

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

February 12-18, 2014

FREE

Love, Lansing style ♥

see page 12

My Poulaki,
Very few, if anyone today possess that vanishing quality of concern for others (be it family and/or friends.) You do! These past two years have been a joy observing your sincere, loving style.
♥ Nico

Dear Todd, ♥
Marrying you this Saturday will make for a very romantic Valentine's Day. I can't wait to be your wife!
All my love,
Paula

Dear K,
I'm so glad we got to know each other better during the ice storm. Think how warm we will feel when the flowers come back. Thanks for marrying me.
Love, L

To Thomas ♥
Your ship came to shore. We danced to old crooners. May I hold your hand, my dearest friend, for the rest of my days.
From Samara

Dear Sun,
Whatever we did, we're so sorry. Please come back.
Love, Michigan

Dear Steve
Race you to the top of the Empire State Building!
Peter

To Jackie,
You're the spirit of my life, but best of all, for sixty years you've been my beautiful wife. Love,
Don

Sandalene,
These years have seen their ups and downs. But always full of more smiles than frowns. Please still be mine. My lovely Valentine.
♥ Stevorino

Dear Carol,
Meet me at the water cooler.
♥ Virg

Dear French chick,
Thanks for the awesomest gift ever. This is going to be great!
♥ Marmour

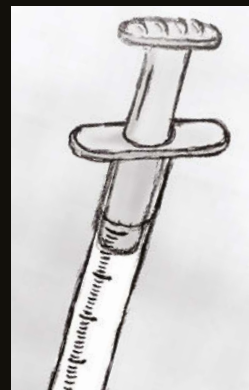
Coach Dantonio,
We thought you might like roses for Valentine's Day, but it looks like you're all set.
Love,
Spartan Nation

Dear Pothole,
If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be taking the family to Disney World.
Love, Jack's Tire & Alignment Service



REPLACEMENT FOR GOODRICH

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NEW LANSING THEATRE COMPANY

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DIRECTED BY ANDY CALLIS

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THIS WEEK: 50 Years of the Beatles

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS Hosted by Berl Schwartz

JIM WALKER & VICKIE SPECTOR-WALKER
THE BEATLES COLLECTORS

KEN PROUTY
MSU PROFESSOR OF MUSICOLOGY AND JAZZ STUDIES

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

EXTRA SHOWING: Thursday, February 13, at 8 a.m.!

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MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
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CYRANO DE BERGERAC

BY EDMUND ROSTAND

TRANSLATED & ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY ANTHONY BURGESS

FEBRUARY 14-23, 2014
FAIRCHILD THEATRE

The classic romantic unrequited love story opens appropriately on Valentine's Day. The story of the nose-challenged poet who feeds his words of adoration through his handsome friend to the beautiful Roxanne stars MSU faculty member, Mark Colson.

DIRECTED BY
EDWARD DARANYI



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Have something to say about a local issue?

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: 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.)

Correction

Due to a reporting error, last week's political column on campaign contributions incorrectly stated the reporting period in which the Senate Republican and Senate Democratic committees received money. It was in the fourth quarter of 2013.

CityPULSE

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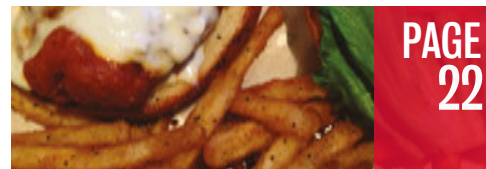
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Local LGBT community reacts to the Olympic games being held in a country known for its human rights violations



MSU Wind Symphony brings complex, contemporary piece to Carnegie Hall



HopCat fits in nicely with East Lansing restaurant scene



LOGK IT UP by RACHEL HARPER

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM, PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE 14-106-GA

In the matter of Burt (or Bert) Eugene Roberts, DOB 2/13/1946. To: daughter Melissa (maiden name Roberts), whose interest in this matter may be affected by the following.

TAKE NOTICE: On 2/27/2014 (Thursday) at @ 10:00 AM in Probate Court, Lansing, MI; before Hon. Richard Garcia, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the guardianship petition concerning Burt Eugene Roberts. If you need an accommodation to participate in this hearing, please contact Probate Court at 517-483-6300, extension 8.

For further information, please contact the petitioner Gene Mellen, Adult Protective Services, Ingham County Department of Human Services, 517-887-9575.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM, PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE 14-69-GA

In the matter of Enoch Smith, DOB 04/13/1956. To: Amanda, Brandy, Enoch, Sherry Smith and three other adult children of Enoch Smith, whose interest in this matter may be affected by the following.

TAKE NOTICE: On 2/27/2014 (Thursday) at @ 10:00 AM in Probate Court, Lansing, MI; before Hon. Richard Garcia, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the guardianship petition concerning Enoch Smith. If you need an accommodation to participate in this hearing, please contact Probate Court at 517-483-6300, extension 8.

For further information, please contact the petitioner Gene Mellen, Adult Protective Services, Ingham County Department of Human Services, 517-887-9575.

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Chief Information Officer, City of Lansing, Michigan. \$85,000 to \$140,000/yr., DOQ. Department Head position appointed by the Mayor and serves at will under contract. The Chief Information Officer's role is to provide vision and leadership for developing and implementing information technology initiatives. This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Data Processing, Business Administration or a related field. A Master's degree in one of these fields is preferred and seven (7) years of professional information technology management experience of which five (5) years must have been in a project management and supervisory capacity. The candidates must also possess and maintain a valid driver's license. The position will remain open until filled. Visit www.lansingmi.gov to apply online and to view a complete job description. For more information contact the Department of Human Resources at (517) 483-4004. An EOE Employer

CP#14_039

NOTICE TO ELECTORS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE CITY OF LANSING OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE TAXING POWER OF THE CITY AND RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lansing, Michigan, intends to issue and sell general obligation capital improvement bonds, pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in the maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) for the purpose of paying costs to acquire and install software and technology infrastructure in City facilities in order to enhance the efficiency of the technology infrastructure system, increase the City's responsiveness to the public, and safeguard the integrity of the technology infrastructure systems.

The bonds may be issued in one or more series and may be combined with bonds issued for other purposes as shall be determined by the City Council. Each series of the bonds will mature in annual installments not to exceed the maximum permitted by law, with interest on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds to be payable at rates to be determined at sale of the bonds but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

The principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within existing charter, statutory and constitutional limitations.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A VALID PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. If such petition is filed, the bonds may not be issued without an approving vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the City voting thereon.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517 of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, and Section 5(g), Act 279, Public Acts of Michigan, 1909, as amended. Further information concerning the matters set out in this notice may be secured from the City Clerk's office.

Chris Swope, City Clerk
City of Lansing

CP#14_038



THIS WEEK

Chris Sherrell, president and CEO, Fresh Time Farmers Market
Beatles collectors Jim Walker and Vickie Spector-Walker
Ken Prouty, MSU professor of jazz studies and musicology
Jeff Croff, Ixion Ensemble founder
Mary Kronquist, community Programs administrator, Community Mental Health

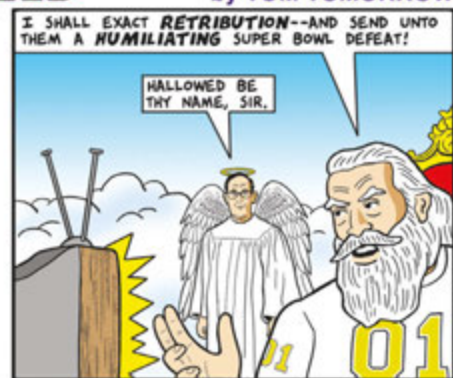
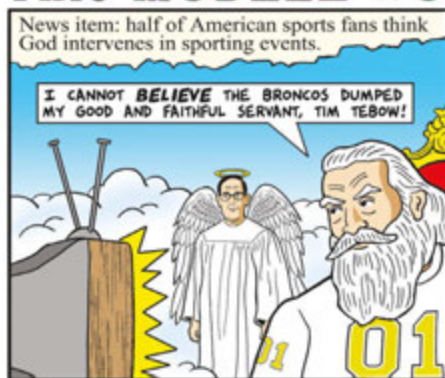


7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Goodrich's replacement: Fresh Thyme

A Phoenix-based grocer, and Whole Foods competitor, has signed a lease to replace Goodrich's Shop-Rite in Trowbridge Plaza

A fledgling Phoenix, Ariz.-based grocer with ties to Meijer Inc. will replace Goodrich's Shop-Rite in East Lansing's Trowbridge Plaza, an official with Fresh Thyme Farmers Market has confirmed.

As part of a \$24 million mixed-use redevelopment of the plaza, local developer Kevin McGraw has teamed up with Fresh Thyme to replace Goodrich's, a locally owned grocery store that's been in the Lansing area for 76 years, 47 of which have been at the East Lansing location.

Fresh Thyme plans to open its first store in the suburban Chicago community of Mount Prospect this spring and plans to open 50 in 12 Midwestern states over the next seven years, according to its website.

It appears McGraw and Goodrich's owners were unable to renegotiate a new lease. Goodrich's has said it can't afford the terms of McGraw's offer, which would have tripled the grocer's rent and required the store to close for six to eight months for renovations. Goodrich's lease expires in August.

Colein Whicher, Fresh Thyme's director of marketing, confirmed in an email Monday that the company has already signed a lease for the site at 940 Trowbridge Road.

Less than a month ago, Goodrich's co-owner Steve Scheffel said "chances are pretty good" that Goodrich's was going to close, but he did not say it would for sure.

A new agreement with a "cutting edge, organic market" first surfaced in mid-November. McGraw told City Pulse at the time that it "will be here long term and is very well financed."

McGraw did not respond to calls for

comment for this story.

McGraw's plan calls for two new buildings for student housing, offices and retail and renovating the grocery space. Last month, McGraw took the plan off the East Lansing Planning Commission's agenda to consider possible amendments. The commission will ultimately make a recommendation on the project to the East Lansing City Council.

Fresh Thyme is aligned with Grand Rapids-based Meijer, which has "an investment interest" in the enterprise, a Meijer spokesman confirmed Monday. He said Fresh Thyme "operates independently" of Meijer, but he could not provide specifics.

Fresh Thyme is considered a competitor to Whole Foods, which plans to open its first greater Lansing store in 2015 in Meridian Township. However, Fresh



Thyme is positioning itself as a smaller, less expensive version. It's focusing on 25,000- to 30,000-square-foot store sizes, which fits the Goodrich's footprint. It will also focus sales on perishable foods like organic and locally grown fruits and vegetables, rather than prepared foods.

"I think the people who are running it know what they are doing because they have experience. But yes, they don't have a single store open yet," said market analyst David Rogers, president of Illinois-based DSR Marketing Systems. "We don't know how precisely it will do.

"Their thrust is to offer a value version of Whole Foods."

Rogers said it's a time of a "whole new series of value, natural organic grocers" throughout the country, led by Sprouts, which has over 150 stores in the west and southwest.

Fresh Thyme President and CEO Chris Sherrell formed the company in 2012. He was formerly the president and CEO of Sunflower Farmers Markets and has over 20 years of experience in the natural, organic grocery business in the western and southwest U.S. Sunflower merged with Sprouts under Sherrell's leadership, according to the company's website.

"We've combined the spirit of a weekend farmers market and the convenience of a neighborhood store with the nutritious offerings of a natural food marketplace," Fresh Thyme's website says.

Newhope360.com, an online trade publication focused on organic and healthy lifestyle products, spoke with Sherrell in April.

"Size is the biggest differentiator from a Whole Foods Market, which is starting to open some smaller stores," Sherrell said. "We're not focusing on 40 percent food service. We're looking at an everyday natural farmers market where 40 percent to 50 percent of our sales are going to be in perishable departments — produce, meat and some of the other health food service areas — but not really as high profile a food service area as Whole Foods may have.

"But really it's the value, it's the price image, the affordability."

— Andy Balaskovitz

They give; he spends

A look at Mayor Virg Bernero's shopping habits, as shown through recent filings of his 527 account

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's choice spot for Thai food is Thai Village on Washington Square downtown. If he's hungry for meat and potatoes fare, that'd be Restaurant Mediterran, across the street. If he's looking for flowers in Detroit, odds are he'll see Fortino's on South Telegraph in Pontiac. The Biggy

on West Allegan Street downtown is his coffee shop. He spent \$191 at a popcorn shop in Old Town in the month of July.

No, Bernero isn't being tracked by NSA (well, maybe he is). But this look at his shopping habits is gleaned from the latest financial statement of his "City Administrative Account," commonly known as a 527 account. It's named after the IRS tax code provision that allows political entities to have an organization into which unlimited donations can be given.

In 2013, Bernero raised \$27,100 in contributions, most of which

came from the Christman Political Action Committee and the Michigan Manufacturers Association. Each gave \$5,000. Other donors last year include the Michigan Chamber of Commerce (\$1,000); Neogen Corp. CEO James Herbert (\$1,000); and developers Pat Gillespie, Leo Jerome, Eyde Central Development and Red Cedar Investment, which gave a total of \$4,800.

