

FREE

# City PULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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September 5-11, 2012

## VACANT:

*DECIDING THE FATE OF  
LANSING'S CLOSED SCHOOLS*

SEE PAGE 9



ACC Natural Healing & Wellness Solutions opens downtown, see page 23

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**CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS**



Hosted by Berl Schwartz

**Channel 16 —  
Sunday, September 9  
Lansing — 11 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**



**Steve Hayward**  
Lansing Township Planning Director

**Channel 30 — Sunday, September 9  
Meridian Township — 11:30 a.m.**



**Tom Cochran**  
Democrat



**Jeff Oesterle**  
Republican

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# Lily Tomlin

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- USA TODAY



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*Aug 27 2012*

**Cruising into Michigan Aug. 27, 2012**

FAT TIRE AMBER ALE IS BREWED BY NEW BELGIUM BREWING FORT COLLINS CO

# Feedback

## Offended by City Pulse? Shock!

I am amused that people are "Shocked! Shocked! Round up the usual suspects!" when it comes to the anti-family content of City Pulse.

A cover story on Marijuana; throughout the issue 'grown-your-own' advertisements. Turn It Down often features artist that hardly reflect 'family values.' Do you still run the Gentlemen's club ads?.

Your articles are often dense (the drainage district election) and I suspect the lip movers probably ignore them.

You have no movie listings, you have no comics, so why are children ("Please protect children...") picking up City Pulse? Because it's free!

"I've been offended at your advertising on the back of your paper" but not one word about the lingerie ads in section one of The State Journal or of glossy underwear inserts! Oh!, that's right, you have to pay for the Journal!

— Thomas Pollack  
Lansing

## Puzzled by support; awkward to read

I finally got a free moment to read the weekly print edition of City Pulse, only to find via your Feedback page that Amy Alkon's "Advice Goddess" column has been replaced, in your printed City Pulse, by Dan Savage's graphic and vulgar "Savage Love." I don't think I will subject myself to the online, full version of Savage's advice column, for the printed version (edited for length) was more than enough.

Frankly, I'm puzzled at the letters from two supporters. One person claims that Savage treats his readers "...with respect..." when his answers are riddled with crude, locker-room language better suited for cable TV. The second writer was "delighted" with Savage's so-called wit, although I don't see anything witty about using the word motherf\*\*\*er in his answers to his readers. I agree with William Rowan and Hedlun Walton. Amy Alkon possesses insight and style in her answers. She always leave me laughing! Savage's responses ARE pornographic, to the point that he left me Fifty Shades of Nauseous.

The front cover of the printed City Pulse still proudly touts its perennial claim of being "a newspaper for the rest of us." What "rest of us" are you referring to; the NC-17 crowd? Well, Mr. Savage got it half correct when he entitled his column. It is "Savage" but it has nothing to do with love.

— Amy Krycinski  
Grand Ledge

As both a fan of amy alkon and dan savage, I must say Id rather have amy there. Dan savage is good from a writers stand point, but he seems very discriminatory in what he decides to reply to in the mail. I'm

not a sexual prude and am a avid gay rights supporter, but I think that he seems to focus more in the "savage love" collum on things that makes a shocking headline for it or will at least get your attention if you glance at the question or answer for even a second. I realize he's trying to help those with sexual and relationship issues, but he seems to focus more on not only more sexual issues, but ones that no matter where you are on the scale of sexual freedom that make you go "am I really reading this?" My issue is not so much children reading this, but it seeming like amys collum, a more relatable advice collum, being replaced with one that seems to favor more...esoteric issues. Not everyone wants to read about other peoples sexual issues. Gay or straight. Amy at least had the decency to post relationship issues for both straight and gay people. Besides, parents have enough of a hard time explaining sex to their kids as is. Showing a story where a teenager asks what to do about having the hots toward his best friends mom, in which the given answer is to pleasure himself to her. Just because its true, does not mean it needs to be said out in the open. It is kinda awkward for anyone to read...

— Howard Tyrone Smith II  
Lansing

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

### 1.) Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

### 2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com)  
or (517) 999-5061

(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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# CityPULSE

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Five buildings nominated for  
first Preservation Lansing awards



**PAGE  
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Celebrity guest directors, film adaptations make  
for a diverse upcoming theater season



**PAGE  
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Uncle John's hosting hard cider  
festival this weekend



**COVER  
ART**

SCHOOL'S OUT by RACHEL HARPER, PHOTOS by SAM INGLOT

## CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

**THIS WEEK**

Jeff Oesterle, Republican candidate for 67th House district  
Tom Cochran, Democratic candidate for 67th House district  
Actor Timothy Busfield  
Chuck Signore, co-founder of Tony Saccos Coal Oven Pizza



Editor & Publisher  
**Berl  
Schwartz**

7 p.m. Wednesdays

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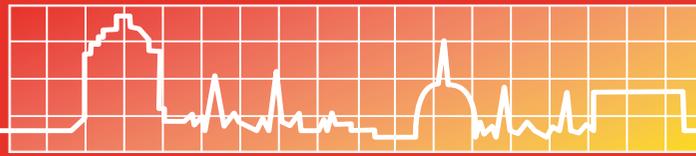
## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

<b>RNC 2012: CRAZY NEVER SLEEPS</b>	ENTIRE CONVENTION IS BASED ON DECEPTIVELY-EDITED OBAMA CLIP. WE BUILT THIS--ON A MOUNTAIN OF LIES! GHOST OF ANDREW BREITBART	NUMEROUS SELF-RELIANT RECIPIENTS OF GOVERNMENT LOANS AND CONTRACTS ARE FEATURED! I BUILT MY GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED BUSINESS WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!	SPEAKERS ONLY OCCASIONALLY REMEMBER TO MENTION THE NOMINEE. ME ME ME! OH AND VOTE FOR WHAT'S HIS NAME.
BUT HE IS MENTIONED MORE FREQUENTLY THAN GEORGE W. BUSH. GEORGE W. WHO?	THEY DO WANT US TO KNOW: ROMNEY IS A BUSINESSMAN. WE BUILT IT! OR AT LEAST, STRIPPED ITS ASSETS AND SHIPPED THE MONEY TO THE CAYMANS!	ALSO: HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR! WHY, ONCE HE FIRED THIS GUY-- --BUT I GUESS YOU HAD TO BE THERE.	OVERALL THE CONSENSUS IS CLEAR: GOVERNMENT ISN'T GOOD FOR ANYTHING! EXCEPT STARTING WARS, REGULATING VAGINAS, POLICING MARRIAGE AND KEEPING BROWN-SKINNED PEOPLE FROM CROSSING THE BORDER.
MEANWHILE HURRICANE ISAAC HITS THE GULF COAST; GOV. JINDAL ASKS FOR MORE GOV'T AID. WHAT'S YOUR POINT?	CONDI RICE EXTOLLS "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH." LIKE WE DID IT IN THE HE-WHO-SHALL-NOT-BE-NAMED ADMINISTRATION!	PAUL RYAN GOES FOR THE GOLD IN BLATANT DISHONESTY. LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES. OH AND ALSO: LIES.	NOT TO MENTION CHUTZPAH, OBAMA WANTS TO DISMANTLE THE PROGRAM I INTEND TO DISMANTLE! THE FIEND!
AND THEN--THE CANDIDATE WHOSE CAMPAIGN WAS DERAILED FOR A WEEK BY TODD AKIN--AND WHOSE CONVENTION WAS DISRUPTED BY HURRICANE ISAAC-- THE MAN WHO CANNOT GET A BREAK FINDS HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OVERSHADOWED--	--BY AN OLD MAN YELLING AT A CHAIR. "DO YOU JUST--YOU KNOW--I KNOW-- PEOPLE WERE WONDERING--YOU DON'T--"	AND, FINALLY: ROMNEY GIVES A SPEECH NO ONE WILL EVER REMEMBER. I LOOKED AWAY FOR A MOMENT-- AND TOTALLY FORGOT HE WAS THERE!	

READ AN EXTENDED VERSION OF THIS WEEK'S CARTOON AT [WWW.THISMODERNWORLD.COM!](http://WWW.THISMODERNWORLD.COM!)

# PULSE



## news & opinion

### A venue cometh

**A performing arts center is coming to Lansing Township — what's that mean for downtown Lansing?**

Whoooooosh. That's the sound of Lansing Township leaving the city of Lansing in the dust on the goal of creating a performing arts center.

On Oct. 1, construction is set to start on a 12,000-square-foot, 1,500-capacity performing arts venue at Eastwood Towne Center in Lansing Township.

It's a similar concept that city officials have hoped to bring downtown for nearly 20 years — across three mayoral administrations — to no avail.

Very few, if any, disagree that the greater Lansing area could use a mid-sized performing arts center to fill a niche somewhere between the Wharton Center and Mac's Bar or Riverwalk Theatre. In the mid-1990s, former Lansing Mayor David Hollister actively pursued such a venue to be located in what is now the Stadium District, but those plans never got beyond the proposal stage. A second attempt roughly 10 years later by the city, Cooley Law School and Lansing Community College met the same fate.

Those tied to the Eastwood plan largely chalk it up as a win for the region, not as a setback for downtown Lansing. But does a venue on the far north side of Ingham County contribute to bringing more people downtown?

At least one vocal critic — not just of the venue, but of Eastwood all together — is Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. He says the suburban development draws people away from the region's core: downtown Lansing. And a performing arts center belongs downtown, he added.

"It's part of what the downtown needs. I don't think it's part of what a suburban mall needs," he said. "The urban sprawl that is best represented by Eastwood represents an unsustainable model that really tears at the core of the urban center. ... (Eastwood) is a bastardization of the concept of an urban core."

"It's kind of a bummer," said Courtney Millbrook, executive director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. "There were discussions that have been close"

in the past about bringing something downtown, she said. "I think we don't want to lose sight of that space for downtown Lansing."

The LSO has been in talks with the owner of the venue about hosting some of the orchestra's smaller events. The main concert series would still be held at the Wharton Center, she said, but details still need to be fleshed out. "I think there are some real possibilities. We haven't committed to anything."

When asked if she thinks the move is a bad sign for bringing a venue downtown, Millbrook said, "I hope not. For downtown development, a performing arts space is important for any plan. It's just a matter of things being close and the money being there."

The as-of-yet unnamed venue is part of a larger expansion — called The Heights at Eastwood — taking place on the north end of Eastwood Towne Center.



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

A portion of the first floor of this parking ramp, as part of a larger expansion at Eastwood Towne Center in Lansing Township, will contain something the city has sought for years: a mid-sized performing arts venue.

The township is essentially the developer of The Heights, paying for the construction of the restaurants, venue and parking ramp with more than \$20 million in municipal bonds. The venue owner, Chuck Senatore, will lease the space from the township. Bernero said he finds it "very, very odd and perplexing that the township is so directly engaged in speculative entrepreneurial endeavors."

Senatore, an East Lansing native and co-founder of Tony Saccos Coal Oven Pizza, came back to the area after launching his restaurant in five other states. Just north of his restaurant and adjacent bar, Bar30, a Hyatt Place hotel and apartments are planned. A parking structure is already up. His venue is going on the first floor of the mixed-use parking ramp next to seafood, Latin and steakhouse-style restaurants.

"We're hoping to draw a lot of bands and things like that that would have normally skipped over Lansing because there's not a large enough venue here,"

he said.

Lansing Township Planning Director Steve Hayward, who worked in the city's planning and development department when Hollister tried bringing a venue downtown, acknowledges Lansing's long-standing need for a mid-sized performing arts center. He also serves on the board of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

"One step at a time, we're trying to add things in the region," Hayward said, not straying far from thinking of Lansing as also East Lansing and Meridian, Delta and Delhi townships. "This region needs a home for the arts."

Hayward recognizes the work of local theater companies as "very strong" and the impact Wharton has on the region. He says Senatore's venue won't compete with the convention business around town.

If it is about the township competing with the city, Hayward said he would "have to acknowledge the fact that the township is less than a city." But, he added, where such a development would happen largely depends on private investment. "It's not like they haven't had a chance," he said of someone building a venue in the city. "If there's a developer in town that wants to build one of these things, let 'em build it. Some have tried."

Bernero countered: "If the venue would work there, it would work better downtown."

David Wiener, who was the chief of staff for the Hollister administration, said the plan that started in the mid-'90s to bring a multi-purpose perform-

ing arts venue across the street from the baseball stadium "just kind of never took off." Several years later, the city tried to partner with Cooley and LCC for a shared space at the corner of Kalamazoo Street and Capitol Avenue: "We had a number of meetings about it, but it just never gelled. Too many different pieces," he said.

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said on City Pulse's TV show a month ago, "If the city does focus on a performance art center, it needs to be in the heart of downtown Lansing."

Whether a mid-sized performing arts center is downtown or in Eastwood doesn't really matter, as long as the demand for such a site is met, Wiener said.

"If it fits a niche not being met, then that's good for the community," Wiener said. "Obviously, as a Lansing person, we've always looked for ways to draw people into the city."



Property: 141 Leslie St., Lansing  
Owner: David and Carrie Muylle  
Assessed value: \$17,500

Good buildings are not only attractive — they also have good DNA. What is building DNA? It's the original construction essentials like superior craftsmanship and quality materials that hold up through standing neglect.

This craftsman-style stunner in Lansing's Eastside Neighborhood has seriously good DNA. Built in 1915, it is the latest unveiling in a string of Dave Muylle's restorations on Leslie and Regent streets that demonstrate how successful urban revitalization can be.

Clever built-ins, closets and innovative elements meet the needs of today's lifestyle, as does a flexible floor plan that accommodates for more than the traditional single family residence this house was originally built for.

Although it looks like a traditional single family home, this house has been modified to include two suites on the second story and a garden flat — you'd never know from the curb, and that is exactly what makes this a successful design. The form fits the character of the neighborhood, but the use offers the flexibility necessary for contemporary living.

When reflecting on the completion of 141 Leslie, Muylle says: "I think this is the best I've done. It's not only about the house, but also the context, how it is embedded in Lansing and connecting it all in so many ways, culture and community."

If you're interested in seeing the interior, a tour of two craftsman-style houses on Leslie Street, which includes this address, is scheduled for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 14. Call 999-3924 for more information.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

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

# Eastwood

from page 5

When asked if he thinks the Eastwood venue will make it more difficult to bring a similar place downtown, Wiener said: "I would guess so. They would be filling a niche. There's no point in building another one.

"Our whole approach was to try not to compete. If they're filling a niche, then so be it. And that's what they're doing. ... I'd rather look at this from a regional perspective."

— Andy Balaskovitz



## Bolger/Schmidt scheme comes to 67th

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

The sleepy 67th state House District is in slumber no more.

Democrat House candidate Tom Cochran wound up and swung at Republican Jeff Oesterle where it hurt during the "City Pulse Newsmakers"

program this week, by tying his opponent to the intriguing investigation into the Republican House speaker and the shady filing day switch-a-roo in Grand Rapids.

Cochran noted that Oesterle is carrying the banner for a party that not only cut education and jacked up senior citizens' income taxes, but tried to rob Democrats in a Grand Rapids House seat of a legitimate candidate through some underhanded scheme.

"It's just a travesty what they did," Cochran said on the show. "The Republican prosecutor in Kent County even admitted what they did was unethical. They need to stop playing political games."

Rep. Roy Schmidt, R-Grand Rapids, opted to switch from Democrat to Republican on the filing deadline after much consultation with Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall. And to assure himself an easy re-election victory, he promised his nephew's 22-year-old roommate \$450 to run a phantom campaign against him as a Democrat.

Kent County Prosecutor William Forsyth blew the whistle on the whole affair before the primary election, declaring that the whole thing smelled to high heaven, but that no laws were broken.

Democrats, however, noted that the phony candidate, Matt Mojzak, didn't live in the 76th House District for 30 days before filing.

Mojzak planned on moving into the district this summer, but he didn't live in the district when he filed. Text messages

released after Forsyth's investigation indicate Schmidt and Bolger not only knew of this problem, but helped the GNC store manager file anyway.

Then the Senate minority leader, Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, and Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer hopped in, asking the Ingham County Circuit Court to conduct a one-person grand jury investigation into potential perjury.

The judges responded with surprising speed, tapping Judge Rosemarie Aquilina to look into the matter as the one-woman grand jury. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has potential campaign finance violations in front of her since Schmidt cut a \$450 check for Mojzak, but never gave it to him.

For Democrats, the GOP couldn't have gift-wrapped a better campaign present. Scandal, intrigue, a criminal investigation. After giving one away in Oakland County two years ago with the fake Tea Party debacle, the Republicans fumbled one right back with this Bolger/Schmidt situation and the photocopied petitions turned in by disgraced former U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter.

Cochran is more than willing to take advantage of the situation.

The former Lansing fire chief said he thinks Bolger should be prosecuted and sees it as a shame that partisanship in Lansing has devolved to where the House speaker feels Republicans need to "pull a stunt like that."

The spectacle has now put Oesterle, who had absolutely nothing to do with the situation, on the defensive.

