauerkraut. We hoped for some nice Jewish rye bread to hold it all together, but this ain't New York (or West Bloomfield), so we took what we could get.

FRANDOR DELI — 5.8 OUT OF 10

Our experience here can best be summed up by the judge who said, "I was hoping for a Reuben, but I got

microwaved, tasteless meat on a brown sub bun." Sure, at \$5.83 we got a relative bargain with "lots of sauerkraut" and "fast service," but the "sauce looked like Cheez Wiz," the "kraut tasted canned" and the "funky celebrity paintings" weren't able to draw our attention away from the multiple less-than-spotless tables. And we were the only ones in there. Ugh.

Frandor Deli, 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing Charter Township (inside Frandor Shopping Center)

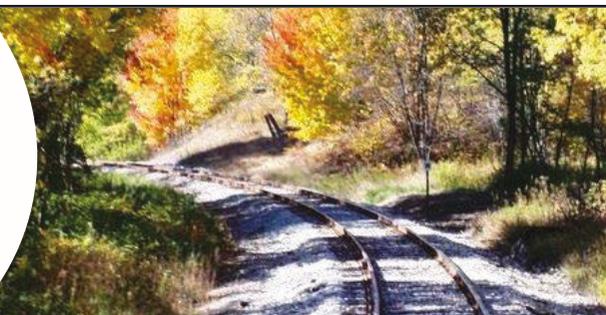
SOUP SPOON CAFÉ — 6.7 OUT OF 10

Kosher diners may be in for a surprise at Soup Spoon, where we unanimously agreed someone slapped some ham in our sandwich by mistake. "Where's the corned beef," someone quipped. "It tastes like a good slice of Easter ham," said another. One of our more astute judges noted that that we didn't have real Swiss: "the guere cheese was a nice trade-off," however. "Finally we got some marbled rye," said another. We all are longtime fans of the "bright, comfy atmosphere" and the "universally good service" at Soup Spoon, but we found this Reuben to be an "overall disappointment."
Soup Spoon Cafe, 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

PAUL REVERE'S TAVERN — 6.9 OUT OF 10

The best value of the day was here,

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Owosso to Clare — OCTOBER 6, 2012

Depart from Owosso, Michigan at 9:00am, with a planned arrival into Clare at 12:30pm. Following a two hour visit of downtown Clare. The passengers will board at 3pm for a scheduled 7:00pm return to Owosso.

COACH TICKETS \$99

Mt. Pleasant to Cadillac — OCTOBER 13, 2012

Board at 10:00am from Mt. Pleasant to the Steam Railroading Institute, where we will travel to Cadillac, Michigan. Explore and stroll through Cadillac's quaint downtown, and then board for an early afternoon return to the Mt. Pleasant.

ROUND TRIP TICKET - \$75

Owosso to Alma — OCTOBER 20, 2012

Board at 10:00am to the Railroading Institute where we will travel to Alma, Michigan. Explore and stroll through Alma's quaint downtown, and then board for an early afternoon return to the SRI.

ROUND TRIP TICKET - \$75



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 989.399.7589 • www.michigansteamtrain.com

Food Fight

from page 30

where you can get “a pretty decent sandwich” (without any sides) for \$4.51. The “dark” bar was “quiet and comfortable,” and it seemed like “a fun place to play a game of pinball” or “watch the game.” Our sandwich, which arrived on “great bread,” was “just the right amount of fatty.” There were some mixed opinions here, however, ranging from “too much dressing” (which one of us called “bland”) to “not enough kraut.” But overall, it “left a good taste in my mouth.” *Paul Revere's Tavern, 2703 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing*

STATE SIDE DELI — 7.1 OUT OF 10

There was a \$5 special on all sandwiches going on the day we visited, which led to an exchange of value points for authenticity points. It won raves for the best price, but one person remarked that the sandwich was “smaller than normal.” The corned beef seemed “a little bland,” and one member of the group declared, “I could build a better sandwich out of cold cuts.” State Side was the favorite to win by at least two people, who both expressed their disappointment in this sandwich. It did, however, have a “nice sauce,” “fast service” and “a great location.” “I love you, State Side” lamented one of our judges, “but you can do better than this.” *State Side Deli, 313 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing*

BAR 30 — 7.5 OUT OF 10

This new kid on the block held its own against the known favorites. At \$10.60, this was certainly the most expensive sandwich of the day, but one of us thought, “it was worth it.” The “yummy” sandwich was “full of flavor,” which one of

us called a “true blue Reuben” with “great sauce.” The homemade chips earned it bonus points in the X-factor category, as did the fact that it was the only one of the bunch with patio seating. As for the service: “we were annoying and he was cool.” (ed. note: it’s always annoying when eight people sit in your section and only order one sandwich to split.) *Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing (inside Eastwood Towne Center)*

SCHWARTZ'S DELI — 7.8 OUT OF 10

For \$9.21, the “massive” sandwich here made it “a little too pricy to do every day — but I wish I could.” Most of us agreed that it lost points because “the bread was definitely lacking,” but the “messy” but “awesome” sandwich earned it the highest overall authenticity ratings from the judges. “It’s how I imagine they make it in New York,” said one. It was “served steaming,” but the service was “a little slow and complain-y” — apparently a coworker had slept in that day, but did we need to know that?

Schwartz's Deli, 521 N. Clippert St., Lansing Charter Township

ART'S BAR — 8.3 OUT OF 10

For \$6.89, this corner bar “finally got the Reuben right.” Nearly all of us, in one way or another, called the Reuben here “a good surprise,” although one of the purists said the meat “tasted more like pastrami than corned beef, but oh well.” Among the comments: “the proportions are perfect,” “the bread was just the right amount of greasy,” “best presentation” and — most important — “the best flavor.” *Art's Bar, 809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing*

There you have it: a full exploration into “the realm of the Reuben,” as one of the judges called it. Got a beef with our picks? Have a suggestion for an upcoming Food Fight? Send your comments and ideas to allan@lansingcitypulse.com.

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