On the other side of the ledger, Bernero spent \$31,792 from the account



Property: Carnegie Library/LCC University Center, 210 W. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Owner: Lansing Community College

Apart from the awkwardly heavy parapet that encircles the roof, this building exhibits elegant details rendered in brick and stone. Deeply set double hung windows rest on bracketed limestone sills. The classical portico, with heavy Doric columns, maintains a powerful presence on a street lined with automobile parking and modern architecture. However, relatively recent modifications to this century-old building detract from its classical beauty.

Designed by architect Edwin A. Bowd, the cornerstone for the library building was laid in 1903. The library was paid for in part by Andrew Carnegie in his effort to fund the construction of local libraries throughout the United States. The building served as Lansing's main library until the current library was built in 1964.

Incorporation of the Carnegie Library into Lansing Community College's University Center complex changed the character of the former main entrance. The front door was converted to a window, rendering the grand entrance stairs obsolete. Worse, the stairs are isolated behind a screen of tall grasses. Granted, incorporating the old building into the new center likely precluded the reuse of the entrance. However, the stairs might have been left accessible. As they are south-facing, the stairs provide a quiet-backed, sunny place to sit and study in warmer months.

— Daniel Bollman, AIA

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

See 527, Page 6

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from page 5

in 2013. The majority of that was on food (\$6,979), events and entertainment (\$6,995) and travel (\$6,452). The report shows hotel expenditures in Park City, Utah, in August at Hotel Park City (“where modern luxury meets the charm of an old world ski resort,” according to its website) and Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas in late June.

The expenditures range from insignificant (\$6 at a Taco Bell in Detroit) to hefty (\$1,485 for airline tickets from Delta). The account also covered \$4,778 in expenses at the Country Club of Lansing and \$4,501 worth of auto-related expenses (insurance, gas and leases).

The account was also used for charitable purposes, showing Bernero donated \$3,180 to 14 different organizations, including the NAACP (\$800), Black Child and Family Institute (\$100), Care Free Medical (\$100), Greater Lansing Clergy Forum (\$1,000) and the Wisconsin-based Alliance for Retired Americans (\$150).

Bernero formed the account in 2005 to cover the costs of his inauguration. He has said the account is for “functions related to doing the job of mayor.” He could not be reached for comment.

— Andy Balaskovitz



Heroin is here

Greater Lansing, fitting with national trends, is not immune to the heroin epidemic. Will combating it take aggressive law enforcement or a rethinking of drug laws?

If after Philip Seymour Hoffman’s deadly overdose in New York and a governor’s assertion of a statewide “crisis” in Vermont

you still feel far removed from heroin abuse, think again.

Health and law enforcement officials in Ingham County say heroin abuse is not only a problem, but one that’s steadily grown worse in the past four or five years. In Ingham County, the number of people seeking opiate and heroin treatment has more than tripled since 2008. The term “epidemic” is used commonly as addicts transition from expensive pharmaceutical opiates to cheaper, illicit heroin.

Major Joel Maatman of the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office said heroin and powder cocaine abuse was a “huge, huge issue” when he joined the department over 25 years ago.

“Heroin has come back with a huge vengeance in the past four to five years,” he said. “It’s not an inner city issue like it was in the mid ‘80s. Now it’s spreading through small towns like Williamston, Webberville and the DeWitt area. High school kids are getting into it.”

“I’ve been a cop for 38 years,” Maatman said. “I thought heroin died. Unfortunately, it’s come back and hit mainstream America.”

Officials give various explanations for why that is. Maatman believes that a tri-county grand jury’s investigation into the problem led to a spike in arrests in the early 1990s “when numerous murders occurred that were drug related.” That was 20 years ago, and “now those people are getting out. Boom.”

State Police Detective Lt. Tim Gill, who also heads the Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad, believes the drug has simply come back “in style” since the ‘70s. Also, more users are smoking or snorting it, rather than using it intravenously. “People don’t perceive the same kind of risk as smoking something,” he said. “It’s not as if they’re sticking a needle in their arm.”

And then there are potent pharmaceutical opiates, like OxyContin, that lead users to heroin, a cheaper alternative. Gill said a single, 10th of a gram hit of heroin, called a

“bindle,” can sell for as little as \$10. Prices for OxyContin vary depending on the strength, but a single 80 milligram pill can reportedly sell for \$80 to \$100.

“It’s cheap on the streets these days, unfortunately,” said Mary Kronquist, community programs administrator for Community Mental Health, a coordinating agency for federal and state funding that offers treatment to those with substance abuse problems in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Jackson, Ionia and Newaygo counties.

Kronquist has seen a steady increase in the number of patients it treats for narcotics, opiates and heroin abuse. Since fiscal year 2008, the number nearly tripled for its entire service area, from 847 admissions to 2,212. In Ingham County during that same time period, the number more than tripled, from 296 admissions in FY08 to 933 last fiscal year. These are people who don’t have insurance or Medicaid, she said, and doesn’t include those who privately pay or have health insurance.

Moreover, the percentage of people seeking treatment for alcohol abuse versus all other drugs, including heroin, has reversed, she said. Up until five or six years ago, more than 50 percent who came in were seeking treatment for alcohol. “All other drugs combined were usually under 50 percent. Within the last six years, that’s flipped. More people coming in are seeking treatment for illicit drugs on the street, and that’s because of narcotics, opiates and heroin. ... Yes, it is serious.”

Nationwide, the number of heroin users increased from 239,000 in 2010 to 335,000 in 2012, according to a recent report from the National Survey on Drug Use. In Vermont, Gov. Peter Shumlin devoted his entire 2014 State of the State address to the problem, pointing to a 770 percent increase in treatment for all opiates since 2000.

The Lansing State Journal reported in November that the number of fatal heroin overdoses in Ingham County increased from five in 2010 to 16 in 2012. The number held steady in 2013. There was one fatal heroin overdose in Eaton County in 2010 and five in 2012, according to the LSJ.

Maatman, without giving numbers, said crimes associated with heroin abuse — largely home invasion and theft — have “risen dramatically over the past four years.”

The numbers inevitably lead to the question of how do we deal with it? This is where some disagree, or downright dodge the question, on the extent to which users are given treatment.

While police officials, such as Maatman, say it’ll take “aggressive law enforcement” to target traffickers, others advocate treating addicts for the disease that it is. The Drug Policy Alliance, a nationwide group seeking to restructure drug laws in America, believes we should look to several countries — such as Portugal — that have moved to a decriminalization model for

possessing all drugs, backed by studies by the World Health Organization that showed the policy didn’t lead to an increase in use. While the group only supports the legalization of marijuana, “For all other drugs, we certainly believe putting people in the criminal justice system is not the way to solve problems,” said Meghan Ralston, the group’s harm reduction manager based in southern California. She was referring to nonviolent offenders charged with possession. For one, she said, such criminal treatment leads to the stigmatization of addiction.

Others argue that such policies signal to the public that using drugs is OK. Ralston sees it differently: “It signals that your life matters to us when we put health and safety above all other things. To suggest that you’re trying to reduce or contain the drug supply — i.e. prohibition as a deterrent — is absurd on its face. Overdoses are climbing higher than ever before. It’s absurd to think the war on drugs approach is working.”

— Andy Balaskovitz



When the Olympics, human rights collide

Local LGBT community reacts to the Olympic games being held in a country known for its human rights violations

Sergei Kvitko claims to be “clueless” about sports — he can’t tell the Super Bowl from the Rose Bowl — but he has good reason to follow the politics of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Kvitko, a pianist and recording engineer, emigrated from Russia in 1995 and lives in Lansing with his partner, James McClurken.

“I’m very ambivalent,” Kvitko said. “I feel like there should have been (a boycott), but a lot of people who were working so hard to get ready would have been hurt. There are other means of dealing with the issue.”

To send a message of disapproval over Russia’s anti-gay “propaganda” law, President Obama stayed away and named three openly gay athletes to the 10-person U.S. delegation: tennis legend Billie Jean King, figure skating champion Brian Boitano and hockey player and two-time Olympian Caitlin Cahow.

“I think it’s awesome that he’s not going and he sent these people,” Kvitko said. “It’s bold.” King’s mother’s illness prevented her from attending.

Actor Doak Bloss would have liked to see stronger action from the United States, but he’s enjoying watching the Games with his partner, Gerardo Ascheri.

“Not to play into stereotypes, but yeah, I’m a gay person who likes figure skating,” Bloss said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On February 5, 2014, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

January 11, 2014 Policy Governance Review Meeting
January 21, 2014 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISORBRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_037

Sochi

from page 6

A boycott would have “ambivalently” pleased him. “I would have missed seeing (the Olympics), but I would have approved,” he said.

He wouldn’t mind seeing a demonstration of some kind from one of the gay athletes, despite the Olympic charter’s rule that “no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted” at any Olympic venue.

Penny Gardner, president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights, wouldn’t mind either.

“I would like to see a display of solidarity from those in Sochi for members of the LGBT community,” she said. “I support any protest, and I would like us to do something more in-your-face. It’s up to the athletes if our country isn’t going to do more about it.”

Bloss is not among those who liken the prospect of gay athletes’ winning medals at Sochi with African-American track and field star Jesse Owens’ triumphs at the 1936 Berlin Olympics in Hitler’s Germany.

“I don’t generally approve of comparisons like that,” Bloss said. “It’s two different times, two different oppressed groups involved.”

Emily Horvath, co-chairwoman of Michigan Pride, believes the International Olympic Committee should be held accountable for selecting Russia as an Olympic venue. “It’s unbelievable that the IOC looked at the human rights violations in Russia and decided to still host the Olympics there,” she said.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said Obama’s snub, along with the gay-weighted delegation, was a “good move.”

“I don’t think a boycott would have been the way to go,” Swope said.

Swope is concerned about the hostile climate in Russia.

“I think it’s too bad that when they were scheduling the Olympics, they didn’t take into consideration the safety and welfare of all of our athletes and spectators,” Swope said.

“It’s pretty much impossible to be gay in Russia,” Kvitko said in an interview with City Pulse last year. “It’s not safe, even in Moscow and the big cities.”

However, Swope, like Kvitko, said he’s not much of an Olympics fan, unlike Chad Badgero.

Badgero, artistic director of the Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., is an unabashed Olympics geek. He had a “luge experience” recently in Muskegon, so he’s following the luge extra closely this year.

“Whenever the Olympics come around, I don’t know what it is — the pomp and circumstance, the patriotism, the hype — I love holing up and watching as much as I can.”

He’s elated that the U.S. is a full participant.

“I am excited by the recognition that the LGBT community is part of the dialogue of the Olympics, and of our president,” Badgero said. “The delegation of lauded athletes who

also happen to be gay is thrilling.”

He doesn’t think a boycott would have accomplished much.

“Safety is probably the most important thing, but I’m not a supporter of a boycott,” he said. “There is something to be said about tradition, and what an event like the Olympics can do to pull us together.”

Besides the action on the snow and ice, Badgero can’t get enough of those inspiring athlete bios and montages of captivating moments.

“That probably shouldn’t be surprising, given that I’m in theater,” he said. “I love all that condensed drama.”

City Pulse intern RJ Wolcott contributed reporting for this story.

— Lawrence Cosentino



Bile and bluster

Intelligence chairman Mike Rogers’ take on the NSA scandal lacks evidence and support

Honestly now, wouldn’t you think that the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee would have better, well, intelligence?

But then you’d be overestimating mid-Michigan’s own Mike Rogers, Republican congressman from the 8th District, cheerleader-in-chief for the nation’s spy agencies.

Apoplectic about the National Security Agency classified document scandal, Rogers has charged — and admittedly without any evidence — that Edward Snowden plotted with the Russians to steal government secrets. He hinted only that there were “clues.”

“Let me just say this. I believe there’s a reason he ended up in the hands, the loving arms, of an FSB agent in Moscow,” Rogers



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said. “I don’t think that’s a coincidence.”

Ah, for the easy enmities of the Cold War.

Snowden called the allegation absurd, noting that he first fled to Hong Kong and then spent 40 days in Moscow’s Sheremetyevo International Airport. “Spies get treated better than that,” he said.

But what does it say about our nation’s intelligence capabilities that with its billions of phone records, non-stop listening and legions of spies an official as connected and demonstrative as Rogers doesn’t know for sure whether Russians conspired with Snowden?

News about the massive NSA document leak began in June, and Snowden didn’t land in Russia until July. The agencies overseen by Rogers have had eight months to investigate Snowden, and it no doubt has been exhaustive. The chairman of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Mike Flynn, said he did not “have any information” that Snowden was under the influence of Russian intelligence.

All of which suggests that evidence of a Russian conspiracy doesn’t really matter to Rogers.

As a former FBI agent, Rogers’ background clearly provides some measure of

expertise in the intelligence realm. But he seems to have traded oversight for advocacy, balance for belligerence.