If he wins the election and Bolger wins re-election in the 63rd House District, will he vote to re-elect him as speaker?

Oesterle wouldn't say. He noted that he doesn't know how much more informa-

tion will be floating around when the next speaker vote takes place. That said, however, he said, "I wouldn't be afraid to vote against him. I don't want to vote against him by hearsay."

Listening to these comments in the Lansing public television studios, Cochran used the words "unethical" and "illegal" to describe these shenanigans. Oesterle quickly noted those two words are different.

That's true, but in the political realm, neither is very good. In Grand Rapids, a poll conducted by Practical Political Consultants and MIRS had Schmidt getting skewered by unknown, first-time candidate Winnie Brinks, 69 to 31 percent.

Bolger, too, saw his numbers in his own district drop to tough re-elect numbers against a relatively unknown candidate after a Mainstreet Strategies poll asked listeners some leading questions.

No charges have been filed. Nobody has been convicted. But the press has covered this story with front-page attention throughout the state.

Republicans have a 64-46 majority in the House, meaning nine seats will need to flop for the Democrats to manage a 55-55 split. Ten seats would switch power. Given that there are only two or three open seats in play (the 67th being one of them), the odds of success are long.

Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, who co-chairs the House D's campaign efforts, said last week on "Off The Record" that the Bolger/Schmidt situation is "good for Democrats around the state. It will spill out beyond West Michigan."

One of the first places of spillover appears to be Ingham County, where Oesterle could find his feet stuck in this toxic mess.

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

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE: Contractors Wanted

The City of Lansing Development Office is actively soliciting contractors to bid for housing rehabilitation and new construction contracts to be offered during the coming year. Projects involve work in existing occupied or vacant single family homes and will use Federal funds. Bid opportunities will range from contracts as small as \$500 through whole house rehabilitation or construction projects at \$200,000 or more. Contractors must be licensed and insured, and may be required to meet additional certification requirements including lead-based paint.

The Contractor Application can be picked up at 316 N. Capitol Ave. Suite D-2 Lansing MI 48933 or accessed on line at <http://www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/development/rehabilitation.jsp> Bid opportunities immediately available include 3615 Brighton, 3500 Ronald and 3814 Coachlight Common. Minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

#### CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT AVAILABLE AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE City of East Lansing CDBG Program

The City of East Lansing has completed the 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report covering activities from 7/1/11 through 6/30/12. This is to provide notice that the formal 15 calendar day comment period on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report begins on September 5, 2012 and concludes on September 20, 2012. Individuals wishing to see and review the Performance Report may do so at the City's Planning & Community Development Department located in Room 222, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., in Court Room 2, 54-B District Court, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, to receive comments on the CDBG program performance during the 2011 program year. Individuals and groups wishing to comment on the program performance are encouraged to attend the public hearing.

Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the CD Advisory Committee, in care of the East Lansing Planning and Community Development Department, no later than 5:00 p.m., on September 26, 2012 or should be presented to the Committee at the public hearing.

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

For further information you may telephone the Department of Planning and Community Development at (517) 319-6930.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

TO:	Citizens of the City of Lansing
FROM:	Virg Bernero, Mayor
PURPOSE:	NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

The City of Lansing is preparing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 pursuant to Federal Community Development Program rules and regulations. Before submitting its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval, the City must, after appropriate public notice, make the report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The comment period is September 6, 2012–September 20, 2012.

A summary of public comments received as a result of the public participation process will be submitted to HUD as part of the CAPER.

Notice is hereby given that the CAPER for the time period noted above for the City of Lansing is on file and available for review at the Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development (PND), 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Information regarding the CAPER may be obtained by contacting Doris M. Witherspoon at 483-4063 or at [dwithers@lansingmi.gov](mailto:dwithers@lansingmi.gov).

The PND Office must receive any comments regarding the CAPER for this time period in writing no later than Thursday, September 20, 2012.

# The global-local connections

SUSTAINABILITY



TERRY LINK

Sorry for the gulf between columns. I had the privilege of visiting West Africa — specifically, Burkina Faso and Senegal — last month as part of a small delegation from Lansing.

Dropping in for a short time hardly makes me an authority on anything I experienced, but I was awakened to a world hitherto only glimpsed through books and TV disaster snippets.

We met with leaders from Burkina Faso and Senegal who had visited here to learn about economic development and civil society. These folks work in their communities empowering women, helping those in extreme poverty, educating students from pre-K through university, training workers, protecting the environment and assisting entrepreneurs. They do it tirelessly, with great passion and compassion, and with no signs that they see this work as a burden, but rather as a responsibility to the places they call home.

Their stories are inspiring, especially as they have so few resources with which to work. But that hasn't stopped them from opening schools and training centers for those in rural areas who otherwise would be left behind; getting women involved in the community, government and business; and tackling cultural taboos like female circumcision or polygamy. Burkina Faso just passed a law requiring that women have a minimum of 30 percent representation in their parliament or the political parties' running slates will lose 50 percent of their funding. Meanwhile, Senegal has a parliamentary parity requirement of 50 percent women and men.

Women in Senegal have built a network of 106 organizations that work together on a wide range of issues in support of each other — and the affection they hold for one another and the spirit they bring to their work moved us all.

About a two-hour drive from the capital, Dakar, in the small town of Mboro, one organization has founded a school for children who are orphans, disabled, or otherwise so poor they have not been attending a regular school. The Center for Educational Research and Promotion of Children of Mboro, which we visited, helps get the younger children ready for entry into the formal school system, and those that do enter generally excel.

Those who come to the center too far behind to benefit from that form of education are trained here through the International Center for Practical Training in a trade — carpentry/wood-

working, metal working, masonry, cosmetology, beekeeping — so they can move beyond their current station in life. But it doesn't stop there. In Mboro, the center started a restaurant, a cyber café and a radio station that employ locals, while the profits they earn help sustain the school and training center.

The leadership, staff and volunteers (we met a Peace Corps worker from Atlanta) are not only dedicated, but also effuse compassion and caring at high levels. There was no hubris or arrogance visible to me in this work they do for the community. The dedication to democracy, to sharing in decisions, to valuing and empowering every member of the society was most inspiring. Their countries may have come late to the application of political democracy, but I sense they have a deep commitment and appreciation of its force for building fulfilling lives for all.

Burkina Faso is listed as the seventh least developed country in the world by the United Nations Development Program's indicators. Indeed, our visit to some market places and even in the capital city, Ougadougou, revealed poverty of the kind I've never seen. But I came away with a strong belief that people with ideas and commitment working together for their community can build a better world and in the process they, too, are fed. My colleagues from the delegation were equally humbled by this experience.

Upon returning I pondered how to connect the local with the global. One idea has emerged. Cascade Engineering in Grand Rapids has developed a bio-sand filter for water that requires no electricity and can provide clean water for a family for eight years. Might we send some over there to be tested in that environment and see how they work for the many millions with little or no access to clean water? If it works well, we could export the technology and help them manufacture it. There is no shortage of discarded plastic in either Burkina or Senegal, so perhaps collecting the plastic and repurposing it to make the filter containers could generate needed jobs and make clean water available while reducing trash — a win-win-win. Maybe this will work, but what other ways might we share the best we have in Lansing to meet the needs of others struggling to eke out a life?

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*(Terry Link was the founding director of MSU's Office of Campus Sustainability and recently retired as director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank. He can be reached at link@lansingcitypulse.com)*



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# Getting a pat on the roof

## Five buildings nominated for first Preservation Lansing awards

For decades, Lansing blithely bulldozed its historic buildings and neighborhoods to make room for freeways, urban renewal projects and bland architectural junk. The city is still behind the curve compared to other places — even East Lansing — that cherish historic urban fabric.

This year, a new preservation group has found concrete (and brick and wood) evidence that the city is catching up slightly.

Five restoration projects have been nominated for the first Preservation Lansing awards, to be given Oct. 24 — the first in what hopes to be an annual recognition of those in the community who save, not demolish, architecture.

The structures range in size from a tiny 1920s gas station turned coffee shop at the northwest corner of town to a massive National Guard armory spruced into airy office space on the East Side. The nominees also include a humble East Side duplex restored to craftsman-solid form, a joyfully garden-ed-up downtown law office in a historic house and a blocky green hulk tamed into mixed-use service on the west fringe of Old Town.

Three of the five nominees will be awarded custom-made Pewabic Pottery plaques and will celebrate their win with neighborhood porch parties. Both the plaques and the parties will be funded by Preservation Lansing, courtesy of a \$2,300 grant from the Michigan Association of Realtors.

The awards ceremony will be Oct. 24 at a historic Lansing location yet to be determined. A Preservation Lansing member said the ceremony will have a steampunk theme, with entertainment by the Lansing



Photos by Sam Inglot and Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

And the nominees for the first-ever Preservation Lansing awards are (from left): Pat Gillespie's Armory project, 330 Marshall St.; Dave Muylle's restoration of a duplex, 127-129 Leslie St., the conversion of an old filling station to a coffee shop, 127 W. Grand River Ave.; the mixed-use redevelopment of an old grocery store, 1135 N. Washington Ave.; and a downtown law firm's office that has stood the test of time, 403 Seymour Ave. The winners will be announced Oct. 24.

Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle.

In keeping with the evangelistic zeal of Preservation Lansing, each of the winners will host a porch party in the week after the ceremony to bask in their win, ogle their new Pewabic plaque with their neighbors and spread the gospel of historic preservation.

Nathalie Winans, one of the Preservation Lansing judges, is also chairwoman of Lansing's Historic District Commission. Taken as a whole, Winans said cautiously, the nominees "suggest there is a modest increase in momentum toward a historic preservation ethic in Lansing."

### Gillespie's fort

Diverse as they are, all five projects sprang from local impetus and involve local players. Even the biggest of the projects nominated, developer Pat Gillespie's \$5.2 million, 38,000-square-foot renovation of the Marshall Street Armory, is a hometown job. Gillespie grew up near the armory and played on the big guns out front. From weddings to swap meets to circuses, the Armory had countless military and civilian ties to the surrounding community. When the National Guard phased it out, Gillespie played fort with a vengeance, turning the Armory into a headquarters for nonprofit organizations and a home for his own development company.

### Muylle's labor of love

At the other end of the spectrum from Gillespie's high-profile Armory makeover, homeowner/restorer Dave Muylle's 18-month labor of love to restore a 1915 duplex at 127-129 Leslie St. is just one in a long series of projects completed by the qui-

et hammer-slinger few people outside the preservation community have ever heard of.

Over the past 20 years, Muylle has painstakingly restored over a dozen east side homes nearing the century-mark in age, beginning with his own home, a crack house turned craftsman's showcase.

Lansing architect Dan Bollman, also a Preservation Lansing judge, said Muylle "tends to undersell himself."

"He's doing the right thing socially and morally, and it ends up being the right thing from the preservationist perspective," Bollman said.

### The small jewel

Muylle's duplex, though modest, dwarfs another nominee, Artie's Filling Station, 127 W. Grand River Ave., on the extreme west fringe of Old Town. Dale Schrader of Lansing put more than \$140,000 into the 260-square-foot filling station, built in 1925 as Pulvers Brothers Filling Station but derelict since the 1960s. It's now a coffee shop.

"That's the one that jumps out at me the most, only because of the state it was in," Bollman said. "The other buildings needed work, but this was really bad."

Winans also singled out Artie's as a "labor of love."

"He used historic information on similar service stations to restore the original terra cotta roof and little details like the electric lights suspended around the perimeter of the building," Winans said.

Public-private mega-projects like the \$140 million Ottawa Power Station renovation a few years ago produce significant ripple effects, Winans said, but so do small jewels like Artie's.

"This is something a small business owner can take on, and that can really make a difference in the neighborhood," she said.

### The vibrant handshake

Only a block away from Artie's stands another nominee, the 1909 Walker Building, formerly Beeman's Grocery and more recently a dollar store with the brick exterior painted nasty green. Developer Gene Townsend leveraged private and state funds to put together a two-year, \$771,000 project to calm the 8,000-square-foot hulk into a classic Old Town layer cake — commercial space on the bottom, apartments on top.

The Walker Building isn't as distinctive as Artie's or the Armory, but it promises to anchor Old Town's west edge and extend a vibrant handshake to the near west side.

"It's not the button or the zipper, it's the urban fabric, and you need to encourage that too," Bollman said.

Another thing all the nominees have in common is that they have the potential to transform their surroundings, and the Walker Building is a classic example.

"These nominations were chosen because they function as a sort of anchor for their neighborhoods," Winans said. "That corner is a gateway going into Old Town. Those kinds of gateways can make or break a neighborhood."

### The good steward

The Alane & Chartier law firm, 403 Seymour Ave., was nominated to illustrate yet another aspect of preservation. The office is a Queen Anne style mansion over a century old, once home to Michigan State University benefactor Frederick Jenison and later the headquarters of the American Lung Association, so it never went to seed like some of the other nominees. But Preservation Lansing wants to encourage ongoing stewardship as well as dazzling makeovers.

Maintenance isn't glamorous, but Preservation Lansing member Gretchen Cochran said that's the way to keep a building from ever needing a restoration costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Cochran, a west side neighbor to the law firm, has watched Chartier and her colleagues work hard on the exterior. "They hauled mountains of ivy off the sides," Cochran said. "They cleared tons of weeds, including poison ivy, from the foundation, re-landscaped the grounds to facilitate proper drainage away from the building."

— Lawrence Cosentino

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Sam Inglot/City Pulse  
An empty hallway in Bingham Elementary School. The location is a prime piece of real estate situated just off Michigan Avenue and directly across from Sparrow Hospital.

# THE EMPTY HALLS OF THE LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT

By **SAM INGLOT**

Northwestern Elementary School, just south of the airport, looks more like a crack house than a school. The building, which has sat vacant for nearly a decade, is a sharp contrast to the surrounding neighborhood of modest homes.

Francisco Ramirez, who has lived across from the vacant building for 15 years, says the place is an eyesore and attracts hoodlums.

“The rest of the neighborhood is really nice. The school district cuts the grass but other than that the building looks really bad,” he said. They took down the basketball hoops years ago because people were just “hanging around.”

The police were called several times over the years because kids had broken into the building, Ramirez said.

The empty brick building, which was built in 1939, sits on a six-acre plot in northwest Lansing. Playground equipment

is overgrown with weeds, the remnants of a baseball field and backboards with no hoops surround it. The windows are boarded up and are covered in graffiti, same with the walls. A small tree also has sprouted up in front of one of the doors, a testament to how long the building has gone unused. The building looks like it belongs in a burnt-out urban wasteland, not a Lansing neighborhood.

Ramirez’s opinion on the building is similar to that of his neighbors: It looks terrible and something needs to be done about it. In his opinion, the district should turn the site into a community center or library.

Northwestern is one of five vacant buildings owned by the Lansing School District and part of a larger dilemma: What will happen to excess property if district enrollment continues on its downward trend? The building inventory is too large for the number of students.

And if enrollment does stabilize, what can the cash-strapped district do with its vacant buildings, which also include Moores Park Elementary, Bingham Elementary, Otto Middle School and Wainwright Elementary? The district owns 62 buildings and properties in total, and administrators are trying to come up with a plan.

“When you look at the size of the Lansing School District and all of the real estate both used and unused, it’s a big thing to wrap your mind around,” said Myra Ford, president of the board of education.

Ford said the district needs to get moving on what to do with the growing number of vacant buildings so they don’t become a nuisance to communities.

“We need to move in a serious direction. Where do we need to be in 10 years? What is going to be our high school population? Which elementary buildings are aging out? We need a plan in place,” she said.

With the first week of school underway and the dust settling on the new district-wide reconfiguration, school officials say they are ready to tackle the real estate situation.

## THE COMMITTEE

Moores Park Elementary closed in 2009, Northwestern has sat vacant since 2003. The three most recent closings of Bingham, Wainwright and Otto are the result of a new district reconfiguration that also included the closing of Elmhurst.

Although Elmhurst will no longer serve as a school building for kids, Lansing School District Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul said the building has been repurposed into a centralized location for district services. It now holds the parent resource center along with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

See Empty Halls, Page 10



**BINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
121 Bingham St.  
28,232 sq. ft.

The building is a “prime location” as the eastside school is located right off Michigan Ave. and directly across from Sparrow Hospital. Michigan Public Health Institute, a nonprofit, is looking to possibly develop the site into a health-focused charter school.



**OTTO MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
500 E. Thomas St.  
219,397 sq. ft.

The huge building on the north side is by far the largest closed school building. The Otto Health and Wellness Center is still run out of a small portion of the building but it too will soon be closed and replaced by a school-based clinic in Eastern High School.



**WAINWRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
4200 Wainwright Ave.  
41,322 sq. ft.

The former magnet school on the south side is an ideal location for a community center. The Black Child and Family Institute said if their charter school idea comes to fruition, the building would be a great place to house the operation.



**MOORES PARK ELEMENTARY**  
316 Moores River Drive  
29,281 sq. ft.

In the shadow of south Lansing smoke stacks and placed right in the middle of a neighborhood the land would be a hard sell for commercial purposes. The site was proposed to MPHI as a possible alternative to Bingham Elementary.