Last week he tried to bait the director of the FBI, James B. Comey, into saying that journalists “selling” Snowden documents were committing crimes. His target, though unnamed, was American journalist Glen Greenwald, who has worked with Snowden and news organizations that have published articles about the documents he stole. He denies the charge.

Comey didn’t bite and in measured terms reminded Rogers that “First Amendment” journalism protections complicated judgments about criminality.

And what caused Rogers to suspect that Greenwald was selling Snowden documents? It didn’t come from the CIA or FBI investigations, or from NSA phone record sweeps. Rather the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said his information came from “other nations’ press services.”

Snowden stole NSA documents, no doubt about that, and if convicted will be guilty of a crime, whatever his motives. But NSA let it happen. It might as well have stored its documents with Target. And it wasn’t even a slick crime. The New York

See Hirten, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider **Ordinance No. 1327**; an Ordinance to repeal Division 12 and Section 2-491 and 2-492 of Article IV – Boards and Commission of Chapter 2 – Administration – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to dissolve the Active Living for Adults Advisory Commission

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_034

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 1308; an Ordinance to amend Articles II and III and to repeal Article IV of Chapter 6 – Building and Building Regulations - of the Code of the City of East Lansing

Ordinance No. 1313; a City initiated Ordinance to amend sections 50-4, 50-6, 50-7, 50-33, 50-37, 50-38, 50-572, 50-592, 50-632, 50-673 and 50-755 of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to make updates and corrections

Ordinance No. 1324; an Ordinance to amend Section 28-33 of Chapter 28 and Section 36-82 of Chapter 36 of the Code of the City of East Lansing to prohibit the deposit of yard waste in parks and streets

Ordinance No. 1326; an Ordinance to amend Section 38-127 of Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of East Lansing to require clearing of sidewalks within 48 hours of the beginning of a snowfall for snow showers that occur on more than one consecutive day, to make each day a separate offense, and to establish an abatement procedure

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_035

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County seeks proposals from general contractors for construction of a hoop building at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. Project #17-14 bids due 3/4, 11AM. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link.

CP#14_031

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

SLU-1-2014, 6001 S. Cedar Street Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple Street (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider SLU-1-2014. This is a request by Wolverine Development Corporation to construct a surface parking lot on the east, approximately 130 feet of the property at 6001 S. Cedar Street, that is currently zoned "DM-1" Residential. Parking lots are permitted in the "DM-1" Residential District, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing, or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the City of Lansing Planning Office, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information concerning SLU-1-2014, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.

CP#14_032

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-1-2014, 1917 Polly Avenue, 1800 Benjamin Drive and Vacant property at Northwest Corner of Polly Avenue & Benjamin Drive
Rezoning from "C" Residential & "J" Parking Districts to "H" Light Industrial District

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple St. (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider Z-1-2014. This is a request by DJV Properties, LLC to rezone 1917 Polly Avenue, 1800 Benjamin Drive and the vacant property at the northwest corner of Polly Avenue and Benjamin Drive, legally described as:

Lots 1 through 6 and Lots 25 through 31, Block 2, and Lots 1 through 6 and Lots 16 through 22, Block 4 Lincoln Heights Subdivision, City of Lansing, MI

from "C" Residential and "J" Parking Districts to "H" Light Industrial District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the construction of distribution and warehouse buildings with related site improvements on the subject properties.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the Lansing Planning Office, Dept. of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information, call Susan Stachowiak at 517-483-4085.

CP#14_033

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 2014 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 12 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 12, 2014. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30PM, March 13, 2014. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2014

INGHAM COUNTY	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00
EATON COUNTY		
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00
CLINTON COUNTY		
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:
Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

CP#14_036

Hirten

from page 7

Times reported that Snowden used an inexpensive off-the-shelf commercial web crawler to prowl through and capture classified reports.

This incompetent performance by our premier intelligence service is worthy of Rogers' outrage. But it hasn't happened.

And not everyone is on board. Arizona Sen. John McCain has roundly criticized sloppy congressional oversight of intelligence operations and has introduced legislation to establish a select committee to deal with, among other issues, "the extent and sufficiency of oversight of such programs, operations, and activities by Congress and the Executive Branch; and the need for greater transparency and more effective congressional oversight of intelligence community activities." McCain also would require greater transparency by NSA.

This, of course, rankles members of the established oversight committees, many of whom rank defense and related industry contributions among their top-10 campaign contributors.

Snowden has defended his actions, saying Americans needed to understand the vastness of NSA's data gathering operation. Maybe the congressional intelligence committees knew that NSA was subverting American companies' commercial software, accumulating vast amounts of data on American's phone calls and emails, listening to the phone conversations of allied leaders.

But we didn't. And we wouldn't if it weren't for Snowden.



BWL Watch

Suit possible to force disclosure of general manager's communications

Columnist Steve Miller writes for MLive this week that "an unnamed local media outlet is in initial talks to file a legal action" against the BWL to force it to turn over records as requested under the state Freedom of Information Act.

Quoting prominent First Amendment attorney Herschel Fink, who has represented the Lansing State Journal and the Detroit Free Press over open records disputes, Miller reports that Fink is "familiar with the situation and I think there may be some action filed."

The BWL has denied requests from several media agencies looking for communication between BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark and employees, contractors and government officials. Specifically, the BWL has claimed that text messages are exempt from the law, while emails between Lark and other officials were deleted.

"I don't know how they can conceivably say that text messages are not part of the act," Fink told Miller. "A public body only gets away with this unless they are sued, and that's the approach so many bodies have taken over the last five to 10 years, particularly with the traditional media being financially challenged. They assume they won't get sued as it's too expensive."

— RJ Wolcott and Andy Balaskovitz

CRT moves forward

Following a trio of public hearings last week, the nine-member Community Review Team will move forward with its outside investigation of the BWL's handling of the December ice storm.

Fewer than 50 people attended each of the meetings, some of whom are still venting about their experience, others who are suggesting the panel look into collective bargaining agreements that may have hindered the utility's response times.

But the team has also requested an extensive list of documents from the utility and plans to soon interview top BWL officials as well as outside experts. Panel Chairman Michael C.H. McDaniel plans to issue a set of recommendations by March 31.

— Andy Balaskovitz

New House bill offers Michigan electric energy choice

Michigan residents fed up with their electricity providers may soon be able to choose who keeps the lights on.

The Michigan Electric Customer Freedom Act, introduced by Rep. Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, would remove restrictions on energy choice. Since 2008, only 10 percent of customers within the state were able to choose where their electricity came from, at a cost of more than \$3 billion to the rest of consumers, according to Shirkey.

WLNS-TV produced a report last week focusing on the issue, which comes over a month since the widespread ice storm outages and outcry by some in the community openly calling for the option to switch from the Board of Water and Light to Consumers Energy.

As it stands, 90 percent of residents are locked into their utility provider based on the Michigan electric grid, meaning dissatisfied customers often have no alternative. More than 11,000 customers are in line for energy choice statewide, according to Shirkey.

From 2008 to 2012, Michigan residents saw a 27.2 percent increase in their electric bills, while nationwide electricity rates actually decreased by .9 percent. Those that were able to choose their electric utility over the same period saved more than \$350 million compared to those on the grid, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency.

— RJ Wolcott



ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

'Maximus' takes Manhattan

MSU Wind Symphony brings explosive, contemporary piece to Carnegie

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Carnegie Hall has a big weekend coming up. On Friday, Feb. 21, the Philadelphia Orchestra plays Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony; that Sunday, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Emanuel Ax take the stage.

Big — and explosive.

But on Saturday, the MSU Wind Symphony will provide the gunpowder by blasting New York composer John Corigliano's massive 35-minute symphony, "Circus Maximus," and two other works. It's the first time an MSU ensemble will play Carnegie's big hall.

"It's been a four-year labor of love," Director of Bands Kevin Sedatole said last week. "It's hard to believe it'll be over in two weeks."

Last Thursday, Sedatole and his legions previewed the Carnegie concert by rattling the rafters at the Wharton Center. With a full performance under its belt, the ensemble will make two more stops — at Penn State on Wednesday and Roxbury High School in New Jersey on Feb. 20 — to get into peak gladiator form before hitting New York.

"I can't wait to get on the road," Sedatole said.

Carnegie is a hallowed house that hundreds of American music legends have consecrated, going back to John Philip Sousa and his band, but MSU's ensemble isn't playing it safe. "Circus Maximus" is a sonic

click on a remote.

With its cartoon ditties, banal beats and bursts of drama, "Channel Surfing" drew laughs Thursday, but the humor is black, as Corigliano explained in a 2010 interview with City Pulse. "We watch a moment of a bomb blowing up 10 children and then we go to a toothpaste commercial, then a little puppy who's caught in a well," he said. "We all take it as entertainment, news broadcasts and everything."

At Thursday's concert, spasms of sonic overload were juxtaposed with frightening interludes where wolves (embodied by saxophones) seemed to howl in a bombed-out wasteland.

Sedatole said the music itself is compelling enough to engage his students, but the trip to Carnegie adds "another level."

"It certainly adds a focus — not that we have a big problem with that," he said.

The project began when Corigliano came to MSU in April 2010 to supervise a full-scale concert of his music involving over 300 MSU musicians, culminating in "Circus Maximus."

At a post-concert reception, Sedatole asked Corigliano if he would entrust the MSU band with a 10th anniversary "Circus Maximus" blowout at Carnegie Hall four years hence.

Going to Carnegie had long been one of Sedatole's most cherished goals for the ensemble. "They're Midwestern kids, for the most part," Sedatole said. "I want them to experience the hall, the city."

Last month, he asked for a show of hands. Few members of the ensemble had been to New York, let alone Carnegie.

Saturday nights are hard to nail down at Carnegie, but MSU made the pitch, with President Lou Anna Simon's support and Corigliano's blessing, and the date was set.

Corigliano's imprimatur carries a lot of weight, not only for his status as (arguably) the nation's foremost classical composer. "He grew up near Carnegie Hall and knows everyone there," Sedatole said. "His father was a principal in the New York Philharmonic when Carnegie was its home."

It cost \$60,000 to rent the big hall. Private donors and university money are bankrolling the trip. Simon and her husband, Roy, donated their money and will go to the performance in New York.

"My goal was not just to do something for the College of Music or the band area, but to have a big event for the university," Sedatole said.

By Feb. 6, with tickets selling between



Courtesy Photos

MSU Wind Symphony's performance of "Circus Maximus" includes a section simulating channel-surfing—and ends with a bang. (Left) MSU Director of Bands Kevin Sedatole.



\$12.50 and \$50, the first floor was almost full of MSU's New York alumni, high school musicians from New Jersey and New York and assorted Corigliano nuts.

Sedatole first beheld Carnegie Hall while teaching at the University of Michigan in 1997.

"What has happened there historically has changed the fabric of American music," he said. "The first time I walked in there was overwhelming."

For the 100th anniversary of U of M's band program, the symphony band toured the East Coast, ending the tour at Carnegie, with Sedatole conducting. He also led the University of Texas band at a Carnegie gig.

"Acoustically, it's perfect," he said. "It may be the best in the world, and it's probably the best I've ever conducted in."

And oh, the molecules of recycled air they will vibrate. Winston Churchill and Booker T. Washington lectured there. Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Mahler and Stravinsky conducted their own music. Enrico Caruso, Paul Robeson, Benny Goodman, Maria Callas, Duke Ellington, Bob Dylan and many other legends played there.

Sedatole was in the house when "Circus Maximus" premiered at a national college band directors' conference, held in Carnegie Hall in 2004. The premiere was a watershed moment in the resurgence of the American wind ensemble.

Few new works have proved more conclusively that wind ensembles can tackle major pieces, including tricky ones that big-city symphony orchestras can't master in time.

"When I write for an orchestra, they only rehearse two days before the performance, or one day," Corigliano said during his MSU visit. "They're basically sight reading."

College wind ensembles, by contrast, rehearse for weeks.

"Difficult as it is, the students really learn it," Corigliano said. "Very often the best performances I'll get will be from the band, not the orchestra."

Sedatole described the music in terms usually reserved for Michigan weather. "It's a collage concert wrapped into one piece," he said. "If you don't like it, wait a minute. It will change."

Many new works fade fast, but in the last 10 years, the critical stock of "Circus Maximus" has only risen.

"I think it's even more important now than when it was written," Sedatole said. "Overstimulation has multiplied by, oh, I don't know how many times. I didn't even have an iPhone 10 years ago."

The symphony ends when a blank shotgun cartridge is fired into the hall from the stage. A decade ago, the explosive ending smacked of showmanship. Thursday night, after all mass shootings the nation has endured since 2004, it sounded more like prescience.

**"What has happened
(at Carnegie Hall)
historically has
changed the fabric of
American music."**

— Kevin Sedatole,
MSU Director of Bands

juggernaut that compares the cruel entertainments of ancient Rome with media-saturated America. At the Wharton Center Thursday, the musicians were deployed like troops in the back, front and wings of the auditorium. One movement, "Channel Surfing," called for dozens of abrupt changes, executed as precisely and quickly as a

CURTAIN CALL

Ixion rising

New Lansing theater group emerges from the rubble of Icarus Falling

By PAUL WOZNIAK

On Monday, a small audience gathered in the Capital Area District Library's auditorium to provide feedback at a staged reading for new play. How small was the crowd? There was a little more than double the five actors on stage. It was an inauspicious beginning for Lansing's newest theater company, Ixion Ensemble, the brainchild of longtime local theater director, Jeff Croff.

"Regardless of how chaotic and how much life has intruded, I realized that I needed the collaboration and the creativity and the act of creation that theater provides," Croff said.

"The Four Disgracers" staged readings

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24
MSU Auditorium Building
Room 12, 542 Auditorium
Road #113, East Lansing
6:30 p.m. Monday, March 10
CADL Downtown location,
401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing
FREE
ixiontheatre.com

"And much like we experienced 13 years ago, there's a huge opportunity to provide stuff that others aren't doing." Like its namesake, Croff's previous theater company, Icarus Falling, crashed into the proverbial ocean four years ago. (He's vague about the end of Icarus Falling, saying only "it had reached its life cycle.") From 2000-'10, the company staged over 30 theatrical productions in a wide range of spaces around Lansing, in-

cluding Old Town galleries and a vacant downtown building. Croff, 43, said he set out to fill a gap in Lansing's theater offerings: Stimulating but not necessarily financially viable productions that would "challenge actors, directors, and audience members."

After Icarus fell, Croff continued to direct for other playhouses, but was itching for more creative freedom.

Croff says he first heard the name Ixion during a 2012 trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. He found himself in front of a set of four 16th century Dutch engravings entitled "The Disgracers," depicting Greek mythological figures Tantalus, Icarus, Phaeton and Ixion.

"I knew (who Icarus) was, but I wondered why he was being lumped in with the rest," Croff said. He became intrigued most by Ixion, whom he calls "the original douchebag" — Ixion murdered his father-in-law to avoid paying his dowry, was forgiven by Zeus and brought to Mount Olympus, but abused his host's generosity by hitting on Zeus' wife, Hera. For his crimes, Zeus tied Ixion to an eternal spinning wheel of fire.

"(Ixion was) pursuing the illusion rather than the reality of the world," Croff said. "Aspiring to more than you need to be rather than going and celebrating what you have available."

It's tempting to frame Ixion Ensemble as Icarus Falling Reborn, this time based on a slightly different cautionary Greek myth. Like Icarus Falling, Ixion has no intentions of commercial viability or even broad audience appeal. The ensemble's first production last Monday, "The Four Disgracers," had all the markings of a commercial failure: A set of four meditative one-acts plays penned by amateur playwrights inspired by an obscure piece of art based on even more obscure Greek myths. But Croff says he's learned a few things from his former acting troupe that he hopes to apply to his new one.

"(Namely,) trusting that those who participate want to be involved rather than are



Photo by Randolph Flick II

(From left) Christine Fisk, SaDonna Croff, Bruce Wade Campbell, Jory Stultz and Gloria Vivalda Purosky, the cast of Monday's staged reading of Ixion Ensemble's "The Four Disgracers." The show consists of four original pieces created by Lansing-area writers.

doing a favor," Croff said. "If you trust that the others are there for the same stupid-ass reason you are, you can challenge them and they can challenge you in ways they would never do."

He said he also more fully appreciates the value of traditional theatrical elements — lighting, sound and costumes — to the overall value of a production. Icarus Falling was known for bare-boned productions that sometimes entirely did away with these elements entirely.

"Historically, I used that to cover a lot of sins as to why we couldn't do this or couldn't do that, partly because I didn't want to have to organize it," he said. "Why do it with a cast and crew of 20 when I can do it with five? But sometimes that failed to effectively support a show."

It's hard to predict the final outcome of a production based on a staged reading, particularly when the actors onstage seem to be reading the script for the very first time. Despite the impromptu vibe of the event, the four one-acts penned by Orayla Garza, Sarah Hauck, Brad Rutledge and A.S. Freeman showed considerable promise especially for

an early draft. Each author thoughtfully adapted their respective myths to contemporary settings.

Garza's take on Phaeton, whose attempt at driving his father's sun chariot ended in disaster, plays up the challenges and expectations of any father/son relationship. Hauck tackles Tantalus who supposedly served the dismembered body of his son to the gods. Stage directions only infer the horrors, but its safe to say that Hauck is faithful to the myth.

Rutledge's adaptation of Ixion is probably the biggest stretch, casting Zeus and Ixion as mob boss and mobster in an Italian restaurant. The language is understandably profane but the essence of Ixion (called "X-Man") as a shallow man who tries to sleep with another man's wife feels perfectly relevant in its present day setting.

Finally, A.S. Freeman's brief monologue (read beautifully by Gloria Vivalda Purosky) takes on the myth of Icarus from his mother's point-of-view. It's not clear to whom Icarus' mother recalls her story, but the epilogue serves as a tender coda to the play as well as a final goodbye to Icarus Falling itself.

Way of the Midwest

Riverwalk takes to the open road with humor, nostalgia

By TOM HELMA

At first glance this is a simple nostalgia story, but wait. "Leaving Iowa," running through Sunday at Riverwalk Theatre, invites us back to be lost in the '70's, where roadside attractions were advertised on highway billboards, Dad was king of the road and Mom's role was simply to say "yes, dear." If this were all that this stage play was, it would be enough; an amusing recollection of vacation visits to cheesy places like the two-story outhouse, the Paul Bunyan statue made of auto parts and Prehistoric Forest.

What? You didn't get to see these one-of-a-kind sites?

Deep in the soul of this script, however, is a richer tale, a coming-to-realization insight that good old, weird old Dad was a teacher of

Photo by Luke Anthony Photography

"Leaving Iowa" is a road trip worth taking. (Clockwise from bottom left: Heidi Maahs, Micaela Procopio, Joseph Baumann and Mike Stewart)



truths, a dispenser of wise thoughts, someone who put all others in the family first, expanding the world one strange factoid at a time.

In the first part of "Leaving Iowa," Mike Stewart plays Dad, the man behind the wheel of a family road trip who seems to be in great blustery oblivion to the squirrely and squirmy needs of his young son and daughter in the back seat. No means no — a thousand times, no — until he is worn down fi-

nally to a "we'll see."

With him in a series of car trip adventures are his, son Don (Joseph Baumann); Don's Energizer Bunny sister, Sis (Micaela Procopio); and Heidi Maahs as his faithful companion, Mom. Baumann and Procopio are bundles of awk-

ward energy, nonstop twits who poke, tease and infuriate each other like no children in the back seat have ever done (except maybe my own.)

Fast-forwarding to the present, Dad has passed on and Don has taken on the task of spreading his father's ashes in some significant spot ... somewhere. Enter a supporting cast of seven people playing 23 parts — the quirky and simple folks a chatty person meets while on the road. Adam Bright,

playing six of those roles, creating enough of a difference between them to amuse considerably. His waiter, Wayne, is hilariously deadpan. The other supporting characters — Marie Papiak, Susan Chmurynsky, Grace Hinkley, Sierra Olson and Justin Brewer — all get their tiny moments in the sun, but this is Baumann's play, and as the writer of the story, he gets to shine.

There are moments when we wonder if we have appreciated our father sufficiently. Baumann's Don gets to reflect on this out loud with an omnipresent ghost-figure Dad smilingly watching on. When Don finds the perfect place to spread Dad's ashes, it helps him realize that his Dad was the center of his universe, providing safety and adventure in seemingly ordinary cross-country vacations.

"Leaving Iowa"

Riverwalk Theatre
7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13;
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday,
Feb. 14-15; 2 p.m. Sunday,
Feb. 16
\$10 Thursday/ \$14 Friday-Sunday/ students, seniors
and military \$2 discount
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

THE SCREENING ROOM by ALLAN I. ROSS

Love through the Plexiglas

Romantic comedy 'Detroit Unleaded' explores Michigan's Lebanese culture

If downtrodden, demoralized Detroit needs representation to prove that it's still alive, that its huge heart still pulses with the lifeblood of iron-willed, diverse ethnic groups, "Detroit Unleaded" is its perfect ambassador.

The film, written and directed by Lansing native Rola Nashef, is many things. It's a sweet romantic comedy; it's a thoughtful examination of Old World culture preservation; and it's a workplace farce that stays just this side of bawdy. Through it all shines a love for Detroit — for America, really — where anything is possible. If the film were any less honest, that sentiment would seem trite, but in Nashef's skillful hands, "Unleaded" becomes a timeless tale of hope and, just in time for Valentine's Day, true love.

Meet Sami (EJ Assi), the reluctant co-owner of his recently slain father's gas station on Detroit's east side. He commutes from the tony suburb of Dearborn where he lives with his mourning mother, but what he really wants to do is go to college in California. Instead, he sits inside a bulletproof glass cage 12 hours a day listening to the incessant beeping of the door, conversing with self-appointed "parking lot manager" Roger (a brilliant piece of character acting by Scott Norman) and having to smile good-naturedly every time someone berates him for the price of gas. Sami's doing the right thing, but he's not happy about it.

Enter Naj (luminous newcomer Nada Shouhayib), who accidentally ventures

into Sami's station one day. The two fall instantly for each other, and damn if you don't feel those butterflies as they fawn over each other through the three-inch plastic barrier the first time. Then, in a sledgehammer-soft metaphor, he opens up his Plexiglas prison to her and allows her to enter his personal space. Sparks fly, hearts pound and stars start to align ... that is, until word starts to get around that this high-maintenance "updo girl" has been spotted with a (gasp) gas station attendant, and social politics throw a monkey wrench in the works.

"Detroit Unleaded" is set in southeast Michigan's vibrant Lebanese community where the Arabic and English languages dance in a single rollicking tongue and questioning tradition is unheard of. Ironically, by keeping the focus on this distinctly Arab American experience, Nashef's message becomes universal: Most of us live within some type of antiquated system of societal norms that we obey but have no idea why, even when it means denying ourselves happiness or feeling guilty about that happiness. You may not logically understand why Naj is so subservient to her overbearing brother, but you grok it. It's just how it is.

Nashef and her scriptwriters, Jennifer Ginzinger and Heather Kolf, have keen ears for realistic dialogue. This



Courtesy Photo
EJ Assi (left) and Nada Shouhayib play a pair of star-crossed lovers who meet cute in the inner city in "Detroit Unleaded."

is how people talk to their customers, their friends, their widowed mothers, their romantic rivals. And through her actors, Nashef masterfully coaxes truthful performances that convey the wordless longing of a new love or the colorful personality quirks required to operate an inner-city business.

The camera doesn't shy away from the city's seedier locations or elements, nor does it dwell on them; it also includes several locations so beautiful you wouldn't believe they still exist in Motown. I daresay if "Detroit Unleaded" gets picked up for national distribution, it has the power to win the city new fans. Even if it doesn't, though, it's good PR

to let the world know it's still open for business.

"Detroit Unleaded" plays at Studio C!, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos, as part of the East Lansing Film Series through the end of February. For dates and show times, go to studiotheatre.com.

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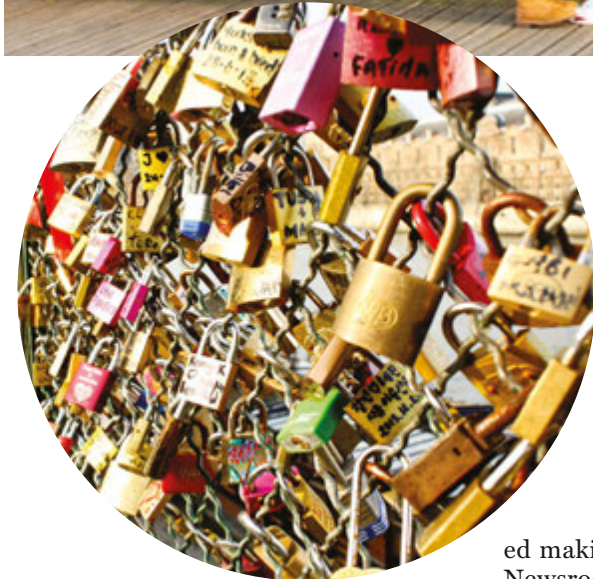
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Photos by Lesly Cassin



Loving to hate

Valentine's Day, the most dissed holiday of all, comes full circle

By ALLANI ROSS

Over the last two years, the term “hate-watching” has defined the form of entertainment consumption described as following a TV show you know is bad for the express purpose of enjoying that badness. After years of teasing audiences with guilty-pleasure shows, networks finally realized that people really love to openly, vehemently hate their programming, and brag about how much they hate it in public forums. So they started making well-crafted shows stocked with ridiculous plots, unlikable characters and zero redeeming qualities. “Smash,” “The Newsroom” and “Girls” are poster children of the phenomenon.

If Valentine's Day were a TV show, it would be the most hate-watched show in history.

Think about it: What's more aggravating than a holiday engineered by The Man that forces us to spend money to reaffirm our love? It's even worse for the sad sacks who don't have anyone to celebrate with, watching as all the “happy” couples go on with their chocolates and flowers and candle-lit lobster dinners.