**NORTHWESTERN ELEMENTARY**  
2908 Andrew Ave.  
20,894 sq. ft.

The worst looking building of the bunch. Forlorn recreation areas and untamed shrubbery surround the building, which is near the airport. Residents say the property is an eyesore and attracts delinquents. Nothing is official but there have been conversations about demolishing it.

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## Empty Halls

from page 9

Repurposing and the sale or lease of district-owned properties has happened in the past, but with a new administration comes a new way of doing things, said Sam Sinicropi, the district's assistant superintendent of operations. He said the administration is setting up a real estate committee to analyze the property assets of the district to come up with a plan for how to tackle the vacant buildings.

The Board of Education decided to take all properties off the market earlier this year in order to assess the values, so the few building inquiries Sinicropi has received have been minimal.

"I haven't had many lengthy conversations. I've had email inquiries and some calls, but I've mainly said, 'Look, nothing is for sale right now. Keep your eyes and ears open,'" he said. "I'm very anxious for the committee to come up with plans because we need to for the city. Hopefully we'll have some recommendations in the coming months, maybe even a month."

The real estate committee will be made up of administration officials, Board of Education members and people from the community with real estate experience, he said.

"As a board and as a district, we need to decide what it is that we want to keep, what we want to keep up for the future and what it is that we think we're not going to use again," Caamal Canul said. "You can't make those kinds of decisions until you know everything that you have. Right now the real estate committee is working on what we have and what everything is worth."

The first step the real estate committee will undertake is assessing the value of the properties, she said. The administration wants to get an outside appraiser to take on the task.

"I would not want a buyer to think that we're so helpless and needy that we'd sell anything for any price just to have the money," Caamal Canul said. "That's not how we want to approach our stewardship of the taxpayer's property."

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SCHOOLS

Northwestern is the token eyesore of the cluster of closed schools. Board President Ford said the district didn't do what it needed to do to prevent the building from falling into disrepair. She said a lack of



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

John Krzystowczyk of Michigan Energy Options (top) checks out a ceiling crawl space in the old Genesee School as Bob Tinker of Archiopolis and David Meeder of Michigan Energy Options look on during an energy audit of the building. The building, which still houses some non-profits and community groups, needs extensive repairs and may soon be vacant.

proper maintenance and a vision for the building after it closed led to the building's looking the way it is.

"That was the problem with Northwestern," she said. "It was closed years ago, and back then they did not do what they needed to do to keep it from getting to the point where it's not habitable. We don't want to do that with any buildings again — it doesn't make sense to do that."

Ford called the building "hazardous."

Caamal Canul hopes that with the formation of the real estate committee, Northwestern will be the last school to sit vacant and unkempt for so long with an undecided fate.

"Northwestern is one of those properties that because there hasn't been a real estate committee, it just sat there and languished," she said. "Now we really need to do something about it. Do we give it to the Land Bank? Do we raze it? We're not going to use it as a school. We know what the trend data says and we have neighborhoods that are not being populated with children."

Both Ford and Caamal Canul talked about the possibilities of tearing down the building.

Otto Middle School, which is on the north side between Turner and Larch

# Empty Halls

from page 10

streets, was closed during the district reconfiguration. The enormous building is still being used for its community health clinic, though that will probably change in the near future with a school-based clinic opening this fall at Eastern High School, Caamal Canul said.

“We’re still debating what we’re going to do with Otto. It’s a huge building, it’s really a nice building, has some great qualities and has a lot of space,” she said. “We have to look to the future. We have to always think: Just because a school loses enrollment does not mean that facility, that building, can’t be functional for another purpose.”

Wainwright is a neighborhood school just like Moores Park, Caamal Canul said, which will factor in to how the district decides to deal with it.

“It’s a complicated site,” she said. “It’s right smack dab in the middle of a neighborhood, so for commercial property it’s a little difficult to sell. We would much rather have it as a community center or some place where kids could go.”

## ADD GENESSEE TO THE LIST?

Until recently, the Genesee School was the home of the Black Child and Family Institute (now known as Building Child and Family Initiatives) since 1986. Due to funding issues and a growing list of maintenance concerns, the community outreach group packed up its belongings and moved temporarily to the Foster Community Center. The group had a cushy, \$1 a year lease with the district.

But with the possibility that more tenants may leave the Genesee School, 835 W. Genesee St., which needs extensive repairs, the fate of the building grows more uncertain. It may soon join the list of closed buildings.

BCFI was one of several community organizations that occupied the building. Other outreach groups, like Closing the Digital Gap, Greater Lansing African American Health Institute and Veterans Helping Veterans, are still there because they have summer programs that continue into the fall, which the district allowed them to wrap up, Sinicropi said.

“What we did is we struck a deal and said, ‘Look, we don’t want to throw you out on the street,’” he said. “All (the district does) is cut the grass.”

Marcus Jefferson is the executive director of Closing the Digital Gap, a Genesee-housed organization that provides computers, Internet access and computer training to low-income residents. His organization is one that would like to remain in the 100-year-old building.

“No one wants the building closed. It’s been an asset to the community for years,” he said. “In the last 12 years my program



Sam Ingot/City Pulse

Lansing Board of Education President Myra Ford (left) and Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul chat with district staff before a press conference on Thursday. They said a real estate committee is being formalized to tackle the district’s vacant property situation.

has trained 12,000 people and given away 5,000 computers.”

He said the building used to host an early childhood program, a WIC office and senior services. If the building were to close, he said, there are “elements” of the neighborhood that could take over. He said homeless people and drug addicts might move into the enormous building and bring the whole neighborhood down.

Jefferson led an energy audit this weekend with contractors from the Lansing Board of Water and Light as well as other organizations interested in the fate of the building.

“It would take months to tear this building down,” said Bob Tinker of Archiopolis, a commercial energy auditor. “We don’t want that. They don’t build them like this anymore, but any old building is going to require a lot of work.”

Tinker’s report on the building would be available in four to six weeks, he said. BWL’s walk through Genesee is part of a pilot program aimed at specifically helping nonprofits with energy audits.

Although the fate of the building is yet to be determined, Caamal Canul said the district may be able to help out the organizations that remain with work space.

“Since we do have space already in some buildings, I think that we would be probably willing to say to them, ‘Hey listen, we’ve got space over at Woodcreek or we’ve got space at Sexton if you want to relocate,’” she said. “We’d be happy to look at that. We’ve been talking about that internally.”

## MOVING FORWARD: CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Three organizations looking to start charter schools, including the Michigan Public Health Initiative and Building Child and Family Initiatives, have approached the school board with interest in some of the vacant properties. Although having the

space filled would be ideal, Caamal Canul and Ford said there are a lot of logistics to figure out before delving into the realm of charter schools.

MPHI proposed the idea of an “Eastside Health Academy,” which MPHI officials said would be ideal for the now-vacant Bingham Elementary School across from

Sparrow Hospital.

The founder of BCFI, Barbara Roberts Mason, told the board at a mid-August school board meeting that the organization is pursuing a planning grant to formalize the charter idea, which aims to help at-risk kids, and will then pursue an authorizer (she said they hope it’s the Lansing School District). Mason said that the recently vacated Otto and Wainwright school buildings would be “acceptable” accommodations for the program.

As for selling or leasing the properties after values are determined and they are put back on the market, Caamal Canul said the district has to think about whom they sell it to and how a proposed use will reflect on the district. In the Walnut Neighborhood west of Old Town, the small up-and-coming business Niowave renovated the vacant Walnut School in 2006. Neighbors and city officials have praised Niowave for rehabbing the building and improving the neighborhood overall — until the company built an unsightly 14,000-square-foot pole barn without neighborhood input and attitudes changed.

“A lot of people might be interested, but we also have to think, ‘Are you the right buyer?’ What someone is going to do with our property says a lot about what we value as important development,” she said. “We have to think about that because we are stewards — we’re not a corporation that can just decide without public input.”

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# Arts & Culture

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## There's popcorn in the orchestra pit

## 2012-2013 T H E A T E R P R E V I E W

Celebrity guest directors, film adaptations make for a diverse upcoming theater season

By **CHRISTOPHER HORB**

Spielberg shares equal stage time with Shakespeare (sort of) in this diverse theater season that tries to leave no audience behind. This season's crop of choices includes heavy hitters such as McNally, Chekhov and the Bard himself, but there are also new voices giving Lansing-area theatergoers a more contemporary experience. That includes over a dozen shows with Hollywood counterparts as well as a brand new theater company serving up a little sauciness.

### All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

Just because this season's theme is "Exploring Our Roots," artistic director Miranda Hartmann says that doesn't mean the company is above trying something new. All-of-us will stage its first musical next July, "Aladdin & His Wonderful, Magical Lamp." "It's a nice little milestone for us," said Hartmann. "The last few years there have been a lot of kid-friendly musicals coming on the market, and we saw an opening." Also new to All-of-us this season: "The Beatles Slept Here," a whimsical story steeped in the music and mythology of the iconic rock band. The company returns to more familiar territory with the fairy tale double bill of "The Princess and the Pea" and "Rapunzel."

### Ixion Ensemble

This debut season will feature just a pair of shows designed to whet appetites for a full slate next year, according to artistic director Jeff Croff.

"We're offering an additional perspective to local theater," Croff said. "We're putting an emphasis on collaboration by recruiting storytellers from all disciplines."

Croff is hoping to encourage new works through what he calls "The Wheel," a writers' group that will develop new concepts in staged readings and, ultimately, new productions.

The ensemble's first shows are the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Topdog/Underdog" and the irreverent disco musical "Saucy Jack & the Space Vixens." Croff is no stranger to the area theater scene, having previously headed up the Icarus Falling

theater ensemble, which closed two years ago.

"It was a nice break but we've realized we just can't stop doing theater," he said.

### Lansing Community College

LCC's Performing Arts Department will work overtime to include an extra production in the lineup — the season opener, "Vigil." The black comedy is directed by and stars Emmy Award-winner (and Lansing native) Timothy Busfield. Production coordinator Melissa Kaplan says she was thrilled at the chance to host a performer of Busfield's caliber.

"It's a really cool project all around," she said. "It's dark but it's very witty and it's a tour de force for the actors."

The show was made possible through a Heart of Student Success Grant, which supports new productions. LCC's season lineup also includes the musical "Ragtime," the Shakespearean tragedy "Titus Andronicus" and the horror-film spoof "Slasher."

### Michigan State University

This year's theme of (NEW) Plays in New Ways couldn't be more appropriate. In fact, Rob Roznowski, the program's head of acting and directing, says the season is going to be something of an experiment.

"The renovations (inside the MSU Auditorium and Fairchild Theater) are forcing us to rethink our performance spaces," he said. "We're trying to find locations specific to each production and asking ourselves how can we do these shows in unique ways."

Roznowski pointed to November's production of Shakespeare's "Measure For



Courtesy Photo

"American Idiot," the punk rock opera based on Green Day's 2004 album of the same name, pounds into the Wharton Center in April.

Measure," a satire on duty and religion that he's hoping to stage in "a church-like setting," as an example. Meanwhile, new shows will include "U.P.," about a man seeking answers in the titular peninsula, and "The Lady Victory," an adaptation of Jane Taylor poetry.

### Mid-Michigan Family Theatre

Director Bill Gordon points to a pair of upcoming shows as illustrations of the stark contrasts visible this season. The futuristic "The Giver" is inspired by Lois Lowry's dystopian children's novel about kids fighting for individual freedoms in an oppressive society, while "Woods" is a fractured fairy tale featuring characters from Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. "The Giver" was chosen partly due to the name recognition of the popular novel.

"So many middle-school age kids loved that book growing up," he said. "The show has a small cast with lots of complexity to the staging and we thought it would be appealing."

### Over The Ledge Theatre Co.

Executive director Joe Dickson says his company — which debuted last November and is still enjoying a successful first season — is hard at work planning a full slate of shows for next year (possibly as early as this winter). Meanwhile fans can tide themselves over by catching this season's final show, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which bows this weekend.

### Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary, Peppermint Creek is presenting a lineup of premieres under the banner "Dare To Dream" — a theme that ties all the shows together, according to founder Chad Badgero.

"All the characters are dreaming of something more," he said. "But it's also a commentary on us as company. It's gotten us thinking about the places we still want to go."

The troupe's mission — to produce

# THEATER GUIDE

## WHAT'S PLAYING AND WHERE

### KEY

**AECT** = All-of-us Express Children's Theatre, [alofusexpress.org](http://alofusexpress.org), (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.  
**IE** = Ixon Ensemble, [ixionensemble.com](http://ixionensemble.com), (517) 775-4246.  
**LCC** = Lansing Community College Theater, [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo), (517) 483-1488.  
**MMFT** = Mid Michigan Family Theatre, [mmft.net](http://mmft.net), (517) 339-2145.  
**MSU** = Michigan State University Theatre, [theatre.msu.edu](http://theatre.msu.edu), (800) WHARTON.  
**PC** = Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org), (517) 927-3016.  
**RT** = Riverwalk Theatre, [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com), (517) 482-5700.  
**SDT** = Starlight Dinner Theatre, [starlightdinnertheatre.com](http://starlightdinnertheatre.com), (517) 243-6040.  
**WC** = The Wharton Center, [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com), (800) WHARTON.  
**WT** = Williamston Theatre, [williamstontheatre.com](http://williamstontheatre.com), (517) 655-7469.

All titles and dates are subject to change. Please call the theaters or visit their websites for updates and ticket prices.

### SEPTEMBER

**"Spring Awakening" (RT):** Teenagers navigate the twists and turns of sexuality in this Tony Award-winning rock musical. Sept. 13-23.

**"Vigil" (LCC):** Emmy Award-winner and Lansing native Timothy Busfield directs and stars in this dark comedy. Sept. 14-23.

**"Three Sisters/Anton In Show Business" (MSU):** Anton Chekhov's classic is paired with a modern comic tale of three actresses prepping to appear in a staging of the play. Sept. 19-30.

**"Boom" (WT):** Offbeat comedy about a lone scientist with plans to ensure the survival of mankind in anticipation of a doomsday event. Sept. 20-Oct. 21.

### OCTOBER

**"Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson" (PC):** The seventh president is reimagined as an emo rock star in this Tony Award-nominated musical. Oct. 4-13.

**"Slasher" (LCC):** The set of a low-budget horror film becomes the scene of a real series of murders in this dark comedy. Oct. 5-13.

**"James and the Giant Peach" (MSU):** Roald Dahl's fantastical journey is brought to life using puppetry. Oct. 12-21.

**"Anything Goes" (WC):** Classic musical depicts the zany antics aboard an ocean liner. Oct. 16-21.

**"Advise And Consent" (RT):** A Stages of the Law series entry detailing the machinations and manipulations behind a Senate confirmation hearing. Oct. 18-28.

**"Steel Magnolias" (SDT):** Tough-but-tender Southern women bond over life's misadventures in a small-town beauty shop. Oct. 19-27.

**"The Giver" (MMFT):** Adaptation of a Newbery Award-winning dystopian children's novel. October 19-28.

**"The Diviners" (RT):** A charismatic preacher and a gifted young boy struggle

with their faith in a Depression-era farming community. Dates TBA.

### NOVEMBER

**"Little Women" (AECT):** The Louisa May Alcott favorite follows the March sisters' emotional journey to womanhood. Nov. 2-10.

**"Ragtime" (LCC):** Fictional characters mix it up with real-life 20th century historical figures in this Tony Award-winning musical. Nov. 2-11.

**"Good People" (PC):** A single Boston mother struggles to stay afloat in an unforgiving economy. Nov. 8-17.

**"Measure For Measure" (MSU):** Shakespeare's lesser-known satire centering on the travails of a neophyte nun. Nov. 9-21.

**"Ebenezer" (WT):** Fifteen years after the events of "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge is reunited with "Tiny" Tim Cratchit. Nov. 15-Dec. 23.

**"The No-Hole Holiday" (RT):** Family musical about the rivalry between Halloween and Christmas. Nov. 23-Dec. 2.

**"Topdog/Underdog" (IE):** Two African-American brothers struggle to find their way out of poverty in this Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama. Dates and location TBA.

### DECEMBER

**"War Horse" (WC):** Acclaimed drama of a young man's World War I-era journey to recover his beloved horse. Dec. 5-9.

**"Titus Andronicus" (LCC):** Shakespeare's bloody take on the last days of the Roman Empire. Dec. 7-9.

**"North Pole Radio Hour" (MMFT):** Santa takes the stage in this riff on a '40s-style radio show. Dec. 7-16.

### JANUARY

**"August: Osage County" (RT):** Darkly comic tale of an Oklahoma family with some serious skeletons in the closet. Jan. 10-20.

**"Billy Elliot: the Musical" (WC):** A British



Photo by Luke Anthony Photography  
 "Spring Awakening" appears at Riverwalk this fall.

youth trades boxing gloves for ballet shoes in this Tony Award-winning musical. Jan. 15-20.

**"End Days" (WT):** Comic and poignant story of a 16-year-old girl navigating the pressures of love, loss and family. Jan. 24-Feb. 24.

**"In The Heights" (PC):** Tony Award-winning musical depicting a Dominican-American neighborhood in New York City. Jan. 24-Feb. 2.

### FEBRUARY

**"U.P" (MSU):** A Los Angeles man seeks life's answers in the Upper Peninsula. Feb. 5-10.

**"Princess and the Pea/Rapunzel" (AECT):** A pair of classic fairy tales is brought to life onstage in this double-bill. Feb. 8-16.

**"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy" (WC):** Musical adaptation about a zany lounge singer hiding out in a convent. Feb. 12-17.

**"Sleuth" (RT):** Deadly mind games ensue when a mystery writer seeks revenge on his wife's lover in this classic thriller. Feb. 14-24.

**"Oliver Twist" (MMFT):** An orphan falls in with unsavory characters in this adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic. Feb. 15-24.

**"The Lady Victory" (MSU):** A group of teens grapple with issues of duty and family in a Catholic home for girls. Feb. 21-27.

### MARCH

**"The Curious Savage" (SDT):** An eccentric widow tries to outwit her greedy stepchildren in this warmhearted family tale. Mar. 8-16.

**"The 39 Steps" (RT):** Hitchcock meets Monty Python in this spy farce. Mar. 14-24.

**"Compulsion, or The House Behind" (PC):** Puppetry is used to enhance the story of a man's obsession to bring "The Diary of Anne Frank" to America. Mar. 21-30.

**"Shirley Valentine" (WT):** A working-class housewife finds her worldview transformed after taking a trip abroad. Mar. 21-April 21.

### APRIL

**"Yankee Tavern" (RT):** A post-9/11 New York bar is the setting for a couple's unsettling encounter with a conspiracy theorist. Dates TBA.

**"American Idiot" (WC):** Green Day's punk opera concept album is brought to life

in this Tony Award-winning musical. Apr. 9-11.

**"Catch Me If You Can" (WC):** Musical adaptation of Spielberg's film about the exploits of a slippery con artist. Apr. 16-21.

**"The Beatles Slept Here" (AECT):** Whimsical children's comedy inspired by the Fab Four. Performance will be held at Riverwalk Theatre. Apr. 19-28.

**"Funny Girl" (MSU):** Legendary musical about the poignant transformation of famed comedienne Fanny Brice into a star. Apr. 19-27.

### MAY

**"8" (PC):** A one-night-only staged reading about the legal battle over California's Proposition 8, which sought to deny marriage rights to same-sex couples. May 10.

**"The Fox on the Fairway" (SDT):** A tribute to British farces featuring the stuffy denizens of a private country club. May 10-18.

**"10:53" (WT):** A woman takes refuge in a waiting room during a family medical crisis. May 16-June 16.

**"My Favorite Year" (RT):** Musical about the comic collision between a television variety show writer and a faded matinee idol in the 1950s. May 30-June 9.

**"The Beauty Queen of Leenane" (RT):** Black comedy about a spinster taking care of her manipulative mother. Dates TBA.

**"Saucy Jack & the Space Vixens" (IE):** Ribald sci-fi disco opera set in a bar at the end of space. Dates and location TBA.

### JUNE

**"A Walk in the Woods" (MMFT):** Legendary characters cross paths in this fractured fairy tale. June 14-23.

### JULY

**"Next To Normal" (PC):** Acclaimed rock musical about a family struggling with mental illness. July 11-20.

**"Tuna Does Vegas" (WT):** The finale of the "Tuna Trilogy" finds the eccentric residents of a small Texas town on a madcap excursion to Las Vegas. July 11-Aug. 18.

**"Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp" (AECT):** The titular character teams with a magical genie to fight evil in this musical fantasy. July 26-Aug. 3.

# Theater

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contemporary theater that addresses vital social issues — is exemplified by such shows as “Next To Normal,” chronicling a family’s experience with mental illness, and “8,” a documentary play taken directly from the trial record of the federal constitutional challenge to California’s gay-marriage-banning Proposition 8.

Of the seven shows this season, three are musicals, which Badgero said was meant to raise an air of celebration.

## Riverwalk Theatre

The season lineup includes 11 shows — including three black box productions — that run the gamut from the farcical comedy of “The 39 Steps” to the high-minded “Advise and Consent.” Riverwalk will also serve up musicals, including the family-

friendly “The No-Hole Holiday” and adult-themed Broadway hit “Spring Awakening.”

## Starlight Dinner Theatre

“These are tough times and we wouldn’t survive if we didn’t escape once in awhile,” said artistic director Linda Granger. “We get so many letters from people thanking us for allowing them to forget their worries for a bit.”

Accordingly, Starlight offers up Robert Harling’s Southern comedic drama “Steel Magnolias” as its season opener. The show continues to be a mainstay on the community theater circuit and ranked near the top of a Starlight poll gauging prospective audience interest.

“It’s dramatic but it’s also very funny at times,” Granger said. “The bond between these women and how they take care of each other is very heartwarming.”

## Wharton Center

When the revival of Cole Porter’s

“Anything Goes” rides into the Wharton Center next month, it will mark just the second stop on the classic musical’s national tour. This season’s schedule also includes a host of cinematically themed Broadway favorites, including the one-two punch of the Steven Spielbergian “War Horse” and “Catch Me If You Can,” as well as “Billy Elliot: The Musical” and “Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy.” It will also feature Green Day’s explosive punk rock opera “American Idiot.”

Marketing/communication director Diane Willcox is particularly excited for “War Horse,” which has earned much name recognition after inspiring last year’s acclaimed film adaptation. The show is brought to life utilizing elaborate, life-size puppets as the horses.

“It’s extraordinary,” she said. “It’s only a few seconds before you accept these puppets as the real thing. Your imagination just takes over.”

## Williamston Theatre

According to artistic director Tony Caselli, change is in the air this season.

“There’s nothing gentle about the upheavals going on in these shows,” he said. “All of these plays deal with sudden life-changing events and what you do when the universe says, ‘This is happening to you right now.’”

Case in point — the season-opener “Boom,” an eclectic comedy about college students anticipating the end of the world. There will also be two world premiere productions by Michigan playwrights: Joseph Zettelmaier’s “Christmas Carol”-inspired “Ebenezer” and Annie Martin’s comedy “10:53.” In both cases, the playwrights will be working directly with the troupe to stage the plays.

“Generating new voices is such an important thing,” said Caselli. “We want audiences to know that if they keep coming, we’re promising to keep giving them new stories.”

# When festivals attack!

## REO Town reinventing itself as place ‘where art is made.’

By RICH TUPICA

If you drive south on Washington Square out of downtown Lansing, just beyond I-496 you’ll hit REO Town. At least, you used to. Now you hit a Road Closed sign, a Sidewalk Closed sign, and, to top it all off, an orange Detour sign with giant arrow pointing toward the highway.

A couple of grants are giving the area a much needed street-and-sidewalk makeover — complete with bike lanes, bike racks and benches — but it seems like the universe is conspiring against people

even entering this sector of the city. Not what you’d call a prime location for a festival, let alone one that features an art competition, live bands and a beverage tent.

But REO Town unveils its Art Attack! festival anyway this Saturday, as part of a loftier idea to show some love to this often overlooked Lansing district.

“Our goal is to have Old Town as the north pole and REO Town the south pole,” said organizer Ryan Wert, who is also treasurer of the REO Town Commercial Association, which hosts the event. “The idea is to make it more visually continuous.” He says hosting festivals and opening Art Alley are efforts to help brand REO Town as an arts-friendly part of the city.

The main attraction of Art Attack!, now in its second year, is the Showdown in REO Town, a live-art competition which gives artists in a variety of media — including photography, textiles and metalwork — six hours to complete a piece in front of the audience. As for music, bands include the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, P.H.I.L.T.H.Y. and Jory Stultz. Wert said he’s hoping people

will battle the congestion.

“All of our parking is torn up, so no matter which spot we chose it was going to be kind of a headache,” Wert said. “But we didn’t want to skip a year. We wanted to keep up the momentum from last year, but right now the street is only open for northbound driving.”

Commercial association board member Paul Holland has been Wert’s co-organizer throughout the planning of both Art Attack! festivals.

“REO Town is an area on the cusp,” Holland said. “If you came down here a couple years ago, there wasn’t much going on. Now you see all of this investment happening. I think the sights are turning to REO Town.” Holland, 26, said that was enough motivation to ramp up this year’s festival, which also features fare from the REO Town Pub, Grand Grillin and Gator’s Grill. Children’s activities will be hosted by Reach Art Studio.

“Last year we organized Art Attack! in just over two months and we still had around 500 people show up, plus there were only six bands,” Holland said. “This year have 18, plus a much bigger area.”

While REO Town is undergoing a renaissance similar to the one Old Town once experienced, Wert said the two areas are not in any sort of competition. He envisions REO Town as “grittier,” and Holland agrees.

“There’s no reason to compete with Old Town,” Holland said. “People go there to buy and appreciate art, but REO Town is positioning itself to be the place where people go to create and experience art. This is where it’s made.”

# Diva sings the blues

## Lansing songstress orchestrates stylish performance event

By RICH TUPICA

The blues has always been sodden in gloom. Even the late gospel vocalist Mahalia Jackson once said, “Anybody singing the blues is in a deep pit yelling for help.” But that’s not true for Twyla Birdsong.

“I’m rooted in the blues, that’s what really gets my heart pumping and brings me joy,” said Birdsong, who is performing a unique event this weekend at Gregory’s Ice & Smoke. The Lansing-based songstress has gigged around Michigan for the past two years, playing solo or with The Hoopties, her blues group that released its debut disc “It Ain’t Never Been Easy” last year. Birdsong’s throwback resonant voice is similar to vintage soul originators like Ruth Brown, Etta James and Irma Thomas, but with bits of more contemporary smooth R&B singers like Joss Stone and Anita Baker. However, the 40-year-old singer’s roots are deep in gospel.

“I grew up in the church, and my mom is a minister,” she said. “I was about 8 years old when I started in the youth choir, but I was very much in the background. The first time I led a song I was about 16.”

While sitting at the Gone Wired Café, Birdsong, who is also the mother of three teenagers, summed up her diverse sound.

“I want it to be the gospel-soul feel of the blues,” she said. “I’m always rooted in the blues, but the gospel has to come out.”

When Sam Cooke transitioned from



Courtesy photo

An artist captures a view of REO Town at last year’s Art Attack!



Courtesy photo

Twyla Birdsong will perform a blend of blues, jazz and gospel at a special event this Saturday night at Gregory's Ice & Smoke in Lansing.

## Birdsong

from page 14

gospel to secular in the mid-'50s, he caught some grief from both sides. Birdsong doesn't want to fall into a similar trap, saying that while she does have a spiritual side, she is opened-minded about playing music.

"When I first started singing the blues I performed at the Temple Club a lot," she said. "There was a lot of stigma around that because it used to be a church, people didn't want to come. But I firmly believe the place is the people. If you have good people in there with good energy, that's what matters. I want to expose the music to everyone."

Birdsong organized this weekend's event, called "An Elegant Evening with Twyla Birdsong," which she says is meant

to outdo a routine night at the bar. She will be backed by Ed Fedewa on bass, Mike Eya of Orquesta Ritmo on guitar, Clarence "Booney" Dottery of Soul Xpress on drums, and saxophonist Brian Lange. Local guitarist/vocalist Elden Kelly opens the show.

"A few years ago I went to Gregory's because (Lansing saxophonist) Phil Denny was playing," Birdsong said. "I was sitting there with a couple of singer friends and I said, 'Ooh, this would be nice. We should do a Cotton Club-type show here. It could have a Billie Holiday vibe, with some blues and jazz.' Then recently I re-watched 'Lady Sings the Blues' and got inspired by that. And on top of everything, Gregory's is a great soul food restaurant and not many people know that."

But Birdsong eventually offered up a more diva-inspired motive for booking the sophisticated night of music.

"A while back I'd purchased this beautiful gown," she said. "I never go anywhere but I wanted to get it out just in case. I figured people would enjoy getting dressed up and having a night on the town with dinner and a show."

## Biological tales

City Pulse will interview speakers coming to Michigan State University for the semester-long "Whom You Love: the biology of sexual orientation" speaker series. The series, organized by MSU neuroscience



Vilain

Professor Marc Breedlove, will consist of academic experts from universities across North America who will support Breedlove's research that proves, in part, that homosexuality is natural. The speakers are being filmed for a planned documentary that Breedlove is raising funds for through a Kickstarter campaign. All lectures will be held at 4 p.m. Mondays at MSU in Wells Hall room 115B and are open to the public.

Below is an interview with the first speaker, **Eric Vilain**, a professor of human genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles, who will speak on "Biological Tales of Sexual Orientation."

### What is your lecture about?

Many people think sexual preference is a choice you make growing up, or that other people can influence. For example, they believe that early unpleasant heterosexual experiences or being raised by a single parent increases your chances of being gay. A consequence of this ignorance is that some people believe that sexual orientation can be changed through willfulness or therapy. However, a lot of evidence points to a biological influence on sexual orientation.

I study ambiguous sex, or "intersex," in which the genitals are not fully masculinized or feminized. A large clitoris, for example, that falls between the statistical range of female and male genitals.

### Has your research turned up any surprises?

We have studied a number of twins that have discordant sexual orientation — one is gay, the other is straight, but both have the exact same genome information — so how do we explain this? It is possible that changes that

occur after conception, in the way genes are turned on or off at specific periods of development, may have a role in sexual orientation. These changes are called "epigenetic" (literally "above the genetic") and are influenced by the environment. Sexual orientation may not be all about genetics.



### What motivated you to pursue this kind of research?

My first rotation as a medical student in Paris was devoted to the treatment of intersex children. Doctors were making all sorts of life-altering decisions on behalf of these children, with little more evidence than their own beliefs. I was determined to understand how these children developed, how their brain was functioning, and what happened to them later on in their life. One lingering question was whom they loved. And I started my research in this area. I was passionate about it from day one, and I still can't wait to go to my lab every morning.

### How crucial of a role does physical appearance play in gender identity?

There is little evidence that physical appearance itself plays a role in the development of gender identity. There is evidence, however, that our gender of rearing — what our parents and peers consider us, either boys or girls — plays a much more important role.

### What do you think are some of the worst things that have been done in the name of science to people with ambiguous gender?

Probably the hubris of thinking that sexual orientation can be easily changed, based on dubious arguments.

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

It has the capacity to make all of us more tolerant. What we don't understand scares us.

*For more information, including a link to the Kickstarter page, go to [whomyoulove.com](http://whomyoulove.com).*



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# Float like a butterfly, sting like a Spartan

**Lansing-area fighter takes on a new career working with youths**

By **HOLLY JOHNSON**

It's a sweltering late summer morning, and a handful of Lansing-area kids are spending the end of their respective vacations jumping rope inside a muggy boxing gym. A Kanye West song thumping over the speakers is keeping them in rhythm as their trainer, former Mixed Martial Arts boxer Kolmarge Harris, paces back and forth, watching intently.

"Now 25 times back and forth," he shouts. The ropes hit the ground and the kids sprint across the gym floor. As their friends have been sleeping in all summer, these kids have spent their school break running, jumping, bobbing and weaving under Harris' strict boot camp-like regime. It's one of the programs offered through the Lansing Spartans Youth Organization, a community-based nonprofit he founded after he retired from boxing earlier this year. The organization's syrupy goals of

"fighting childhood obesity" and "giving kids something to do to keep them off the street" do little to conceal a not-so-furtive agenda: that street runs both ways.

"They keep me out of trouble," says Harris. "I just want to show them what I know. They give me something to do."

Harris runs his organization in the Capitol City Boxing building, 2120 S. Cedar St. in the heart of Lansing. After wind sprints, today's student program is a shadowboxing-based workout, which teaches proper boxing conditioning and positioning. The young trainees put on gloves and start unleashing some steam onto the heavy bags or into Harris' padded hands — an activity that appears to be highly favored by the attendees.

At first blush, Harris, a west side Chicago native, is an intimidating figure. He has fighter written all over him: his unreadable stare, his combative stance, his imposing physical stature. He allows the kids to take their swings at him, but his eyes seem to capture every motion they make. It's like watching a small child whacking a



Holly Johnson/City Pulse

Kolmarge Harris (left) spars with Mike Morgan, a 15-year-old Lansing resident who attended Harris' nonprofit fitness camp this summer. Harris, a Chicago native, started the camp this summer as a way to fight childhood obesity and keep Lansing youths "off the street."

big, docile-looking dog — you assure yourself that the situation is going to be OK, but in the back of your mind, you're always kind of wondering. But as soon as Harris starts to speak about the art of boxing or the kids he works with, his tough demeanor bubbles into child-like excitement, his parries and thrusts become lively hand gestures and his glare melts into an ecstatic smile.

## LSYO training

Mon-Thurs 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
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To register, call (517)  
894-8429 or email  
kolmargetharris@yahoo.com  
facebook.com/lansingsyo

and the organization's vice president and secretary. "It's my job to wrangle them."