But now, thanks in part to the rise of hipsterism, a non-movement that's added so many posts- to post-irony we've lost count, Valentine's Day hating has shifted to the mainstream. Local businesses annually prepare (though at times can't deliver) for the most morose requests from customers, like chocolate-covered broccoli or dead-flower deliveries. Custom-made, non-romantic decorative cookies? A team of bakers at MSU has you covered. And hey there, Hannibal Wonka, you say you want to create a 3-D chocolate sculpture of your lover's face?

“We have had that request, but I don't know if it's possible,” said Steve Blair, co-owner of longtime Lansing confectionary Fabiano's Candies, 1427 E. Michigan Ave. “We don't have that kind of technology, unless your partner wants to hold their face in warm chocolate.” (Actually, a company in England makes 3-D chocolate printers for about \$4,700, so maybe next year you can take a bite out of sweet Caroline.)

Blair said he's aware of the bad name Valentine's Day gets, but he hasn't seen it affect business at all. Fabiano's, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, specializes in chocolate boxes for Valentine's Day, ranging from a four-ounce sampler set to a 7-pound diabetes-inducer. Blair said business has been getting



Courtesy Photo

The Anti-Valentine's Day cookies are a new tradition for the student bakers at MSU Bakers.

steadily better each year, rotten economy and Valentine's backlash be damned.

“There are people who still come every year to stand in line to buy chocolate boxes,” Blair said. “The line sometimes goes out the door. We'll get up to 40 people waiting, sometimes for as long as 25 minutes. I tell them they could come in a day or two early and not have to wait. Chocolate doesn't go bad in two days, but for them it's tradition.”

Along with the regular requests to hide an engagement ring in the box, he does occasionally get asked if he can stick a piece of chocolate-covered broccoli in with the others to play a trick on someone. Just don't think you're being original if you try to pull that one off.

“Valentine's Day has been around a long time,” Blair said. “If it's been thought of, it's been done already.”

Tricking someone with chocolates is pretty easy; as the simpleton said, you never know what you're going to get. But with that other V-Day fallback, how can you say, “I loathe you” with flowers?

“Every year I have to tell people, ‘No, we can't deliver dead flowers to someone,’” said Karen Smith, owner/operator of Smith Floral in Lansing. “But we do have some U of M decorations.”

Smith said that on Valentine's Day, her single busiest day of the year, she increases the number of drivers in her delivery fleet tenfold; she said a normal busy day would get about 50. Procrastinators beware.

“Inevitably, some poor guy will call on Valentine's Day to see if he can get a delivery that day,” Smith said. “I have 10 drivers making up to 400 deliveries that have been preordered days or even weeks in advance. It's just not possible. But I always tell them we do have things available for walk-ins.”

About the locks:

Lovers travel from around the world to memorialize their feelings for each other at the Pont des Arts (“Bridge of the Arts”) outside the Louvre Museum in Paris. They inscribe a padlock with a message of love, clip it onto the bridge's chain-link fence and hurl the key into the Seine River below. We assume it symbolizes something about eternal love in the waters of time, but you know what? It's just fun and desperately romantic. Best not to overthink it.

Since Lansing doesn't have anything close to a tradition that sweet, we started our own this year. The cover of this week's issue was opened up to you, our readers, to clip your own stylized locks with messages of love. Obviously, some of you took it more seriously than others.

But hopefully it catches on. In the meantime, sit back and enjoy an ode to the most ironically reviled holiday of all.

Valentine's

from page 12

So a stuffed wolverine surrounded by snapdragons will probably trigger someone's ire in these parts, but still we've tiptoed around open derision. Leave it to the college kids to really get into the anti-spirit.

Cindy Baswell is the manager of the MSU Bakers, a collection of baking aficionados from Michigan State University's residence halls. She said last year, the bakery, 171 Service Road in East Lansing, started doing something new with its Valentine cookie decorations, back this year by popular demand.

"One of our decorators had just broken up with her boyfriend," Baswell said. "She was grumbling about all the Xs and Os and 'I love yous' on all the cookies. She wanted to do something (against Valentine's Day). And it got a good response."

So, starting this week, you can buy special heart-shaped cookies from MSU Bakers with one of three decidedly un-romantic phrases: "It's You Not Me," "2 Good 4 You" and "I (Heart) Me." Mmmm, milk and cynicism. They come \$15 for a dozen, with \$1 of that donated to the American Heart Association. Baswell thinks she'll sell about 40 dozen of those, with 150 more of the traditional designs going out as well. She said that even though it's a joke, it helps the creative process.

"Because these are college students, we play around with edgy décor, test the waters," Baswell said. "Sometimes people think a decorated cake needs to be pink and purple, but it's nice to see these students using flashier colors and using non-traditional designs. We'll try anything. And we got a very good response (on the anti-Valentine's cookies) last year, so we'll probably keep going with it."

But still these are mere grumbings — where's the all-out hostility? Let's go back to the beginning of all these longing feelings: Adolescence, when an amorous glance could



Katy Barth/City Pulse

Fabiano's Candies has been a Lansing Valentine's Day tradition for 90 years. (Inset) Smith Floral makes about 10 times more deliveries than usual on Valentine's Day.

make your life and an unreciprocated crush was the end of the universe. The Haslett branch of the Capital Area District Library holds its third Anti-Valentine's Day party Thursday targeting the area's middle schoolers. Youth services librarian Kate Nicholoff said she borrowed the idea from other libraries that hold similar events.

"We make photocopies of happy couples in ads and let the kids deface them," she said. "They can color them, write funny captions, whatever they want. We also teach them how to make black roses out of duct tape, have candy heart shooting (contests) and bring in food to make their breath smell bad. The joke is that they're not going to kiss anyone."

Nicholoff said about 30 kids showed up last year, all between the ages of 11 and 13. She said they seemed to have fun, but didn't get into it as much as she thought they would.

"Most of the stuff goes over their heads — it's just an excuse to come and eat some food," she said. "It's funny. They're not as jaded as grownups. When they were supposed to be making anti-Valentines cards, most of them made regular Valentines. It was actually very sweet."

And so it seems that Valentine's Day has come full circle, with dead flowers, chocolate broccoli and garlic pretzels failing to fuel the rebellion against a manufactured holiday that — come on, let's be honest —

is just an excuse to have a date night or to finally confess a crush. And bonus, you can support local businesses to boot. Just don't wait until the last minute.

So if you're OK with actually celebrating Valentine's Day the way it was meant to, here are a whole host of ways to celebrate love, Lansing style.

Happy *non-happy* endings

BY ALLAN I. ROSS

Sometimes the best way to end a story is with an epic parting of ways rather than a happily ever after. For these movies, heaping dashes of bittersweetness help the reality go down.

1. "(500) Days of Summer" (2009) Tom (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) spends a little over a year falling in and out of love with Summer (Zooey Deschanel), a spirited heartbreaker. The fractured chronology of the script matches the shattered way you memorialize a painful breakup. Plus it has a killer Hall & Oates dance number.

2. "Once" (2006) Raw, real and majestically symphonic, "Once" captures a perfect storm of creative output and personal connection. When an Irish street busker meets a Czech woman playing the piano in a music store, they embark on a whirlwind recording session that produces some funny, poignant and ultimately transformative songs. Oh, but she has a secret ...

3 "Synecdoche New York" (2008) An unsung masterpiece by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman in a surreal brain scrambler written and directed by Charlie Kaufman ("Adaptation"). Hoffman portrays a playwright working on an autobiographical play that takes place in real time as he's actually living the events. His heart is broken repeatedly, first by his lover, then by the woman playing his lover in the play and so on all the way down. Much like love itself, you don't quite know what's going on here until it's over.

4. "The Baxter" (2005) This farce, from the makers of "Wet Hot American Summer" and "Role Models," plays fast and loose with the romantic comedy format. It tells the story of a love that conquers all from the perspective of the "other" guy; you know that poor schmuck who gets dumped at the altar in the cliché ending. But what if he's actually an all right guy?

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Lansing Valentine's Day Guide

Events and activities to put you in the mood for love ... or take your mind off it

By **KATY BARTH**

Valentine's Day can be the most memorable day of the year spent with your loved one, but the typical formula still boils down to the same core ingredients: Flowers, chocolates, jewelry and fancy dinners — all things that can be given at any point throughout the year.

So lets change that. Lansing has a full slate of V-Day events to get the love flowing, whether it's making a move that will ripple around the globe, boogieing to the blues or including your kids in on the fun.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 >> Princess Glamour & Sparkle Ball at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center

Have a fairytale evening with your little prince or princess at this annual Valentine's Day event. The Princess Glamour and Sparkle Ball is designed to fill your night with the fun of bringing your child's fantasy to life. Children in elementary and middle school can bring one parent or other special adult. Put your best foot forward with semi-formal attire. **7-8:30 p.m. \$14/person. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.**

through Old Town collecting chocolates from local businesses. Purchasing a ticket gets you a box to fill with 1 pound of chocolates, a punch card and a map to all the participating locations. And a helpful reminder: You don't have to eat them all yourself. It's good to share. **5-8 p.m. \$15. Old Town businesses, around the corner of Turner Street and E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org/events/old-town-chocolate-walk.**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 >> Ballroom Dancing at Spartan Dance Center

This is a class for beginners, so you won't be the only one blundering through the basics. Just laugh it off and enjoy the experience. Instructors will help you get the rhythm and moves down

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 >> Old Town Chocolate Walk

It's like Halloween in February. Explore businesses, shops and restaurants as you wander

See Events, Page 15

The *Unlucky* Seven | An alternative mixtape for those looking for a good, solid sulking this Valentine's Day

BY **RICH TUPICA**

Visit lansingcitypulse.com to hear all of these tracks!

1. Chris Bell "I am the Cosmos" (1978)

"Every night I tell myself I am the cosmos, I am the wind./ But that won't get you back again."
 The late Chris Bell, of Big Star fame, wrote this profoundly emotive pop masterpiece detailing the psychosomatics of longing for someone who's just not that into you.

2. The Chantels "Maybe" (1957)

"Maybe, if I pray every night/ you'll come back to me./ Maybe, if I cry every day,/ you'll come back to stay."
 This landmark girl-group ballad starts with an unwieldy battering of piano keys, but quickly soars into a powerful, desperate vocal aimed at her absent lover ... who's totally over her.

3. The Byrds "Here Without You" (1965)

"Streets that I walk on depress me,/ ones that were happy when I was with you."
 The Byrds were much more than a Dylan cover band. This morose folk-rock song, penned by Gene Clark, reeks of dejection and false optimism.

4. Reigning Sound "What Could I Do?" (2005)

"There were days when you went away,/ guess you were seeing him, too/ but what could I do?"
 The band's songwriter Greg Cartwright is the king of modern-day bummer songs. This ditty has the protagonist fortuitously encountering his girlfriend's "other" man, an adulterous schoolteacher.

5. Dolly Parton "Making Believe" (1963)

"Making believe that I never lost you,/ but my happy hours I find are so few./ My plans for the future will never come true./ Making believe what else can I do?"
 While she didn't write this — and there are many versions — nobody sings this sad country tale with the heart-shattering conviction of Dolly.

6. George Jones "She Once Lived Here" (1962)

"I see her face in the cool of the evening./ I hear her voice in each breeze, loud and clear./ Oh, there must be a town without memories/ but not this one, for she once lived here."
 On this one "No Show" Jones poetically sings about his long-lost lover who will forever haunt every aspect of his life, even the air he breathes.

7. Sam Cooke "Bring it On Home to Me" ("Live at the Harlem Square Club" version) (1963)

"I know, I laughed when you left,/ but now I know/ I only hurt myself."
 One year before his murder, R&B legend Sam Cooke recorded this mind-bogglingly epic live version of one of his brilliant originals. It's the best track ever pressed on a live album of any genre. Yeah, I said it — and if you wholeheartedly sing this for your estranged love, it could win them back.

Events

from page 14

to limit those foreseeable toe injuries. **8:15-9:15 p.m. \$15/couple. 3498 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-5415, spartandance-center.com.**

THURSDAY, FEB. 13 >> St. Valentine's Bass Masquerade

Who says you need someone else to have a good time on Valentine's Day? In fact, feel free to indulge in a different persona entirely for the night at this live DJ event. (The drinks will probably help, too.) And who knows, you might just catch someone's eye from behind your mask. X Theory Collaboration artists Futurism, Garnish, David A and Skullfetish will take the stage with Damarii Saunderson and Satta Don Dada, the Detroit-based headliner whose spinning style layers reggae music with electronic sounds. **9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. 21-up. Tavern on the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. xtheorycollab.com.**

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 >> One Billion Rising for Justice

One Billion Rising for Justice raises awareness on sexual violence. About one out of every three women in the world — or an estimated 1 billion women — will be beaten and/or raped in their lifetime. To heighten awareness of sexual violence, groups around the globe will have dance for one hour. This is a chance to participate in a fun and unique movement for love. Teachers of Nia, a blend of dancing and martial arts, will lead Lansing's dance hour. Local organizations will be at the event to provide information on how to help or get help locally. State Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer, who recently spoke out about her experience with sexual violence, has recorded a special message that will be played at the event. **6-7 p.m. FREE. Washington Street Armory, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.**

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 >> Pops Series: Lights, Camera...Oscars!