McDaniel helps facilitate the programs, but said she mainly handles the "business side of things." Sitting side by side, the two intently watch the students running around the gym doing their exercises. Harris spouts words of encouragement to the panting students and McDaniel chats about upcoming goals for the youth organization, including applying for grants. There's always economics to worry about, such as funding new equipment, improved flooring and traveling to tournaments — as well as sponsorships — to consider. It would all play like a cheesy coach-saves-the-neighborhood movie if Harris wasn't so gosh-darned earnest. When asked how he started

training with boxing bags, his candor is downright disarming.

"It was a great way to release pent-up anger," he says. "The bags can't hit you back."

He began boxing at Windy City Boxing Club in Chicago when he was 7 years old, fighting as an amateur for 18 years before going pro at age 25. In 2009, at the age of 34, he received his mixed martial arts license and fought for three years before throwing in the towel this past June. Harris says his lifelong passion for boxing has kept him humble, positive and controlled — features he wanted to pass along. After traveling to various gyms around the country, including Floyd Mayweather's Boxing Gym in Las Vegas, he realized that Greater Lansing needed a space that could provide fitness programs for children in a community-based setting.

"We've got gyms that deal with amateurs and pro boxers, but we don't have a lot of people here who are training kids," he said. Then, as if to demonstrate that he's not afraid to lay down the law, he spins around and barks at the students.

"No cell phones, no talking, no joking!" The students freeze, looking at each other furtively. They seem to ask: "Which one of us broke a rule?" Harris keeps them on edge for a couple seconds, but then a gentle smile spreads across his face.

He and McDaniel share a laugh, and the exhausted group of kids, now drenched in sweat, takes five.

**DIRECTED BY JOHN SAINT JONES** **MUSIC DIRECTED BY MICHAEL IDALSKI**

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# A Paranormal activity

## Clairvoyant convention comes to Lansing

By TRACY KEY

Gazing into my crystal ball, I can see a gathering charged with mystery and intrigue approaching. Yes, it is becoming clear — there will be people emerging from the haze seeking guidance and direc-

### Psychic Fair

Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Hampton Inn of Lansing, 525 N. Canal Road, Lansing  
\$5 admission, \$10 per reading  
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult  
(517) 214-4592

tion. I'm sensing the beginning of many journeys. I can feel that it will be a day to try new things. Maybe you should ask for a date with that hot co-worker you've been drooling over. Or

perhaps it is time to switch to a career in coal mining.

OK, full disclosure — I'm no clairvoyant. But if getting your palm read sounds

like your cup of tealeaves, you could always solicit the advice of an expert at Maria's Psychic Fun Fair this Sunday.

"All the readers are very positive," said astrologer/event organizer Maria Shaw Lawson. "We're not going to say you're going to die or you have a hex. Our vision is to give hope and peace, and give you a forecast for next three to six months."

Lawson has participated in over 500 psychic fairs during her 20-year career. She has also written 10 books (in 11 different languages), written horoscopes for the National Enquirer, appeared on television and provided predictions for celebrities including Tony Danza, Taylor Swift and Miley Cyrus. She uses the positioning of the planets at the time of the client's birth to form her forecast, coupled with her own sense of "intuition."

"Your astrology chart is like a map of



Shaw

your life, but you still drive the car," she said. "If you follow your chart, what you were meant to do in life can become a superhighway."

The event will feature a dozen other psychic readers, each specializing in specific styles of reading, such as angel cards, palm readings and rai ki. There will even be a dedicated pet psychic present to foretell Fido's fortune.

"I thought it was a unique experience, something to attend at least once in your life, even if you're not a believer," said radio host Jenna "Kat" Poag, who had her first mystic encounter at one of Lawson's fairs while scouting for potential clairvoyant candidates to include as a psychic segment

on air for station D95.2. "They hit on some relevant things, and with the séances and group readings, you can see how everyone is connected to their spiritual life. They hit the nail on the head for a lot of people."

Not everyone who comes is looking for clues about when they will meet Mr. Right or seeking commune with their long dead great aunt Gertrude.

"Things have changed — people have gone through a lot of chaos and crisis," Lawson said. "Now people are asking me, 'When can I sell my house?' 'When will I be able to get a job?' The economy has been low for so long that people have turned to asking more about basic survival."

In that spirit, Lawson feels that she is providing a genuine service to the public, and maybe — just maybe — giving a little help where she can.

"We're not here to take advantage of anyone," she said. "I can vouch for everyone — they're legit."

# Spell check

## Quirky comedy gives middle school 'oddballs' their moment in the spotlight

By ALLAN I. ROSS

If you show up this weekend for Over the Ledge's production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," it might be a good idea to thumb through a dictionary real quick, or at least catch up on the latest headlines on Huffington Post — you may just end up going toe-to-toe with the actors.

"Every show we pick out four audience members to come up and play along with the actors," says Over the Ledge's artistic director Joe Dickson. "We're looking for those audience spellers."

### The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Over the Ledge Theatre Co.  
Sept. 6-16  
8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays  
Ledges Playhouse  
137 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge  
\$7 student /\$10 senior /\$12 adult  
(517) 318-0579  
overtheledge.org

Dickson says that this is one of his favorite musicals, and thought it would fit well in his company's Ledges Playhouse.

"I saw ('Putnam') at Wharton a few years ago, and I thought the space there was just too big for the show," he says. "The Ledges Playhouse is much more intimate.



Courtesy photo

The cast of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," the Tony Award-winning musical which opens this weekend at Over the Ledge Playhouse in Grand Ledge.

Audience participation is obviously a fundamental part of this production, so having it in this setting really increases the interaction and the fun."

The Tony Award-winning musical is set at a spelling contest, with most of the actors playing tweens who are dealing with a variety of adolescent problems. Actor Doak Bloss plays one of the judges who, when prompted, defines words for the contestants and uses them in sentences. Basically, though, it's just a set up for word-related jokes and jabs at current events.

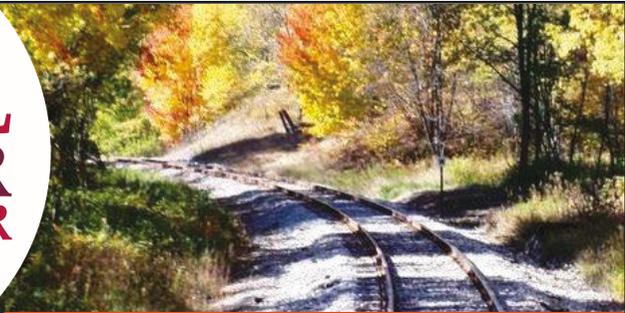
"The original script still has O.J. Simpson references in it, so we've had a lot of fun updating it," Bloss says. (In other words, don't be surprised if a contestant starts addressing an empty chair.)

"One of the words we give is 'marriage,'" Bloss says. "When they ask for the definition, I say, 'A sacred institution between one man and one woman ... except in Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Iowa and Washington, D.C.'"

Should be a hoot, as long as no R-E-P-U-B-L-I-C-A-N-S show up.



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### OCTOBER 6, 2012



### Owosso to Clare

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COACH TICKETS \$99

### OCTOBER 13, 2012



### Mt. Pleasant to Cadillac

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

### OCTOBER 20, 2012



### Owosso to Alma

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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Join us for another great Detroit Tigers event with Michigan author and former Tigers Publicity Director Dan Ewald as he talks about his memoir *Sparky & Me!*

In the tradition of *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Dan Ewald pens a memoir of his friendship with legendary Tigers manager Sparky Anderson, the man who taught him not only the nuances of baseball, but the importance of life's unwritten rules. Few sports figures, regardless of their position, have generated as much good will as Sparky Anderson, the legendary manager for the Cincinnati Reds and the Detroit Tigers. Sparky met author Dan Ewald in 1979, and thus was born a life-long friendship not likely to ever be seen again in baseball.

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THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Nick Cave's screenplay for 'Lawless' suggests he oughta stick to music

They used to write backwoods ballads about men like the Bondurant brothers, the Virginia moonshiners who built their own little empire during Prohibition. Unfortunately, instead of picking up his guitar and cranking out a tune about them, alt-rocker Nick Cave turned to his word processor and wrote a screenplay.

Although it claims to be "based on a true story," "Lawless" seems about as authentic as a three-dollar bill, a pastiche of blood-spattered brutality, soggy sibling-rivalry drama and a couple of go-nowhere romances that take up time without adding a whit of excitement.

Cave's story loses its focus faster than a teenager after a couple swigs of white lightning. At first, "Lawless" seems to be about the sullen Forrest (Tom Hardy), the take-charge brother who oversees the bootlegging business. Forrest has become a living legend in his neighborhood for his ability to cheat death, and Hardy instills the character with mysterious magnetism and meance. But the potentially rich set-up deteriorates quickly when it becomes apparent that we're going to have to witness the coming-of-age of Jack (Shia LaBeouf), the youngest of the Bondurants, an eager-but-wimpy kid who wants his own piece of the action. Whatever excitement the movie has built up in its first half-hour by focusing on Forrest is squelched

by Jack's cardboard characterization. LaBeouf just can't measure up to Hardy in any way as an actor: Hardy can express a multitude of meanings through a simple, guttural grunt and a well-timed squint, while you can practically see flashing neon "VACANCY" signs in the slack-jawed LaBeouf's eyes in his many close-ups.

Rather than illuminate the family history or look into what life was like in rural Franklin County in 1931, "Lawless" piles on even more plots and subplots. Here comes Maggie (Jessica Chastain), a former fan dancer who fled Chicago to hide out as a cook and waitress at the Bondurants' café/gas station. Meet Charlie Rakes (Guy Pearce, giving an almost over-the-top performance that further damages the film's credibility), a special deputy whose dandified style of dress and painstakingly perfect hair are offset by a dirty mouth and a dirtier mind.

Still don't have enough to keep track of? Let's welcome hot-tempered gangster Floyd Banner (Gary Oldman) and secretly rebellious preacher's daughter Bertha (Mia Wasikowska, who is given nothing to do but look shy and curious) to further complicate a tale that's already on the verge of bursting at the seams. The yawn-worthy "don't tell daddy" flirtation between Bertha and Jack belongs in another movie — one that no one should have to pay to watch. The middle Bondurant brother, Howard (Jason Clarke), is written off as a boozy, possibly shell-shocked WWI veteran while Banner gets a major build-up, and then abruptly drops out of sight.

Director John Hillcoat gives



Courtesy Photo

Musician Nick Cave's screenplay for "Lawless," starring Jason Clarke, Tom Hardy and Shia LaBeouf, falls flat.

"Lawless" the same gritty-pretty look of his previous film, "The Road." There's a subdued shimmer in the sepia shades and dusty grays that saturate nearly every image, and when violence erupts, Hillcoat doesn't hold back, presenting a shockingly thorough throat-slashing, a castration and numerous shootings and stabbings. If only "Lawless" put as much detail into its drama. Chastain brings a bit of defiant spirit to Maggie, but the woman remains nothing more than a copy of some stock character Joan Blondell or Glenda Farrell played 75 years ago.

While "Lawless" looks sensational and provides a few meaty scenes for Hardy and Oldman, it's hard to shake the sense that the essence of this drama was severely watered down somewhere along the way.

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# SAVAGE LOVE

**Letters, we get letters:**

Look for all the letters we've received, pro and con, on "Savage Love" at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) starting Thursday.



**DAN SAVAGE**  
mail@savagelove.com

**Q:** I have been in a long-term relationship with a wonderful woman who doesn't have a lot of people she socializes with in her daily life. She is a Burning Man person and converses online with other "burners."

I confronted her when I realized she was discussing the ups and downs of our relationship in a public online forum. She still hung out on that forum, but her presence diminished. I assumed she was socializing in private e-mails. A few months later, I discovered that she was actually moderating a different forum. I deleted the site from my history and decided to avoid it. Last week, while she was at Burning Man, I checked out the forum she moderates, even though I knew I shouldn't have. What I found was that she never mentions having a boyfriend, even when it might be relevant to a discussion. I was never mentioned, not even in passing. I don't mind that guys compliment her, and I understand the benefits of positive attention from the opposite sex. If she came to me and told me that is what she was seeking and that it was chaste, I would be fine with it as long as she made that clear to other forum members.

We are both attractive, and I get attention at times from other women. I often mention that I have a girlfriend to avoid someone getting the wrong idea. I also feel like she saves the spontaneous, uninhibited, and adventurous part of herself for these people at Burning Man. Does it sound like she is cheating emotionally? How can I bring this subject up in a way that doesn't make me seem like just more of a depressing part of her life? I don't want her to lose her outlet, but I feel like she is not showing me the respect one should show a partner of 10-plus years.

— Her Burning Man

**A:** I don't want to alarm you unnecessarily, HBM, but partnered people who go to Burning Man sans partner are typically planning to cheat cheat, not cheat emote. Casual straight sex, like sandy ass cracks and seeing my friend Eric naked, is a huge part of the Burning Man "experience."

But the kind of straight guy who goes to Burning Man for casual sex—and the art and the experience and the transcendence—doesn't give a shit if the girls he fucks have boyfriends back home. Or in the next tent. Your girlfriend could post your picture to Burning Man forums, mention you in every face-to-face conversation she has, and wear a shirt with your picture on it everywhere she goes on the playa, HBM, and she'd still find

plenty of guys willing to fuck her brains out. Mentioning you in online forums, not mentioning you in online forums—neither action is proof that she plans to cheat or not cheat. So I'm sitting here racking my brain trying to come up with some other reason why your girlfriend might not have mentioned you in an online Burning Man forum that she moderates.

Thinking, thinking, thinking.

Hey! Maybe it's because the last time you caught her talking about you and your relationship in a public online forum, YOU BLEW THE FUCK UP AT HER. Remember? You were angry then because she was talking about you on the interwebs. And you're angry now that she isn't talking about you on the interwebs.

If you're looking for a reason why your girlfriend feels inhibited around you, HBM, maybe it's the mixed signals. She gets in trouble for talking about you; she gets in trouble for not talking about you. If your girlfriend feels like she's going to be in trouble with you no matter what she does, HBM, then she's going to feel inhibited around you. And she's going to err on the side of sharing less of what she does with you.

When your girlfriend gets back from Burning Man, HBM, here's what I think you should say: "I realize this makes me sound crazy, and maybe I am crazy. But remember when I was upset about you talking about me—about us—in that public online forum? Well, I stumbled on another online forum and you weren't talking about me. And that upset me, too."

Acknowledge your insecurities, HBM, take some responsibility for the impact they may have on her behavior, and then have a long talk about how you can both enjoy a little attention from members of the opposite sex without making the other person feel like shit.

**Q:** I've been dating someone for a little more than two months. After the second week, he was saying things like "We need a word between 'like' and 'love' because 'I like you' doesn't seem sufficient." After weeks of telling him to slow his roll, I agreed to make it official and stop dating and sleeping with other guys because he wanted to "lock it down." It's been a week, and he's still on Scruff and Growlr. I'm a little put off because he was the one who pushed for exclusivity and the title of boyfriend. Should I be concerned? Can hookup apps be part of a healthy, monogamous relationship? Obviously a talk is needed.

— Sick of Scruff

**A:** Obviously.

Maybe your boyfriend wants to cheat but doesn't want to be cheated on—he wants his boyfriend locked down, but doesn't want to be locked down himself—or maybe he thinks it's too soon to delete his online personal profiles. Or maybe, like a lot of gay men, he treats hookup apps like a virtual gay bar, i.e., a place where he can hang out and socialize with friends and exes and, perhaps, get his flirt on now and then.

But if lurking on Scruff and Growlr makes his newly locked-down boyfriend feel insecure, he should stay off hookup apps. Or, if he simply can't give 'em up, your new boy-

friend should allow you to look at his chats whenever you care to so you can see for yourself that they're either wholly innocent (just talking with friends) or wholly innocent flirting (swapping photos and compliments with hot guys but not making plans to hook up).

**Q:** I'm a gay man who gained 30 pounds after I met my current boyfriend. I started dieting about a week before you ran a letter from a woman who was wondering about withholding sex until her husband lost some weight. I told my boyfriend not to have sex with me until I lost 15 pounds. It took me three and a half weeks to lose the weight, but it really strengthened our relationship. He was supportive of my weight-loss goals, he had an incentive to help me make healthier choices, and it brought an erotic tension to the process that we both dug. My only suggestion for the woman who wrote you: Don't tell people about it! The people we told were angry at my boyfriend for "withholding" sex unless I

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lost weight. But, hey, it worked!  
—Lighter In Loafers

**A:** As I said in my response to Like Boys Slimmer, if a couple can make the withholding of sex into an erotic game that they're both playing and both enjoying—and not an asshole move one partner is pulling—I could maybe see this sort of arrangement working. And I'm pleased to hear that at least one couple out there was able to successfully eroticize a diet by combining it with chastity play. Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [the stranger.com/savage](http://the stranger.com/savage).

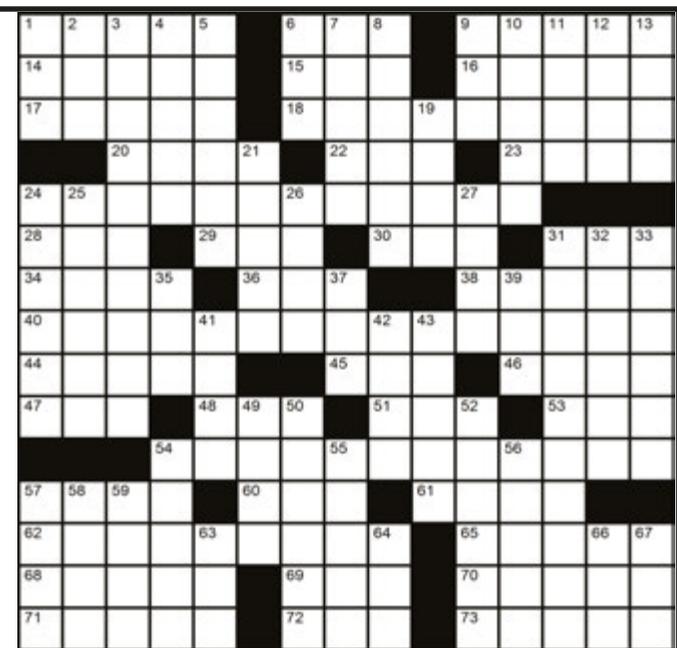
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Outside Protection"—we've got this covered.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 English homework list
- 6 Health gp. based in Atlanta
- 9 Like stray dogs
- 14 Wake Island, for one
- 15 Pet for Harry Potter
- 16 "The Path to the Nest of Spiders" writer Calvino
- 17 FX show about a stand-up comic
- 18 Crunchy stuff in a walkway
- 20 Final Four gp.
- 22 A, in Austria
- 23 Kimmel competitor
- 24 He released the album "So"
- 28 FBI worker
- 29 Half of an eternal balance
- 30 Pre-album collectibles
- 31 Faux \_\_\_\_
- 34 Limo driver's big day
- 36 Genetic messenger material
- 38 From the beginning, in Latin
- 40 Trucker's less-green alternative to biofuel
- 44 Skipped the restaurant
- 45 "A curse on your family!"
- 46 Being, to Berlioz
- 47 987-65-4321, e.g.
- 48 102, way back when
- 51 Furtive
- 53 "\_\_\_\_ was going to say before you interrupted me..."
- 54 What a mom might picture a secretly-bratty kid to be
- 57 Largest of seven
- 60 Blocked tic-tac-toe line
- 61 Friend, in France
- 62 Staff
- 65 "Sex, Lies and Videotape" actress MacDowell
- 68 Poet Sylvia
- 69 \_\_\_\_ Soundsystem
- 70 Nag persistently
- 71 Electronics name
- 72 Designer monogram under the Gucci label
- 73 "Find \_\_\_\_ and fill it"



- 11 Church passage
- 12 "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" singer Campbell
- 13 2012 acronym akin to "Be adventurous"
- 19 \_\_\_\_ Gnop (retro game of the 1970s)
- 21 "Just \_\_\_\_" (No Doubt song)
- 24 Season 4 "Bachelorette" DeAnna
- 25 Long-plumed herons
- 26 Baby-dressing photographer Geddes
- 27 Actor Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 31 Stamp when there aren't enough stamps
- 32 Reluctant (to)
- 33 Cirque du \_\_\_\_
- 35 Hosp. scanner
- 37 "\_\_\_\_ Wiedersehen!"
- 39 Contest where you'd hear "chiaroscurist"
- 41 Tony-winning musical
- 42 "Random" abbr. on a moving box
- 43 Fourth Greek letter
- 49 Gift material for a sixth anniversary
- 50 "Wouldn't that be awesome..."
- 52 Kawasaki competitor
- 54 Pale looking
- 55 Business decision-makers
- 56 Sheer, smooth fabric
- 57 iPhone buys
- 58 Actress Ward
- 59 Where Farsi is spoken
- 63 "And what have we here!?"
- 64 The "bad" cholesterol, for short
- 66 Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 \_\_\_\_ Minor
- 67 Announcer Hall

# OUT on the TOWN

## SINGLE TICKETS FOR WHARTON CENTER'S 2012-13 SEASON NOW ON SALE

Most of Wharton Center's 30th anniversary season went on sale Monday to the general public. Tickets are now available for "Anything Goes," "War Horse," "Billy Elliot," "Sister Act," "Catch Me If You Can," and the Green Day punk-rock opera "American Idiot." Also available are tickets for the Blue Man Group, jazz icon Sonny Rollins, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, Mannheim Steamroller, Sir James Galway's Legacy Tour, and the entire Act One Family Series. Wharton Center tickets are available for purchase online at whartoncenter.com and at the Wharton Center box office on the MSU Campus in East Lansing. For more information, call (800) WHARTON or (517) 432-2000.

## Wednesday, September 5

### 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.

**Drawing Class.** All levels welcome, with Dennis O'Meara.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

### Several items of fresh produce picked daily from our field.

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\$.99 per lb., \$8.95 half bushel
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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](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com). If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to [calendar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:calendar@lansingcitypulse.com).

## SEPT. 5



Courtesy Photo

### You're gonna want a Coney

In the first in a series of lectures, Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives, MSU journalism Professor Joe Grimm will discuss Coney Island hot dogs. This lecture will cover more than common toppings, however — it will showcase how Michigan is the center of the Coney nation, something that Grimm documented in his 2012 book "Coney Detroit." It will also cover how Coney restaurants are deeply rooted in Michigan's blue-collar economy, going as far back as the 1920s and discuss the workers, immigrants working their way up the American economy, with many restaurants now run by third- and fourth-generation family members. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. (517) 432-3357.

## SEPT. 9



Courtesy Photo

### Party with a cause

This Sunday get a chance to party at the Potter Park Zoo. Hosted by the Capital Area Down Syndrome Association and sponsored by Dean Transportation and Grainger, there will be a variety of events throughout the day. Stroll through Potter Park with T.J. Duckett, Sparty and the Big Lug, and listen to live music by Sudden Impact. There will also be lots of family activities. The Centennial Group will host a free SecureChild photo ID booth, providing parents with personal safety kits for their kids. Noon-4 p.m. \$12 per person, \$35 per family. Potter Park Zoo. 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. [cadsa.org](http://cadsa.org).

## SEPT. 10

### Art from the Heart

This exhibit, running Sept. 7-25 and featuring contemporary and traditional art, is hosted by the MSU Federal Credit Union and the Peckham Community Partnership Foundation. The Art from the Heart program provides professional, individualized instruction in the visual arts to artists with disabilities. Featured artists will display and sell their pieces. The Peckham Community Partnership Foundation is committed to supporting the initiatives, programs and services that help fulfill its mission of reducing or eliminating barriers to employment. Reception: 5-7 p.m. FREE. MSUFCU's Headquarters Lobby. 3777 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2424.

## SEPT. 11

### Be a part of "QuizBusters"

Mid-Michigan game show fans can be in the TV studio audience for the taping of "QuizBusters" at WKAR studios. Local personalities and community leaders from the arts, media, politics and theater will face off in team competition, battling for bragging rights in the 24th season opener of the local game show. "QuizBusters" host Matt Ottinger will ask questions and MSU's Sparty will be on hand to cheer on the teams. Two games will be played, with two different teams facing off for each game. This evening is part of the Evening at WKAR series, where community members are invited to learn more about, and be a part of, public broadcasting in mid-Michigan. 7 p.m. FREE. Communication Arts & Sciences Building, 404 Wilson Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5982.

# TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICHTUPICA

## SPARTAN REMIX EXPECTS 1,000

Over 1,000 students are expected to fill the field outside of the MSU Auditorium for the annual Spartan Remix. The free, all-ages event features music from DJ Rod P — the official DJ for the Detroit Pistons — Karen Rodriguez, Enrique Rosas Duet and Zain Shamoon and the Blat Pack. Dances will be performed by the ASU African Student Union, FreQuency Dance Crew and the MSU Breakdance Club. Other attractions include drag queen Hershae Chocolatae, a Greek unity march, graffiti artist Freddie Diaz and a visit from Sparty. This year's theme is "What's Your Ink?" The evening will cover the art of tattooing, paints, and various mediums of ink while also recognizing cultural diversity and how it's made up of diverse languages. Plenty of tents, from organizations like the LBGT Coalition, will be on-site with some cultural activities aimed at promoting diversity awareness. The Spartan Remix is hosted by the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender Resource Center. There will be free food, T-shirts, and a long board raffle.

**Thursday, Sept. 6 @ MSU Auditorium Field, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing, free, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

## CITY PULSE HOSTS: TEENAGE SLUMBER PARTY AT MAC'S

The first in a series of upcoming City Pulse-hosted events happens Wednesday at Mac's Bar when Teenage Slumber Party and Catalina Wine Mixer play an early, all-ages show. Headlining is Teenage Slumber Party, a Grand Ledge-based punk-rock duo made up of Dylan Sowle (guitar/vocals) and Ariel Rogers (drums). The minimal sound is sloppy and poppy, sounding somewhat like a confused mix between The Oblivians, The



Courtesy Photo

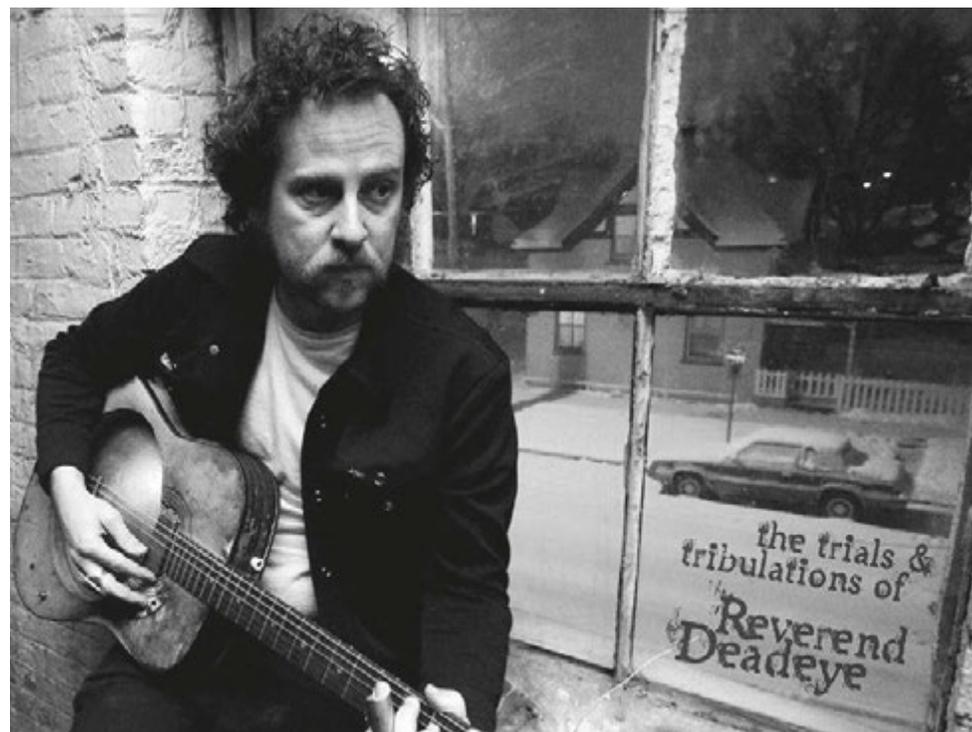
Kenneth Thomas at The Loft

Gories, Mudhoney and the Moldy Peaches. Opening the show is Catalina Wine Mixer.

**Wednesday, Sept. 5 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$6, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.**

## DJ KENNETH THOMAS AT LANSING BEACH PARTY

World-famous DJ Paul Oakenfold once called Kenneth Thomas "one of the most promising young DJs in the electronic scene right now." Thomas, a Detroit techno superstar, spins his melodic dance music Friday at The Loft. The night is dubbed "Endless Summer," with those dressed in beach attire saving \$2 off the cover charge. Beyond touring the world as a headliner and producing, Thomas is also a talent scout for Perfecto (Oakenfold's label), promoting the renaissance of the renowned U.K. trance label. Opening the show is a long list of DJs, including Rob Perry, a fixture in the Lansing and Detroit-area electronic music scene. While he first started dabbling in electronic music in high school, it wasn't until 2008 that Perry performed his first live show at Mac's Bar and soon become a regular performer. Also performing is Klees, Space, Craig D, Space Camp, host/MC Dean Cue, X Theory, AKDJ, MC Rain, Pep-Step, Mista Mixta and Xaos. Limited \$7 pre-sales are available in East Lansing at The Record Lounge or Flat Black and Circular.



Courtesy Photo

Reverend Deadeye at Moriarty's

**Friday, Sept. 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$8 for 18 and over, \$7 advance, \$12 at door, 9 p.m.**

## BIG WILLY DROPS SECOND ALBUM

Local eclectic rock band Big Willy releases its second full-length album, "Out for Trouble," Sunday at an early Green Door show — doors open at 3 p.m. Opening the show is Bad Gravy. Big Willy is rooted in the blues, rock 'n' roll and some classic soul. "This record still has the Big Willy sound that we've established, but the lyrics, the music, and the arrangements are on a whole new level," said front man Will Rideout. Since the band formed in 2004, it has shared the stage with the likes of Tab Benoit and Larry McCray. It also recorded an episode of "Backstage Pass," a documentary-style show aired on PBS. This second album is a follow up to 2009's "King Without a Crown."

**Sunday, Sept. 9 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, all ages until 9 p.m., after 9 p.m. it's 21 and over.**

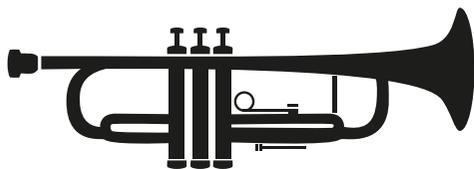
## FREE REV. DEADEYE SHOW AT MORIARTY'S

The rustic sounds of Reverend Deadeye & His No Man Gospel Band returns to Lansing next Tuesday, Sept. 11, for a free show at Moriarty's. This Colorado native mixes raw blues, garage-rock and gospel into a primitive blast of sound in the traditional "one man band" set up. According to his website, "Feet fer stompin, hands fer strummin', mouth fer shoutin'!" A couple of his fan-favorite tunes include "Fuck the Devil" and "Drunk on Jesus." Opening the show is local roots rock acts Dead Ben Rooster and The Leper Colony. Fans of Tom Waits, Johnny Cash or the King Khan & BBQ show may want to stop by this gig.

**Tuesday, Sept. 11 @ Moriarty's Pub, 802 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 21 and over, FREE, 9 p.m.**

## UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN)



## LIVE & LOCAL

To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to [liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.		John Roy, 8 p.m.	John Roy, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	John Roy, 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.		
The Firm, 227 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.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	The Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Dewaynes, 9:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 9:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	The Squids, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Twin Cats, 8 p.m.	Kenneth Thomas, 9 p.m.	The Wombats, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Bitch Please, 9 p.m.	Cosmic Throne, 9 p.m.	
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	From Big Sur, 10 p.m.	From Big Sur, 10 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.	Capital City Groove, 9 p.m.	Capital City Groove, 9 p.m.
Ull's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Various Bands, 9 p.m.	Dr. Me, 9 p.m.	Various Bands, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Evia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	TJ Thomas & the Kentucky Spirit, 9 p.m.	TJ Thomas & the Kentucky Spirit, 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.  
**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

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1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Religious Freedom & Health Care.** On how the Affordable Care Act requires coverage of birth control, even for some religious institutions. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

**After-School Youth Gardening Programming.** Youth Service Corps, ages 11-17, activities focusing on gardening, nutrition and community service. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

**Practice Your English.** Join conversations and practice speaking and listening to English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, activities and more. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279.

**Teen Night at Spiral.** With DJ Alabama from 97.5. Ages 14-18 can dance in a safe and fun environment. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221. clubspiral@aol.com.

**MSU Choral Union auditions.** Auditions for the 2012-2013 season will be in Room 147. Come prepared to sing the first verse of The Star Spangled Banner. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Communication Arts and Sciences Building, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-9122.

**Knit-Wits.** Open to knitters of all ages and skill levels. 3:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Baby Time.** Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting.** Informal dinner and conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

**Meet Peadar O'Guilin.** Join the author of "The Inferior" and "The Deserter" for a pizza party. 6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

**Meet Eloisa James.** Meet The New York Times bestselling author. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music

Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

## Thursday, September 6

### 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.

**Eating Disorders Anonymous Meeting.** 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515. cadl.org.

**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.

**Yoga for Beginners.** With Gaby Kende, certified yoga teacher and certified yoga therapist. 9:30-11 a.m. FREE new students. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640. center4yoga.com.

**Lowe's South Side Cruise-In.** Open to classic cars, trucks, hotrods & motorcycles. 6-11 p.m. FREE. Lowe's Lansing, S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 699-2940.