Feel the enchantment of the red carpet



Courtesy photo
Bradley and Zoe Przystas at the Princess Glamour and Sparkle Ball.

at this special pops concert. Spend the night reminiscing of great scenes in Academy Award-winning movies. Guest vocalists join the Lansing Symphony to perform the famous songs and music from beloved films "Gone with the Wind," "Rocky" and "Titanic," to name a few. To celebrate the day of Saint Valentine, a dessert and wine reception is offered after the show. **8 p.m. \$15-47. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.**

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 >> Valentine's Blues Dinner and Dancing Cruise on the Michigan Princess

Let the doctor sooth your winter blues. Root Doctor, featuring Freddie Cunningham, released its new album, "New Attitude," and will share its smooth tunes on Lansing's Michigan Princess riverboat. Between Root Doctor and Uptown Band, a mix of musicians will perform. Enjoy a dinner buffet as you cruise Grand River or just dance all night instead. There will be a cash bar ready to serve up cocktails to keep you twirling. **Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., dancing starts at 7 p.m. Boat leaves at 7:15 p.m. \$19.50 for dancing/\$39 for both. (517) 627-2154, michiganprincess.com**

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, February 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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

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

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212. www.gallery1212.com.

Scientific vs Spiritual Knowing. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Computer Club: Electronic Petting Zoo. Familiarize yourself with today's popular devices. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

HERO class: Trim. Class on home improvement. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

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

EVENTS

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Featuring locally grown, baked and prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

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

Senior Discovery Group. Weekly gathering of older residents. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St.,

See Out on the Town, Page 18

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 >> EISENHOWER DANCE: RED, HOT AND BLUE



The dancers from this Michigan-based contemporary dance company will tell stories of passion, humor and joy through the magic of dance. The first act, "Threads," is packed with duets and solos about intimacy, passion and self-reflection. "Better Places" takes you on a fun vacation as you catch the sounds of jiving blues music bouncing off the walls. "The Show" is inspired by the circus and Federico Fellini's films. Finally, "Begin with the End in Mind" finishes with a romantic feel, enhanced by intricate lifts that highlight the grace and strength of the dancers. 7:30 p.m. \$10-25. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13 >> 'SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY' SPEAKERS SERIES

Frederick D. Haynes III is an activist against racial, economic and social injustice on local and national levels. He uses his background as a pastor to couple theology with action. This is a part of the "Slavery to Freedom" series, which explores the modern African American experience. The final speaker of the series is veteran journalist John Seigenthaler. FREE. 5 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Big Ten A, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-4000, kelloggcenter.com



THURSDAY, FEB. 13 >> POODLE MOTH STORY SLAM AT THE ALLEN STREET MARKET PLACE

Well before reality TV and superhero movies dominated our attention, people loved to sit around and tell each other stories. Poet and best-selling novelist George Dawes Green had evenings that harkened back to such a time with his friends in his native Georgia, which is what he set out to recreate when he started The Moth, a weekly storytelling competition held in New York City, and steadily finding its way across the country. While not officially sanctioned by The Moth, Allen Street Marketplace is holding its own version, called the Poodle Moth Story Slam. Participants are granted five minutes on the mic to tell a true story pertaining to the evening's topic, which will be "Big, Bad Love." Although the deadline for submitting stories has already passed, you can still come hear local tales of bleeding hearts and horrible breakups. Popcorn and refreshments will be available for sale. 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Allen Street Marketplace, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEB. 14-23 >> "CYRANO DE BERGERAC" BY MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Cyrano De Bergerac can be called a snoot, but only because his beak is as big as a toucan's. Bergerac has many talents — he's a daring duelist, a poet, a musician and an overall romantic guy — but his gigantic schnozz hinders him socially. Doubting his appeal, he speaks his admiration to the heiress Roxanne through the lips of the more attractive character, Christian. Roxanne, who's unaware of this, tells Bergerac about her love for Christian. Will she discover the truth or be forever blinded to it? 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. \$15/\$13 seniors/\$10 students. Preshow discussion 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. Wharton Center Fairchild Theatre, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEB. 14-23 >> "PRELUDE TO A KISS" BY LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

It's the big day. She's breathtaking in white and he's looking dapper in a bowtie. They're leaning in for the sealing smooch, but wait, what happened before that? The star characters, Rita and Peter, have their own crazy story that surpasses the usual wedding day mishaps. Rita kisses an old man at the wedding and their souls are swapped. Perhaps this wedding took place on a freaky Friday, we're not sure, but Peter must reunite the souls to their proper frames. There's a lesson to learn here, brides: maybe it's OK to take a pass on the "something old" before your wedding day. \$15/\$10 seniors/\$5 students and faculty. Valentine's Day two-for-one special available. 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Feb. 14-15; Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.



TUESDAY-SUNDAY, FEB. 18-23 >> "DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" AT THE WHARTON CENTER

The animated story of love and transformation returns to the Wharton stage. The Broadway production had more than 1,000 performances, but this is the show's first time through East Lansing in 15 years. You know the story: Belle, the sweet singing beauty from a small town, escaped one bigheaded bloke Gaston, only to be trapped by another in a story packed with love, magic spells and enchanted rose petals. \$32/\$25 students. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Feb. 18-24; times vary the rest of the weekend. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. FEB 14TH

UN-VALENTINE'S SHOW AT 'THE FIDDLE'

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. 8 p.m., Feb. 14, all ages. \$15, \$12 members, \$5 students.

The 8th Annual Un-Valentine's Day Show, showcasing "songs and tales of un-forgiveness, heartbreak, dysfunction and revenge," happens Valentine's Day at the Ten Pound Fiddle. Performing are Jamie-Sue Seal, John Latini and Dave Boutette. The traveling show was conceived in 2006 by Seal as part of her "Jammin' Round with Jamie-Sue Songwriters Series." Seal also operates Smokin' Sled Dog Records. "People like to laugh at the content in our songs," Seal stated in a news release for the gig. "Some of it is absurd in nature, and sometimes it's about the kind of heartbreak that everyone has experienced ... We have had people who come year after year as part of their Valentine's tradition."

L.U.V.S HOST V-DAY SHOW AT THE LOFT



FRI. FEB 14TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$12, \$9.99 adv., 8 p.m., Feb. 14, all ages.

The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, a local 15-piece musical vaudeville act, plays its first 2014 gig on Valentine's Day at The Loft. This all-ages performance is a special Valentine's evening variety show, emphasizing "tragic tales of heartbreak and ecstatic affirmations of true love." L.U.V.S, led by songwriter Dylan Rogers, has traveled the state playing its distinct brand of Americana/Gypsy-Jazz tunes, mirroring influences like Tom Waits and Cab Calloway. Also performing is The Appleseed Collective, an Ann Arbor-based band is signed to Earthwork Music. The low-key band is known for its rustic sound, combining Dixieland, bluegrass, ragtime beat and western swing. Fans of washboards, banjos, and mandolins might want to check out their set.

ABK'S VALENTINE TOUR



SAT. FEB 22ND

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$15, 7 p.m., Feb. 22, all ages.

Anybody Killa brings his "Valentine: Ladies' Night Tour" to Mac's Bar. "All ladies free on this tour" the poster says. ABK (real name James Lowery) has cultivated a devoted cult following of "juggalos" since the Insane Clown Posse signed the painted-face solo rapper to their label 11 years ago. ABK, a Detroit native, draws lyrical inspiration from his Native American heritage, calling his style "spiritual rap" and branding himself as an "Native American warrior." Fans can expect to hear songs from his latest LP "Shape Shifter," released this year on Psychopathic Records. Opening the show are Lady Dice, Bake Lo, Bobby Knucklez and S.O.P.

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Saint Christophor, 9 p.m.	Fat Boy & Jive Turkey, 9 p.m.	Stella!, 8 p.m.	Food Bank Benefit Concert, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	Full House, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Kris Shaw, 8 p.m.	Kris Shaw, 8 p.m.	Kris Shaw, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Colin Riley, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	DJ Victor, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Jonestown Crows, 8:30 p.m.	The Bears, 9 p.m.	Squids, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		One Hundred, 6:30 p.m.	L.U.V.S., 8 p.m.	Hometown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	The Menzingers, 7 p.m.		Lady Dice, 7 p.m.	
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Pat Zelenka Trio, 9 p.m.	The Jet Beats, 9 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9 p.m.
Spiral, 1247 Center St.			Queen of Hearts, 9 p.m.	
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Karlee Rewerts, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Acme Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Acme Jam, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 7 p.m.	DJ, 7 p.m.	Dani Jamerson Band, 7 p.m.	Steve Armstrong, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Out on the town

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Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MUSIC

Omer Avital Bass Recital. MSU Guest Recital, 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE for students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue Street and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. music.msu.edu.
Open Mic. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.
Deacon Earl. Live blues, folk, reggae and more. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

THEATER

Eisenhower Dance: Red, Hot and Blue. Contemporary dance recital. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$15, \$25. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517)

432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

African-American Authored Cook. Discussion. Noon-1 p.m. FREE (RSVP requested). Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300. goo.gl/NdixUo.
Pirates! Band of Misfits. Film, with lecture by Rich Bellon, Darwin expert, 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

Thursday, February 13 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

English Country Dancing. Lessons and live music. 7-9:30 p.m. \$4-\$6. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Avenue and Bogue Street on MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 321-3070. msu.edu.

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

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

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

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

Slavery to Freedom Series. An American Odyssey, Day Two. 5 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-4979. com.msu.edu.

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

Family Education Days. All ages learn recipes and nutrition. 11 a.m.-noon and 4-5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.com.

AFP Seminar. Association of Fundraising Professionals meeting. 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. \$25, \$15 for members. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 353-5113. origin.library.constantcontact.com.

Restorative Yoga. For beginners and experts. 6:45-8 p.m. \$10. Good Space Yoga, 2025 Abbot Road #300, East Lansing. (517) 285-2782. goodspaceyoga.com.

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

English Country Dance. Live music. No experience needed. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6, \$4 students, FREE to MSU students. RCAF Auditorium in Snyder-Phillips Hall, on the corner of Dormitory Road and Bogue Street, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 321-3070. theatre.msu.edu.

EVENTS

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

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East

Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

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

YPAAL Happy Hour. Fight to end Alzheimer's disease. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

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

Heart of Lansing Village Open House. Explore services and volunteer opportunities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. NorthWest Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing. (517) 999-2894. nwlansing.org.

Benefit dinner and auction. Gala benefit dinner and charity auction. 6 p.m. \$45. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 388-3898. steinerchorale.org/auction.html.

Ingham County Genealogical Society Meeting. Presentation and short business meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. Vevay Township Hall, 780 Eden Road, Mason. (517) 676-7140.

Poodle Moth Storyslam. Lansing people telling true stories. Live. 7:30 p.m. doors at 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

MUSIC

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

Pat Zelenka Trio. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

{REVOLUTION} at Tavern. A weekly electronic music experience for ages 21 and up. No cover. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

THEATER

"Leaving Iowa." Comedy about a family road trip. 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"The Lion in Winter." The legendary story of King Henry II of England. A collaboration with the MSU Department of Theatre. 8 p.m., \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District

See Out on the Town, Page 19

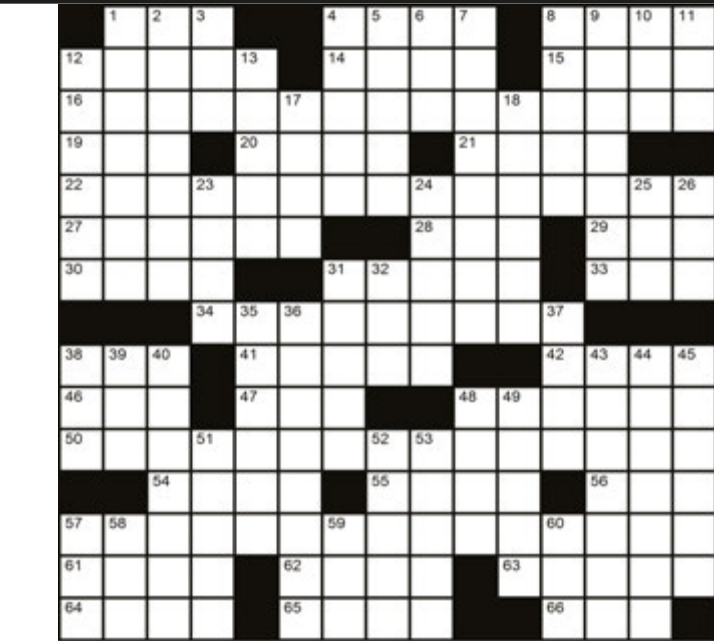
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"All Together Now"-
-be part of the
group.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Ready to go
- 4 Running jokes
- 8 Hemmed in?
- 12 Sat for a portrait
- 14 Foot or furlong
- 15 Certain Fed
- 16 QUERY, PART 1
- 19 I-5 or I-95
- 20 Ginormous
- 21 Player who cannot be a DH
- 22 QUERY, PART 2
- 27 Swallowed hard
- 28 Make a selection
- 29 Graffiti ID
- 30 Hot tempers