**Lansing Area South Codependent Anonymous Meeting.** 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.

**Teen Time.** A variety of drop-in activities for teens, 5th grade or older. 4 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

**Composting for Beginners.** Learn how to start your own compost bin at home. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

### Explore Your Personal Vision for Career

**Success.** Explore your personal vision of success and learn how to create a realistic career plan. 10 a.m.-noon. \$5. Basic SmArts Members, FREE, Level 2 SmArts Members, \$10, non-members. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600. oldtownarts.org.

**After-School Youth Gardening Programming.** Kids, ages 5-10, can join in activities focusing on gardening, nutrition and community service. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Putt-Putt Party.** Presented by the Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan. Register before September 4. 4:30 p.m. \$25 per individual, \$100 per family of four. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 641-4295.

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

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

**Mid-day Movies.** Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

**Morning Storytime.** All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Bananagrams Night.** 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

**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.

**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.

**Jack Dempsey.** Meet the award-winning author as he presents stories from "Ink Trails." 5:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, 213 W. Main St., Lansing. michiganwomenshalloffame.org.

**Table Benefit Dinner.** Come enjoy a delicious dinner prepared and cooked on the farm by Jackie Cosner and family. 6-8 p.m. \$15. Floodplain Farms, 703 S. Francis, Lansing. (616) 502-8265.

## THEATRE

### "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

The Tony award-winning musical comedy set in a middle school auditorium. 8 p.m. \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$7 student. Ledges Playhouse, Fitzgerald Park, off Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579.

**Auditions for "Little Women."** Children, ages 9-18, needed for All-of-us Express Children's Theatre's production of "Little Women." For those preparing to audition, scripts can be checked out at the ELHCC front desk. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$10 scripts. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6963.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Storytime With Ms. Deb.** Ms. Deb will read three books on the topic of the week and do a craft. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble Lansing, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.

## Friday, September 7

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Relics of the Big Bang.** Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. pa.msu.edu/abrams.

**Cork and Canvas.** An instructional art class. We provide the canvas, paint and instruction. 6-8:30 p.m. \$25. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

**Ageless Grace Classes.** The movements, done in a chair, focus on the healthy longevity of the body, mind, emotions and spirit. 1:15-1:45 p.m. 3 sessions for \$21. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

**Oil Painting.** For all levels with Patricia Singer. 10 a.m.-noon. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Book Signing with Elizabeth Shaw.** Meet the author of "The Lone Wolverine." 4-6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. schulerbooks.com.

**Insect Investigations.** Part of a weekday science program to introduce and reinforce science curriculum for home-schooled children. 1 p.m. \$4 per class, \$10 per season. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

## EVENTS

**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 a craft 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.

**Resurrection Ox Roast Festival.** 5 p.m. FREE. Resurrection Church, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517)

482-4749. resurrectionlansing.org.

**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.

**"American Daydream" Reception.** Featuring artist Valentin Pulido. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 898-4046.

**6th Annual Mayors' Ramadan Unity Dinner.** Celebrating diversity and the Muslim culture, hosted by Virg Bernero and Diane Goddeerries. Proceeds of the event go to Greater Lansing Food Bank. Essay contest winners announced. 7-9:30 p.m. \$25 per individual, \$75 per family of four. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4141.

**Grand Opening: Conquest Health Fitness Center.** Enjoy a variety of activities, a meet-and-greet with Tom Izzo and other Spartans, and a 5K run. 4-7:30 p.m. FREE. Conquest Health & Fitness Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Suite 2, Bath Township. (517) 641-4348. conquesthealthandfitness.com.

**Land Use Lunch.** Join the Mid-MEAC for a discussion on personal property tax in Michigan. Noon-1 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

## MUSIC

**Grand River Radio Diner Concert.** Featuring Marie Rose and The Swiss Kicks & Dave Samano. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710.

**Sammy Gold.** '80s pop rock. 9 p.m. FREE. Buddies Pub & Grill, 1937 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 347-0443.

**Grand River Band.** Performance featuring The Grand River Band. 6 p.m. FREE. Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee, 134 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. facebook.com/FaysEvelynBay.

**First Friday.** Live music featuring Abbey Hoffman. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Great Lakes Art Works, 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 927-4500.

## THEATRE

**"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."** 8 p.m. \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$7 student. (Please see details Sept. 6.)

**Auditions for "Little Women."** 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Please see details Sept. 6.)

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Music & Movement Storytime.** Dance and sing to music, and learn to play with instruments. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

**Michigan Reads! Kathy-Jo Wargin.** Meet the author of "Moose on the Loose." 1 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

## Saturday, September 8

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**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. (517) 485-6003.

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

**Relics of the Big Bang.** 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. (Please see details Sept. 7.)

**Parenting Group.** Lecture and group discussion each week. 10-11 a.m. Call to register: Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

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

**Partner Massage Class.** Learn tips and tricks of massage. 2:30-5:30 p.m. \$80 per couple. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

**Recycle Computers and Electronics.** Collection event for

## ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

### HARD

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## TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit [www.SundayCrosswords.com](http://www.SundayCrosswords.com)

Answers on page 25

## ALTERNATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY CARE NATURAL HEALING &amp; WELLNESS SOLUTIONS



By ALLANI ROSS

The school year's back, and with it come tense shoulders from hunching over keyboards, anxiety from juggling a variety of activities and headaches from too much, um, studying. Yeah, that's it, studying. Now, you have several choices of how to deal with these afflictions, with most of them involving popping pills or six-hour "Breaking Bad" marathons to unwind. Fortunately, there's another option: Alternative and Complementary Care Natural Healing & Wellness Solutions — or just ACC, for short — a new full-service natural healing and wellness center in downtown Lansing.

"The goal is to provide the necessary tools to help people heal and live healthier lives through non-invasive and natural therapies," says owner Karen Kraft. "Whether you have minor issues such as tight muscles, headache, or general fatigue, or you're dealing with a serious and chronic illness, we try to provide natural solutions to help each person's individual situation."

With imaginatively named nooks named the Buddha Room, the Peace Room and the Pyramid Room, ACC offers many services, including a variety of natural healing methods such as massage, hypnotherapy, reflexology and acupuncture. It also features classes such as



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The Pyramid Room in the third floor of the ACC Wellness Center is dedicated to yoga, tai chi and other classes.

qigong, and coming soon there will be workshops on raw food cooking and the basics of the human body's energy system. If you prefer to do your holistic healing at home, ACC carries a wide range of supplements, natural body care products, essential oils, crystals and gemstone jewelry.

Kraft, a massage therapist and reiki master, has a unique, personal insight into natural healing: in 2005, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After six months of chemotherapy she went into remission, but four years later she was diagnosed with the same disease for a second time. Another bout of therapy again removed it only for it to return for a third time. This time, she spent her time in the hospital and months of recovery researching natural remedies for cancer and

cancer prevention. She says that she would never undergo chemotherapy again.

"In the long run, the natural route is not very expensive, it lasts a lifetime and it doesn't harm your body," Kraft says. She started writing her business plan for a holistic wellness center while still in the hospital, and the result is ACC, which opened last month.

"People are tired of the side effects of the drugs that their doctors are prescribing and want to learn how to heal themselves," says Kraft. That's what we're here for."

#### Alternative and Complementary Care Natural Healing & Wellness Solutions

617 W. Ionia St.  
Lansing  
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
517-708-8510  
massageandwellnesslansing.com

## Out on the town

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computers and electronics. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-4312. **REO Town Art Attack! Festival.** Art by Michigan artists and 18 Michigan bands on two stages. Noon-11 p.m. FREE, \$5 music in advance, \$8 day of. 112 E. Malcolm X, Lansing. reotownartattack.com.

**Ikebana Flower Arranging Workshop.** 10 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 960 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7132.

### EVENTS

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts Lansing's longest standing weekly salsa event. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar & Grille, 2510 N. MLK, Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

**Beer & Wine Tasting.** Free samples. 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.

**Resurrection Ox Roast Festival.** Noon-11 p.m. FREE. Resurrection Church, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4749.

**2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's.** Help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. 11 a.m. FREE. Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (734) 475-7043.

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

**Discovery Walk.** Explore the park with a naturalist guide from the Harris Nature Center. 10 a.m. \$3. Nancy L. Moore Park, 1960 Gaylord Court, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

**Urbandale Farm's Tomato Festival.** Tomato tasting, recipes and tomato lore. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Urbandale Farm, 653 S. Hayford Ave., Lansing.

**Fall Family Fun Festival.** Live music, kids games and local vendors. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, Old M-78, Haslett. (517) 339-1142.

**American Muscle & Antique Auto Show.** DJ, door prizes, food & drink, a muffler rapping contest and awards. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 registration. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 896-8317.

**Zoo Party.** Creative black tie event, food, drink & live auction. 21+. 6:30-11:59 p.m. \$85 members, \$100 non-members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2717. potterparkzoo.org.

### MUSIC

**An Elegant Evening with Twyla Birdsong.** Soul, jazz ballads, funk and blues. Dress code is evening attire. 6-9 p.m. \$15. Gregory's Ice & Smoke, 2510 N. MLK Blvd., Lansing. (517) 894-5137.

**Frontier Days Festival: Music at the Park.** Featuring Kayleigh Dawn Sloan, Ryan Knott, the Grand River Band and more. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5690.

### THEATRE

**"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."** 8 p.m. \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$7 student. (Please see details Sept. 6.)

**Auditions for "Little Women."** 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Please see details Sept. 6.)

## Sunday, September 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

**Relics of the Big Bang.** 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. (Please see details Sept. 7.)

**The Family Show.** "Space Chase," for children from preschool through grade 3 and their families. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517)

355-4672. pa.msu.edu/abrams.

### EVENTS

**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.** 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

**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 Farmers Market.** Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, activities and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing.

**Stewardship Work Days.** Families with children and community members can volunteer for a couple hours helping keep Fenner beautiful. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

**Second Sunday.** 10 percent of what is spent will be donated to the East Lansing Public Library. 4-9 p.m. FREE. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. elpl.org.

**Resurrection Ox Roast Festival.** Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Resurrection Church, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4749.

**Maria's Psychic Fun Fair.** Astrology, tarot, spiritual readings and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5, \$10 per reading. Hampton Inn Lansing, 525 N. Canal St., Lansing. (810) 631-6887.

**Vegan Potluck.** Bring a plant-based dish to pass, no meat, eggs or dairy and a copy of the recipe. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Clerical Technical Union, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-5485.

**Cars and Bikes for Special Kids.** Variety of activities. Money raised goes to Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10. Beekman Center, 2901 Wabash, Lansing. (517) 755-5720.

**9th Annual Sparrow Foundation Women Working Wonders.** 8:30 a.m. \$25 for adults, \$10 for children ages 5-14, before Sept. 2, \$30 after Sept. 2. Sparrow Hospital, 1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. sparrow.org/w3race.

**Fall Family Fun Festival.** Enjoy live music, kids games and local vendors. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, Old M-78, Haslett. (517) 339-1142.

**Spider Hunt Family Special.** Come learn about spiders through hands-on activities and a hunt for spiders. 3 p.m. \$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

### MUSIC

**Music on the Patio.** Featuring Brad Maitland and Dan Wixon every Sunday. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Waterfront Bar and Grille, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 267-3800.

**Sheryl Crow.** Live music from the Grammy-winning artist. 7 p.m. \$38, \$68, \$78. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

### THEATRE

**"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."** 2 p.m. \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$7 student. (Please see details Sept. 6.)

## Monday, September 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group.** For those who have gone through loss of a spouse due to death or divorce. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272. stdavidslansing.org.

**Grief Seminar.** A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

**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.

## Out on the town

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

**Homework Help.** Students can drop-in for free tutoring, grades K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**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. [people.alblon.edu/ram/lecd](http://people.alblon.edu/ram/lecd).

**MCACA Mini-grant Program Workshop.** Learn about this year's mini-grant program. 1-3 p.m. FREE. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. [michiganadvantage.org/arts](http://michiganadvantage.org/arts).

**After-School Youth Gardening Programming.** Ages 5-10, activities focusing on gardening, nutrition and community service. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/people/kidstime](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/people/kidstime).

### EVENTS

**Social Bridge and Euchre.** No partner needed.

Bridge 1-4 p.m., euchre: 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**JAMM Meeting.** Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, open to all. 7:30 p.m. FREE. 1267 Lakeside Drive, East Lansing.

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

**Monday Movie Matinees.** Movies are free and intended for an adult audience only. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**Westside Farmers Market.** Get fresh produce and more. 4-7 p.m. FREE. 743 N. MLK Blvd., Lansing.

**KAK Network Golf Outing.** Four-person scramble with auction and on-course contests. 6:45 a.m. \$50 breakfast, \$200 entire gold outing. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing. (517) 712-0580. [kaknetwork.org](http://kaknetwork.org).

**Auditions for Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony.** Come with a prepared piece of music, with or without accompaniment and sight-reading. Call to schedule an audition. 3:30-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 646-6096.

**American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers.** The election of officers for 2013 and more. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517)

699-8062. [lansingclippers.com](http://lansingclippers.com).

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

**The Better Living Book Club.** Discuss "Kindred Spirits" by Dr. Allen Schoen with special guest, Dr. Anne Rice. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**Open-Mic Mondays.** Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. MBC Lansing, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

**Bluegrass Country Picking Jam.** Bring your acoustic instrument and join others to make music. 7:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. VFW Club Post 6132, 3104 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. (517) 337-1517.

## Tuesday, September 11

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group.** 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

**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.

**Schizophrenics Anonymous.** 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

**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 and wellness coaching in a positive, informative, and motivational format. 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 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.

**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** For those looking to become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. [1926.toastmastersclubs.org](http://1926.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Kripalu Style Yoga.** Stretch, focus and realign the body and mind. 10-11 a.m. Purchase 8 classes for \$80. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. [creativewellness.net](http://creativewellness.net).

**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.

**Microsoft Excel Basics.** Learn how to use a spreadsheet. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356.

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

**ESL Workshop.** For anyone interested in having conversations to practice speaking and listening in English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

### EVENTS

**Mid-day Movies.** Recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Game On!** Play a variety of board and video games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Morning Storytime.** All ages welcome for stories, songs and rhymes. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Storytime.** Stories, rhymes, songs and 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.

**Medication Disposal.** Learn about properly disposing unused, unwanted or expired medications. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. The State Capitol Building, Capitol Ave. at Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-1466.

**Innovation Club for Entrepreneurs Meeting.** Topics and speakers will address elements of venture creation. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

**Auditions for Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony.** 3:30-7 p.m. FREE. (Please see details Sept. 10)

**Books on Tap.** Discuss "Behind the Beautiful Forevers" by Katherine Boo. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100.

**Classics Book Club.** Meet in the Library Meeting Room to discuss "The Trial" by Franz Kafka. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

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# Out on the town

from page 24

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays.** Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet and 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.

## Wednesday, September 12

### 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.

**Our Daily Work/Lives.** "The IWW Insurgencies of 1912: Working Class Men and Women in Revolt," Fran Shor. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**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. elpl.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.

**Environmental Justice.** Discussion on environmental justice and healthy communities. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

**After-School Youth Gardening Programming.** Youth Service Corps, ages 11-17, can join in activities focusing on gardening, nutrition and community service. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/people/youthservicecorps.

## EVENTS

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

**Practice Your English.** Practice speaking and listening to English in a friendly atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road,

East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.  
**Fundamentals of Personal Empowerment.** Series of classes for both personal fulfillment and ordination. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Rd., East Lansing. (517) 337-4070. fellowshipfortoday.com.

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, activities and more. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279.

**Baby Story Time.** Short stories, free-play time for babies 6-24 months old. 11:30 a.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

**Toddler Tales.** Story time for toddlers, 2-3 years old. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

**Post-Polio Support Group Fall Pot Luck.** Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. 5 p.m. FREE. Granger Meadows, 1745 Granger Meadows Lane, Lansing. (517) 339-1039.

**League of Women Voters Welcome Reception.** Featuring speaker Rich Robinson. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. lansing.mi.lwvnet.org.