- 63 Shopaholic's binge
 - 64 Franklin and Folds
 - 65 ___ a one (zero)
 - 66 Avg.
- Down**
- 1 Stuff on a kitten's underbelly (because awwwww....)
 - 2 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
 - 3 Typo often mocked online
 - 4 Try to answer a riddle
 - 5 Loos who wrote "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
 - 6 Soldiers, for short
 - 7 Hold firm to a decision
 - 8 Throat problem, in brief
 - 9 Abu Dhabi or Dubai
 - 10 Ball of cotton
 - 11 180 degrees from SSW
 - 12 It's eaten in Eastern Europe
 - 13 1990s R&B group
 - 17 See 32-Down
 - 18 River that flows past Omaha
 - 23 ___ facto
 - 24 Childhood taboos
 - 25 Metered vehicle
 - 26 CIA Cold War counterpart
 - 31 Perch for a chicken
 - 32 With 17-Down, "Atlas Shrugged" author
 - 35 Scheming operatic barber
 - 36 "Breaking Bad" star Bryan
 - 37 Prisoner's knife
 - 38 Prominent Jay Leno feature
 - 39 "Eww, gross!"
 - 40 Tofu base
 - 43 Winter project in the Arctic, maybe
 - 44 Mapped out
 - 45 Gary of "Forrest Gump" and "CSI: NY"
 - 48 Shabby ___
 - 49 More than dislikes
 - 51 Settles down
 - 52 Communion item
 - 53 Piano key wood
 - 57 Crystal ball, for example
 - 58 Payment for services
 - 59 Eggs, in the lab
 - 60 Vinyl spinners

SUDOKU

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

BEGINNER

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 20

Out on the town

from page 18

Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Friday, February 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Valentines Day Gala. Perry Dream Park Valentines Day Gala and Fundraiser. 5 p.m. Comstock Inn, 300 E. Main St., Okemos. (517) 242-9557. perrydreampark.weebly.com/.

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

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. Call (517) 483-1921 to register. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Songs for the Solar Plexus. Coffee House Dance. Live music with Jackalope trio, 7-9 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

Singles TGIF Valentine's Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. \$12. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

Queen of Hearts. Valentine's Day event with free shuttle to and from East Lansing. 9 p.m. Spiral, 1247 Center St., Lansing. spiraldancebar.com.

MUSIC

The Jet Beats. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Lights, Camera...The Oscars! Classic movie tunes performed live in concert. 8 p.m. \$20, \$35, \$47. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. whartoncenter.com.

V-Day with the Mega 80's. Valentine's Day at Harpers w/Mega 80s. 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040. harpersbrewpub.com.

8th Annual Un-Valentine's Show. Live music with an "Un-Valentine's" theme. 8 p.m. \$5 students, \$12 members, \$15 general. The Universalist Unitarian Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

THEATER

"Leaving Iowa." Comedy about a family road trip. 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"The Lion in Winter." The legendary story of King Henry II of England. A collaboration with the MSU Department of Theatre. 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Saturday, February 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Planning Your Gardening Year. Gardening class. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St.,

Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.
Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Tai Chi in the Park. Outside at Hunter Park during the warm season and inside at Allen Market Place during the cold. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Show Me the Money Day. Financial services fair. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. FREE. South Washington Office Complex, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 256-1466. showmethemoneyday.org/lansing.

Urban Gardener Program. Yard and greenhouse gardening skills for small lots. 12:30-2 p.m. \$50-\$100. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.
Intro to All-Grain Brewing. Learn to brew beer from scratch. Call to enroll. 1 p.m. FREE. Capital City Homebrew Supply, 2006 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-1070. capitalcityhomebrewsupply.com.

EVENTS

Art Reception. Celebrate this month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtld.org.

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

Owl Prowl. Come meet live owls at the nature center. 5-9 p.m. \$8, \$5 students, seniors and Woldumar members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

MUSIC

Those Delta Rhythm Kings. Live Performance. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Live Music with Keven Felder. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

William Shakespeare: "Hamlet." The Acting Company production. 3 p.m. \$40. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." Comedic spin-off of Hamlet. 8 p.m. \$40. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Leaving Iowa." Comedy about a family road trip. 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"The Lion in Winter." The legendary story of King Henry II of England. 3 p.m. matinee, 8 p.m. evening. \$22 matinee, \$25 evening. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Sunday, February 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street PumpHouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190. ruetenik@gmail.com

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

MORIARTY'S BAR/MARIE'S CUSTOM DÉCOR STUDIO/ELITE GAMERS

Allan I. Ross/
City Pulse

Marie's Custom Decor Studio inside Meridian Mall holds an open house this Saturday.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Last month, Michael Moriarty sold his downtown Lansing bar, **Moriarty's Pub**, to two of his longtime employees: Joy Allswede and Carolyn Baron. From 5 p.m. to close this Sunday, the former owner will throw his own going



away party to say goodbye to the business he owned for 34 years. "I'm 66, I bought it when I was 25, but it's not the same for me anymore," he said. "I've lost interest — it's time to go."

Moriarty said business will continue as usual. He is hanging on to Stober's Bar next door, which he co-owns with three other partners.

"All I need there is a bartender and a door guy," he said. "It's a totally different operation from Moriarty's. It's a lot easier to run."

Moriarty owns a townhome in Florida where he plans to spend the rest of winter, but he swears he'll be back come sailing season.

"I've still got my boat here (on Lake Michigan), so I'll still be hanging out there this summer," he said. "This isn't a goodbye party — it's a good riddance party. Good riddance to me."

Designing woman

You might be getting cabin fever right about now from staring at the same four walls for the last 12 weeks (what a winter!), bugging out about how those stupid curtains just don't match the wallpaper or how much better that couch would look with a couple of extra throw pillows.

But if the fifth living room rearrangement of the season just won't do it, then maybe a little interior design tweaking is in order. **Marie's Custom Décor Studio**, a new business in the Lansing Mall, combines basic home furnishing supplies and custom interior decorating with European sensibilities.

"I work with people within all budgets," owner/operator Marie Mougounou said. "My specialty is in custom handmade window treatments, but I'll do pillows, chairs, whatever someone has an idea for in their home."

In 2007, Mougounou came to America from Gabon, a French-speaking republic on the west coast of Central Africa. Over the years, positive word-of-mouth fueled an increase in demand for the custom-made work she'd done on the side, inspiring her last year to open Marie's, a 2,000-square-foot store in Meridian Mall across from **Schuler Books & Music**.

"I've worked with furniture and textiles for 18 years, and I wanted to try working for myself," she said. "My dream is to be an architect and own a full services custom interior designer store someday."

Marie's also stocks antiques and brand name furniture from Europe, Australia and Asia.

From 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, Mougounou will hold an open house to show off her furniture and show samples of some of the work she's done. There will also be refreshments.

"I want to introduce people to our store and show them they can do a lot to make their homes look beautiful for not a lot of money," she said. "I make

it very easy."

Get in the game

When Tony Cantin lost his job last year, his son suggested he start working for himself. Within a month, **Elite Gamers** was up and running.

"I've been dealing with electronics since my time in military, so I figured I'd open an electronics store," he said. "And my son is familiar with gaming, so I turned half of it into a gaming center. It's all worked out pretty well."

On the game side, he has six stations with mounted flatscreen TVs, PlayStation 4s and an Xbox One. He also buys and sells games. On the repair side, he said business is booming.

"Everyone's dropping their iPhones," he said. "Broken glass everywhere. But I'm fast, inexpensive and I know what I'm doing."

Marie's Custom Décor Studio

(inside Meridian Mall)
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday
(517) 242-9852, facebook.com/maries.customdecor

Elite Gamers

2709 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday
(517) 575-6841, elitegamersllc.com

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday
(517) 485-5287, moriartyslansing.com

641-6201. SelfRealizationCentreMichigan.org.

Second-Parent Adoption. Same-sex couples talk about raising children. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 351-4081. uulansing.org.

Progressive Christian Study. Conversation and book discussion. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 323-2445.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar

with restrictions. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River, Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Violets are Forever. DST Lansing Alumnae Chapter Scholarship Dance. 8 p.m. \$30. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 641-4570. lansingalumnaedeltas.org.

MUSIC

Choral Festival. Choral music performed by local

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 12-18

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In her TED talk, science writer Mary Roach made it clear that human beings don't need genital stimulation to experience orgasms. She spoke of a woman who routinely reaches ecstatic climax by having her eyebrows caressed, and another woman who reaches the big O simply by brushing her teeth. Then there's the woman who can simply think herself into coming, no physical touch necessary. I can't guarantee that a similar aptitude will suddenly turn on in you, Aries, but the coming days could bring you as close as you have ever been. Right now you're a connoisseur of deep pleasure -- a blessed bliss master.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "The fact that someone else loves you doesn't rescue you from the project of loving yourself," writes blogger Sahaj Kohli. Nothing else rescues you from that quest, either, I would add. Sooner or later, whether it's now or 20 years in the future, you will have to master this fine art. It's not enough to merely feel affection for yourself; not enough to seek pleasure and avoid pain. You've got to make extensive investigations to discover what it means to love yourself; you have to develop rigorous plans for how to accomplish it; and you must fire up a deep commitment as you actually carry out those plans. By the way, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to work on mastering this fine art.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Drunk with my madness, I shouted at him furiously, 'Make life beautiful! Make life beautiful!'" So says a character in a prose poem by Charles Baudelaire. And now, even though I am neither drunk nor furious nor consumed with madness, I am whispering the same command to you. I hope you will respond by embarking on a heroic effort to make life beautiful everywhere you go. The astrological omens suggest that if you do, you will be inundated with practical blessings that are as valuable as money. This will also be an excellent way to drum up the kind of love you crave.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Here's what I wish for you during the Valentine season: to be happily in love with an intimate partner who loves you back. If that's not feasible, here's what I hope: that you are learning provocative lessons about yourself through your growth-inducing relationship with a close ally. And if you're not blessed with either of those experiences, here's a third alternative: that you cherish your fathomless longing for its own sake, feeling wonder and reverence for its wild power even if it's unfulfilled.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Making eye contact is essential for building potent links with people you care about. It bypasses rational thought, stimulating chemical reactions in your bodies that enhance empathy and intimacy. In practicing the art of love, it's one of the most potent moves you can make. This Valentine season would be an excellent time for you Leos to explore the frontiers of what's possible through prolonged eye contact. Start here: Cultivate a sincere desire to know what's simmering inside the souls of your dearest allies. With that as your driving force, your gaze won't be clouded by shyness or self-consciousness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "I prefer an ecstatic orgasm to a lot of angst," says Filipino artist David Medalla. I hope you consider making that your battle cry during this Valentine season. It would be in rapt harmony with the current cosmic omens. There really is no need for you to get sidelined by anxiety or distracted by stress when the natural remedy is so easily available. In every way you can imagine, Virgo, fight off sourness and dourness by engaging in acts of joy and pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In her poem "Implications of One Plus One," Marge Piercy marvels at the way she and her long-term partner keep finding new nuances in their love-making. "Ten years of fitting our bodies together / and still they sing wild songs in new keys," she writes. What's their secret? It's "timing, chemis-

try, magic and will and luck." What I wish for you this Valentine season, Libra, is that you will have access to all five of those ingredients as you reinvigorate your relationship to love. More importantly -- based on the current cosmic omens -- I *predict* you will have access to them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jesuit priest Pedro Arrupe touted the practical value of being totally in love. "What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything," he said. "It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude." Are you in love, Scorpio? With either a person, a beloved animal, a certain patch of land, your creative work, or life itself? If not, there's no excuse! Astrologically speaking, it's an excellent time for you to be stupendously in love with someone or something -- anything! If you are already in this state, trust your intuition to make it even smarter and finer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Borrowing the words of Rumi (translated by Coleman Barks), I've prepared a love note for you to use as your own. Give it to a person whose destiny needs to be woven more closely together with yours: "You are the sky my spirit circles in, the love inside love, the resurrection-place." Would you like even more inspirational words to deliver to your chosen one? I hope so. Be greedy for lyrical bonding. Lust for springy intimacy. Feed your churning yearning. Try saying this, lifted from the book *The Last Unicorn*: "We are two sides of the same magic." And be sure to say this, paraphrased from Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh: "I love you in a way that will always make you feel free."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "People think a soul mate is your perfect fit," says author Elizabeth Gilbert. "But a true soul mate is a mirror, the person who shows you everything that is holding you back . . . They tear down your walls and smack you awake. . . shake you up, tear apart your ego a little bit, show you your obstacles and addictions, break your heart open so new light can get in, make you . . . transform your life." Does that sound like the kind of person you want in your life, Capricorn? Or do you prefer someone who likes what you like, appreciates you just as you are, and makes your life more secure and comfortable? This Valentine season is a good time to make or renew your commitment to one choice or the other. Whatever you decide, you're likely to experience it on a richer, deeper level during the next 12 months.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do you feel oppressed by Valentine's Day? Maybe you're single and reject the cultural bias that says being in an intimate relationship is the healthy norm. Or maybe you're part of a couple but are allergic to the cartoonish caricatures of romance that bombard you during the Valentine marketing assault. If you'd rather consecrate love and intimacy in your own unique way, untainted by the stereotypes flying around, I invite you to rebel. Make this the year you overthrow the old ways and start a new tradition: Valentine's Day 2.0. Mock sappy, sentimental expressions of romance even as you carry out futuristic experiments in radically slaphappy love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "I have come to be fascinated with the messiness of desire," writes novelist Ashley Warlick, "with the ways people fit themselves together, take themselves apart for each other, for want of each other, for want of some parts of each other." Your assignment, Pisces, is to celebrate the messiness of desire; to not just grudgingly accept it as an inconvenience you've got to tolerate, but rather to marvel at it, be amused by it, and appreciate it for all the lessons it provides. Your motto this Valentine season could be, "I bless the messy largesse of my longing."