**Eastwood Towne Center 10th Anniversary.** Wide variety of events and activities throughout the day. 10 a.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-9209. shopeastwoodtownecenter.com.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Baby Time.** Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger, with a parent/caregiver. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting.** New location. Informal dinner and lively conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

**"Sparky & Me" appearance by Dan Ewald.** The former Detroit Tigers publicity director discusses his memoir. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

## City Pulse Classifieds

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

September 5-11

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Life tests you all the time. Sometimes its prods and queries are hard and weird; they come at you with non-stop intensity. On other occasions the riddles and lessons are pretty fun and friendly, and provide you with lots of slack to figure them out. In all cases, life's tests offer you the chance to grow smarter, both in your head and heart. They challenge you to stretch your capacities and invite you to reduce your suffering. Right now, oddly enough, you have some choice in what kinds of tests you'd prefer. Just keep in mind that the more interesting they are, the bigger the rewards are likely to be.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): According to the religion of ancient Egypt, Tefnut is the goddess of moisture. In the natural world, she rules rain, dew, mist, humidity, and condensation. For humans, she is the source of tears, spit, sweat, phlegm, and the wetness produced by sex. In accordance with the astrological omens, I nominate her to be your tutelary spirit in the coming week. I suspect you will thrive by cultivating a fluidic sensibility. You will learn exactly what you need to learn by paying special attention to everything that exudes and spills and flows.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): I'm guessing that you don't know the name of the person who sent the first email. It was Ray Tomlinson, and he did it in 1971. You're probably also unaware that he originated the use of the @ symbol as a key part of email addresses. Now I'd like to address your own inner Ray Tomlinson, Gemini: the part of you that has done valuable work hardly anyone knows about; the part of you that has created good stuff without getting much credit or appreciation. I celebrate that stuff, and I hope you will make a special effort to do the same in the coming week.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Busy editor Katie Hintz-Zambrano was asked in an interview what she does when she's not working at her demanding job. She said she likes to get together with her "article club," which is like a book club, except it's for people who don't have time to read anything longer than articles. I would approve of you seeking out short-cut pleasures like that in the next few weeks, Cancerian. It's one of those phases in your astrological cycle when you have a poetic license to skip a few steps, avoid some of the boring details, and take leaps of faith that allow you to bypass complicated hassles.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Imagine you're living in 1880. You're done with work for the day, and are at home enjoying some alone-time leisure activities. What might those be? By the light of your oil lamp, you could read a book, sing songs, compose a letter with pen and paper, or write in your diary. Now transfer your imaginative attention to your actual living space in 2012. It might have a smart phone, tablet, laptop, TV, DVD player, and game console. You've got access to thousands of videos, movies, songs, social media, websites, and networked games. Aren't you glad you live today instead of 1880? On the other hand, having so many choices can result in you wasting a lot of time with stimuli that don't fully engage you. Make this the week you see what it's like to use your leisure time for only the highest-quality, most interesting and worthwhile stuff.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I'll bet that *a-ha!* experiences will arrive at a faster rate than you've seen in a long time. Breakthroughs and brainstorming will be your specialty. Surprises and serendipitous adventures should be your delight. The only factor that might possibly obstruct the flow would be if you clung too tightly to your expectations or believed too fiercely in your old theories about how the world works. I've got an idea about how to ensure the best possible outcome. Several times every day, say something like the following: "I love to get my curiosity spiked, my hair mussed, my awe struck, my goose bumps roused, my dogmas exploded, and my mind blown."

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Disappointments should be cremated, not embalmed," said the aphorist Henry S. Haskins. That's good advice for you right now, Libra. It's an auspicious moment for you to set fire to your defeats, letdowns, and discouragements — and let them burn into tiny piles of ashes. I mean all of them, stretching back for years, not simply the recent ones. There's no need to treat them like precious treasures you have an obligation to lug with you into the future. The time is right for you to deepen your mastery of the art of liberation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Columnist Sydney J. Harris told the following story. "I walked with a friend to the newsstand the other night, and he bought a paper, thanking the owner politely. The owner, however, did not even acknowledge it. 'A sullen fellow, isn't he?' I commented as we walked away. 'Oh, he's that way every night,' shrugged my friend. 'Then why do you continue being so polite to him?' I asked. And my friend replied, 'Why should I let him determine how I'm going to act?'" I hope you'll adopt that approach in the coming week, Scorpio. Be your best self even if no one appreciates it or responds. Astrologically speaking, this is prime time to anchor yourself in your highest integrity.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the 1960 Olympics at Rome, Ethiopian runner Abebe Bikila was barefoot as he won a gold medal in the marathon race. Four years later, at the summer games in Tokyo, he won a gold medal again, this time while wearing shoes. I'm guessing this theme might apply to you and your life in the coming weeks. You have the potential to score another victory in a situation where you have triumphed in the past. And I think it's even more likely to happen if you vary some fundamental detail, as Bikila did.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Wikipedia has extensive lists of the biggest unsolved problems in medicine, computer science, philosophy, and nine other fields. Each article treats those riddles with utmost respect and interest, regarding them not as subjects to be avoided but rather embraced. I love this perspective, and urge you to apply it to your own life. This would be an excellent time, astrologically speaking, to draw up a master list of your biggest unsolved problems. Have fun. Activate your wild mind. Make it into a game. I bet that doing so will attract a flood of useful information that'll help you get closer to solving those problems. (Here's Wikipedia's big list: [tinyurl.com/ListofProblems](http://tinyurl.com/ListofProblems).)

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There's a certain lesson in love that you have been studying and studying and studying — and yet have never quite mastered. Several different teachers have tried with only partial success to provide you with insights that would allow you to graduate to the next level of romantic understanding. That's the bad news, Aquarius. The good news is that all this could change in the coming months. I foresee a breakthrough in your relationship with intimacy. I predict benevolent jolts and healing shocks that will allow you to learn at least some of the open-hearted truths that have eluded you all this time.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): A mother wrote to the "Car Talk" columnists to ask whether it's possible to cook food on a car engine. She wanted to be able to bring her teenage son piping hot burritos when she picked him up from school. The experts replied that yes, this is a fine idea. They said there's even a book about how to do it, *Manifold Destiny: The One! The Only! Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine!* I suggest you engage in this kind of creative thinking during the coming week, Pisces. Consider innovations that might seem a bit eccentric. Imagine how you might use familiar things in unexpected ways. Expand your sense of how to coordinate two seemingly unrelated activities.

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

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Sam Ingot/City Pulse

The Fruit House Winery tasting room inside the Lansing City Market features hard cider and perry, in addition to wide variety of fruit wines.

## This cider house rules

Uncle John's hosting hard cider festival this weekend



By MICHAEL BRENTON

For generations, mid-Michigan residents — along with travelers throughout the Midwest — have enjoyed weekend jaunts up to Uncle John's Cider Mill, on US 27 in St. John's. Uncle John's is a frequent site for events such as car shows, ultralight aviation fly-ins, concerts and, of course, pick-your-own fruit and vegetable excursions. Now in its fifth generation of family ownership, what started as a simple fruit farm has become a full-fledged, family-friendly, agricultural tourist destination. Modern features include a bakery, a restaurant, a gift shop (featuring a selection of locally made fudge, jerky and syrup) and the Fruit House Winery, which has its own wine and cider tasting room. Each weekend, thousands flock to Uncle John's for the products, the events and the fun.

The Fruit House Winery is a destination all its own. There are 19 options, including a chardonnay as well as several blends — and some of the other choices get a little more playful, such as honey wine, cranberry wine and peach wine. Their house-made apple brandy, distilled on site from their cider, is delicious, and the tasting room offers up to 11 different hard ciders, depending upon the season. Hard cider is refreshing and thirst quenching with widespread crowd appeal, and is be a perfect addition to a fall tailgate table. Drinkers who enjoy lighter beers and crisper white wines would be big fans of cider.

Which brings us to the 5th Annual Great Lakes Cider and Perry Festival, to be held at Uncle John's this Saturday. If you enjoy sampling beers and wines, you shouldn't miss the opportunity to sample hard apple cider and hard pear cider (also known as perry), brought in from producers throughout the Great Lakes region. The hard cider industry in Michigan is

rapidly expanding, with local wineries and breweries adding hard cider production to their traditional fermented beverage expertise. In fact, Michigan is now reputed to have more cider producers than any other state in the nation, and Mike Beck, co-proprietor at Uncle John's, is one of Michigan's hard cider pioneers and a foremost authority on the subject.

Great Lakes region ciders and perries come in numerous flavors and styles. They are made with apple and pear varieties of which most of us have never heard, and which would be unpleasant as table fruit due to their hard texture and relative bitterness. Cider apples and pears are typically high in tannins (contributing to structure), acids (balancing sweetness) and sugars (necessary for fermentation). Hard cider is frequently produced by blending several varieties, each adding its own unique character. The permutations are endless: still or sparkling, sweet, dry, soft or acidic, single fruit or blended — including with other fruits, such as Michigan cherries) — and organic or farmed with traditional methods.

The Great Lakes Cider and Perry Festival will feature the music of Fading World Band, who play a wide variety of styles, including rock, country, pop and Big Band. Attendees will be able to sample more than 100 ciders and perries from Michigan and surrounding states. The \$15 ticket price includes commemorative glass and 10 sample pours.

No time to drive up to the cider mill? No worries — Lansing-area oenophiles can also visit Uncle John's satellite tasting room in the Lansing City Market.

*In Vino Veritas*

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vinters Club. His column appears monthly.)

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# foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated each week based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail [food@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:food@lansingcitypulse.com).

## CAFES AND DINERS

### BACKYARD BBQ

— Lawn chairs, potted sunflowers and wooden shutters create a backyard feel in a light-hearted atmosphere. Pork is smoked for 14 hours before being served in Backyard's signature barbecue pork sandwiches. 2329 Jolly Road, Okemos. 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 381–8290. Second location at 301 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday (517) 853–2777. TO, P, \$

### BETTER HEALTH CAFE

— Located inside the Better Health Market near the Frandor Shopping Center, this cafe features a deli, juice bar and espresso bar with a focus on organic and natural foods, including fair trade and organic coffees, organic juices and smoothies, organic salads and meats free of nitrates, antibiotics or preservatives. 305 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Sunday. (517) 332–6892. [betterhealthstore.com](http://betterhealthstore.com). TO, \$

### BRUNCH HOUSE

— Walking out of a diner, you don't often find yourself thinking, "That was one fantastic Lebanese salad." You might think that, however, after eating at The Brunch House, since owner Leo Farhat has peppered his traditional breakfast house menu with dishes rooted in his Lebanese heritage. Try "Leo's house special," which begins with seasoned beef, onions and pine nuts sautéed in a frying pan, then combined with a couple of eggs. 1040 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Friday; 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday and

Sunday (517) 484-1567 TO, WiFi, \$

### COFFEE JAM

— Grab some classic comfort food and dessert here. The cookies are made fresh daily, but get there early because they sell out quickly. 6427 Centurion Drive, Lansing. 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 6:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 327–1111. TO, D, Wi-Fi, \$

### THE DAILY BAGEL

— Serving fresh bagels made daily the old-fashioned way and a full menu of sandwiches and salads in downtown Lansing. 309 S. Washington Square. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Friday, closed Saturday & Sunday. (517) 487–8201. TO, OM, WiFi, \$

### DECKER'S COFFEE

— In addition to coffee and espresso drinks, this locally owned coffee shop and popular study spot offers a full menu of breakfast sandwiches, bagels, smoothies, ice cream and more. 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 7 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 913–1400. OM, P, WiFi, \$

### DELHI CAFE

— A quiet family restaurant with authentic Greek cuisine, favorite American dishes from burgers to seafood to steaks, and a sampling of ethnic cuisines from Mexico to Asia to Italy. Daily specials and banquet room also available. 4625 Willoughby Road, Holt. 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 694–8655. TO, WB, \$\$.

### FLEETWOOD DINER

— A staple on this throwback diner's menu is the Hippie Hash, a medley of shredded potatoes, green peppers,

mushrooms, broccoli, onions and tomatoes combined with any meat and cheese on the menu. 2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing. Open 24 hours every day. (517) 267–7606. TO, \$

### FRANDOR DELI

— Pizza, sandwiches and more, served cafeteria style in the Frandor shopping center. 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing Twp. 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 351–9342. TO, \$.

### GOLDEN HARVEST

— Avast, mateys! Pirates rule the grill here. Manners take a back seat to edgy, creative dishes served in Lansing's most outrageous seating area. Expect to wait a while for your Bubba Sandwich, Suck It Omelette or pancakes (as big as your head), but also expect to make a friend or two—you're all in the same ship at Golden Harvest. 1625 Turner St., Lansing. 7 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. (517) 485–3663. \$

### GONE WIRED CAFE

— This popular hangout and study spot serves more than coffee—beer and liquor were recently added. Hungry java junkies can also grab a quesadilla, salad or other menu items. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 9 a.m.–midnight Sunday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (517) 853–0550. TO, P, Wi-Fi, \$

### GRAND TRAVERSE PIE CO.

— Serving fruit and cream pies, pot pies and quiches. The menu also includes sandwiches, salads and grab-and-go dinner items. Also serving espresso and Fair Trade coffees. 3536 Meridian Crossing Drive, Okemos. 6:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Saturday,

10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday. (517) 381–7437. [gtpie.com](http://gtpie.com). D, TO, P, OM, WiFi, \$. Other locations at 1403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 6:30 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Saturday, 7 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday. (517)–203–3304. D, TO, P, OM, WiFi \$, and at 200 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 6:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 316–0900. D, TO, P, OM, WiFi, \$

### HOBIE'S

— Hearty soups, subs stacked high with meats and toppings and much more are served cafeteria-style in this restaurant laden with sports memorabilia. 930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday, closed on Sunday year-round. (517) 351–3800. [hobiesrestaurant.com](http://hobiesrestaurant.com). OM, TO, Wi-Fi, WB, \$

### JACKIE'S DINER

— This southside diner's biggest draw is its breakfast special (\$3.99 before 11 a.m., Monday–Friday, except holidays). 3812 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. seven days a week. (517) 393–1240. Second location at 4421 W. Saginaw Hwy. 7 a.m.–8 p.m. Sunday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Breakfast buffet Saturday and Sunday only. (517) 323–6512. TO, \$

### JERUSALEM BAKERY

— Some of the tastiest hummus you'll find in the area awaits you at this grocery store with a Mediterranean cafe twist. Short orders of baked kibbee, shwarma, falafel and much more are cooked fresh, while the hummus, tabouli and pillow-soft pita bread, among other selections, are ready to grab and go. 1456 E. Michigan Ave. 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Saturday. (517) 485–9975. [jerusalem-pita.com](http://jerusalem-pita.com). TO, OM, \$.

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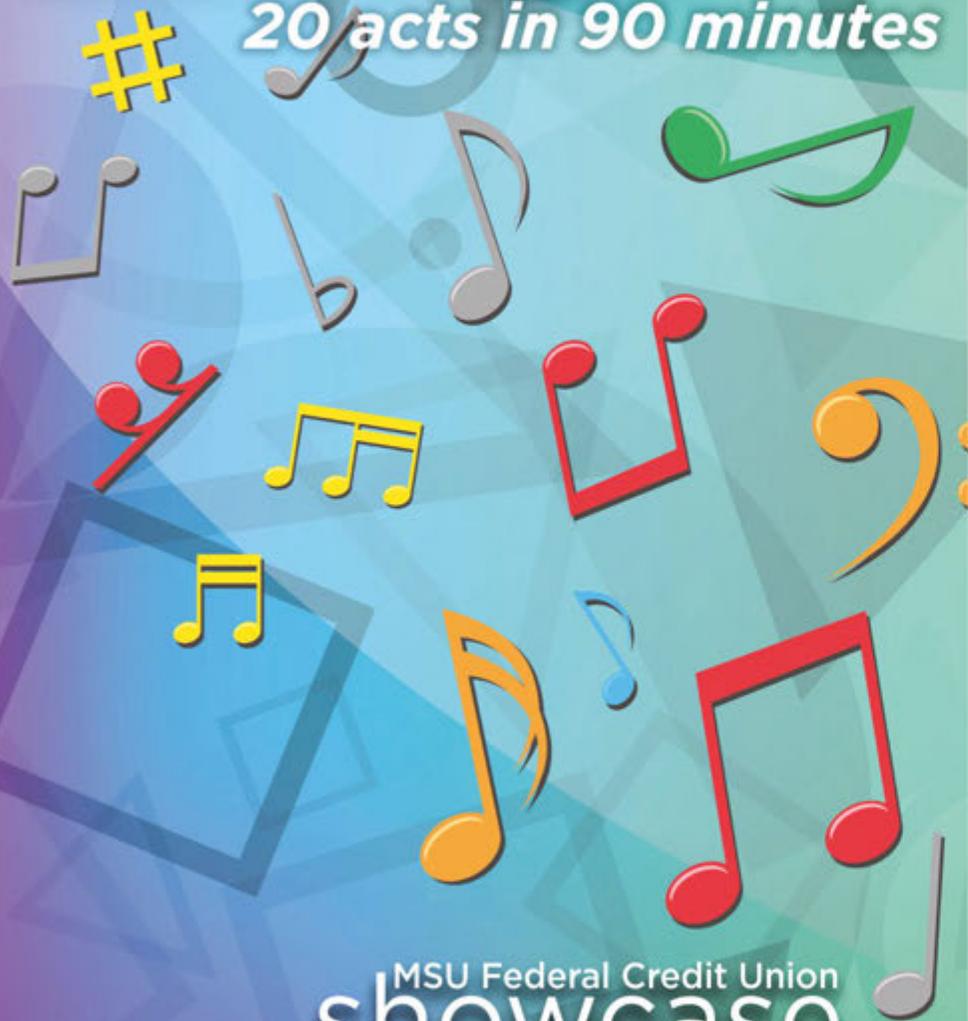
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