Out on the town

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church choirs. 4 p.m. FREE. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road, East Lansing. glc-ago.org.
Woldumar Folk and Bluegrass Jam. 2-6 p.m. \$4 adults, \$2 seniors, children FREE (amounts are suggested donation.) Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382. re-news.net/mmb.

THEATER

"Leaving Iowa." Comedy about a family road trip. 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.
"The Lion in Winter." The legendary story of King Henry II of England. A collaboration with the MSU Department of Theatre. 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Monday, February 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Pre-registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

City Pulse Classifieds

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

Metal Bassist Needed for young metal band. Must have own gear and transportation and be between the ages 15-19. For more information, call/text 5178996501 or email at info@tyrantmetal.com

Computer/IT: National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) Software Engineer (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI): Design, develop, document, deploy, & support Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) EPICS-based control system. Requires master's degree in computer science, electronics & computer engrg, or related field & 1 yr of exp., incl. development of large-scale control systems using Java, Python, & MatLab. Must have knowledge of service-oriented architecture & distributed control system software. Apply online at www.jobs.msu.edu, posting #9019. The university actively encourages applications &/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans & persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

City Pulse is seeking candidates to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to denis@lansingcitypulse.com.

womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

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

EVENTS

Kid Zone. Ages 5-8. Robot inspired activities. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Ancestry Club. Learn and share genealogy tips. Call to register. 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

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

Club Shakespeare. (517) 348-5728, 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.

Peace and Justice Planning Meeting. Planning local action for peace and justice (GLNAWI), 7 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 410-1243.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band and spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, February 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

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

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity room,

See Out on the Town, Page 21

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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7	2	5	9	1	8	6	3	4

Out on the town

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5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.
HERO: Door Installation. Home improvement and education seminar, 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.
Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.
Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.
TSP: Today's Special Program. Adult nutrition and wellness class. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive., Lansing. (517) 483-7460. colleen@lepfa.com.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discuss using scripture in daily events. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600. bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.
RHS Monthly Luncheon. For Resurrection High School alumni. Noon, RobinHill Catering, 16441 US 27 Highway, Lansing. (517) 525-0146. robinhillcatering.com/contactus.html.

MUSIC

Joe Luloff Saxophone Recital. MSU Faculty Recital, 7:30 p.m. \$10 Adults, \$8 Seniors, FREE for Students. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." The Disney classic about Belle comes to life. 7:30 p.m. \$32/\$25 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Wednesday, February 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

PATH. Personal Action Toward Health seminar. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.
Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170. artmuseum.msu.edu.
Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.
Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.
Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.
Transforming Cheap Food. Make artisan products with no-brand products. 7 p.m. \$10 per person OR \$18 per couple. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. holt.revtrak.net.
Process Theology. The theology of Alfred North Whitehead. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Agriculture & Food Policy Presentation. With MSU faculty member David Schweikhardt. 1 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

EVENTS

DTD Book Club. Discussing Rachel Joyce's "Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.
Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Featuring locally grown, baked and prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Blizzard of 1967. Revisit this epic snowstorm. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.
Senior Discovery Group. Weekly gathering of older residents. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MUSIC

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.
Underground Railroad. Author, lecturer and scholar speaks. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300. goo.gl/NdixUo.

January 23 - February 23, 2014

"The gamesmanship is spellbinding . . ." *Lansing City Pulse*

"... witty, funny and human." *Lansing State Journal*

the Lion in Winter

"... riviting theatre from start to finish." *New Monitor*

by James Goldman

"... a dark comedy that takes family drama onto a royal scale." *EncoreMichigan.com*

Directed by John Lepard

Featuring: Michael Barbour, Sandra Birch, Andrew Buck, Andrew Head, Katie Maggart, John Manfredi and Blaine Mizer

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston

517-655-7469

www.williamstontheatre.org



Ingham County Animal Shelter

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



Anni

Anni is a sweetie. She enjoys attention, but may want to be the only cat in a household. Sponsored by: Diane Castle Realtor (517) 327-5189



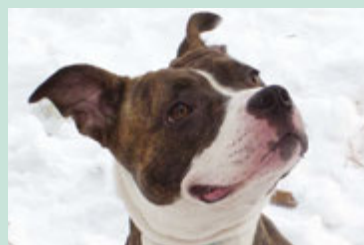
Bones

Bones is your average orange tabby so he's often overlooked. He's friendly, playful, and loves attention. In Memory of Whitey



Johnny Cash

A big, old dog. He's looking for a couch to crash on and someone to watch TV with. Sponsored by: Linn & Owen Jewelers 517-482-0054



Yogurt

Yogurt is very smart and learns quickly but she has a lot of energy to expend. With exercise and training this dog will do great!! Sponsored by: Dale & Matt Schrader



Arty

A playful, affectionate puppy. He will need some socializing and training, but he's going to make a great family dog. Sponsored by:



www.soldanpet.com

Okemos
1802 W. Grand River
517.349.8435
Dewitt
12286 U.S. 127
517.669.8824
Lansing
5200 S. MLK
517.882.1611
5206 W. Saginaw Hwy.
517.323.6920
Charlotte
515 Lansing Road
517.541.1700

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35 — \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call by Nov 3: 999-5061 Now!! Adopt a pet on this page & Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.

Integrative Therapies

"Mat Pilates"

Monday, Feb. 24 || 4 p.m.
 First class is FREE

A gentle, flowing intro class to improve posture, balance, flexibility and core strength!
 contact Lindsey Braverman (517) 614-2893

"Beginner Yoga"

with Peggy Ostrom
 Friday, Feb. 21 || 5:30-7 p.m.
 COST: A donation to the Yoga Scholarship

4994 Park Lake Rd. East Lansing
 lotusvoice48823.com
 (517) 897-0714
 lotusvoice48823@gmail.com



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Gastropub chain a good fit for downtown East Lansing

Too much of a good thing?

By **MARK NIXON**

We live in the Golden Age of Beer. Craft beers and microbreweries are everywhere — certainly in Michigan, which is in the vanguard of the craft beer phenomenon.

It seemed inevitable, then, that HopCat would land hereabouts. Like the original HopCat in Grand Rapids, HopCat in East Lansing is a beer drinker's paradise. (A third location in Detroit's Midtown district was announced last week.)

If you don't go much for beer, my advice is to go to HopCat anyway. With close to 100 beers on tap, there's a good chance you'll find a beer that appeals. If you're a complete teetotaler, well, maybe you should walk on by. On the other hand, food is no orphan in this brew-based mecca.

I love the name of this place, by the way. Hepcat is that jazz-borne term for someone in the know, music-wise. Since hops are the foundations of most beers, the name suggests a real cool cat, beer-wise.

OK, enough etymological thumb sucking. Let's have a drink.

While HopCat doesn't offer flights of beer samples per se, it sells tasting portions for \$1 each. The hard part is figuring out which of the 100 beers to sample. Ask the server for suggestions.

I ordered five samples on the first visit, all of which were or were akin to stout. I sipped Cabin Fever (\$5.50), Edmund Fitzgerald (\$5), Lochdown (\$5), Kona Brown (\$5.50) and Black Magic (\$5). Kona Brown was the clear favorite, a smoky, coffee-scented brew.

On the second visit, my wife, Judy, sampled Hog Heaven (\$5), a barley-made beer that was too bitterly hoppy for my taste. She then ordered a Belgian beer that was too floral tasting. She finally settled on Toasted Lager (\$5), and we both agreed you could almost taste the toasted grains. This was a winner.

Some historical perspective is in order: I come from a generation that considered the go-to beer was Stroh's, and ordering a Heineken was considered exotic, maybe even showing off.

So, yeah, college-age beer drinkers in East Lansing (I understand there are a few) should consider themselves blessed to have such wide-ranging beer choices available.

HopCat could probably be forgiven if it didn't lift a spatula trying to make good pub grub. This is a fancified beer hall, after all. Surprisingly, we found the fare to be ... fair — and in a couple of cases, quite good.

On our first visit, Judy ordered the

See He Ate, Page 23

Bacon is the new black

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

It has only been nine (yikes) years since I graduated from Michigan State, and while I'm not as young as I once was, I still understand the demographic in East Lansing. HopCat could serve frozen pizza rolls and boxed macaroni and cheese and as long as the beer is flowing, the undergrads will flock. So it didn't come as a galloping shock to me that the food was underwhelming, although the rumors that the chef is a transplant from one of my favorite local restaurants, Tavern 109 in Williamston, pinned my hopes higher than they would normally be for bar food.

The boyfriend and I stopped in for Sunday brunch a few weeks ago. The place wasn't busy, which boded well for us since we were pressed for time. I ordered a modified BLT sandwich (\$8.50), a traditional bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich with an egg thrown in. I love a poached egg and jumped on that option — all the better for bread dunking and yolk smearing. The bread, which comes from Nantucket Baking Co. in Grand Rapids, was grainy and good, and necessarily hearty enough to stand up to a sandwich positively loaded with bacon.

I know bacon is the new black. I'll take a radical stand here — there is such a thing as too much bacon, and there was too much bacon on this sandwich. From a glance at the menu, I knew that the sandwich had peppercorn-blue cheese mayonnaise, which I wanted to taste. All I could taste was bacon.

My sandwich came with a choice of HopCat's signature crack fries or poor man's hash. My chosen hash was chock-full of crisped-up potatoes, doused with hot sauce and topped with chopped green onions. A heartier version is on the menu as a main dish with the addition of corn, bacon, and corned beef. It's an intriguing combo that I'd like to try again, maybe with half the normal amount of bacon next time.

The boyfriend didn't fare as well with his cheeseburger. The pre-made, formerly frozen patty was topped with wilted lettuce and was cooked far beyond the requested medium rare. He sent it back and a new burger came back, prepared exactly the same way. There is a market in East Lansing for fast food-style burgers, obviously. But if a restaurant is going to charge \$8.95, I expect something better than an industrial patty and lettuce that appeared to be a week old. (Our server told us that the burger would be taken off our bill, a nice gesture but for the fact that it didn't actually happen.)

We returned for dinner on a Friday night, prepared to wait. I was taken aback when the hostess asked me for my cell

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steamed mussels (\$12.95), which came bathed in light cream and broth, then sprinkled with fresh-cut scallions and bacon. Not the best mussels in town — that blue ribbon goes to Capital Prime Steakhouse — but these are worth trying.

I had the mac and cheese (\$8.50), and ordered add-ons of grilled chicken, roasted red peppers and basil. It arrived piping hot, and the mix of herb and roast vegetables paired well with the rich cheeses.

Meanwhile, our friend ordered a hamburger, medium rare. Personally, I won't eat a burger that's practically still mooing, but this one arrived as ordered. "Perfect," he proclaimed.

On our second visit, I began with vegetarian chili (\$4), an amiable soup that was rightly spiced. Next came a burger. All hamburgers on the menu are half-pounders. The prices reflect that. Burgers

start at \$8.95, though they do come with HopCat's seasoned crack fries.

I ordered the Bar Zee burger, which includes apple-smoked bacon, jalapenos and Michele's Beerbar Cheese (think a creamier version of the horseradish-tinged Win Schuler's Bar Cheese). It's an above-average burger served on a plump brioche bun. However, it came heaped in a way that made it almost impossible to eat with your hands.

Too much of a good thing can be off-putting. On an earlier visit, Jan and Bruce shared the bruschetta (\$8.50), with tomato, fresh basil, garlic feta and balsamic reduction on grilled baguette slices. They gave it a thumbs up on the taste, but a thumbs down on the inability to eat it by hand without half the contents spilling forth.

Our recent restaurant excursions have been a recurring dream of minimalism, where decor is dismissed as frou-frou. So it's refreshing to see HopCat go all in. Geometric designs above the bar are made of bottle caps. Scattered about are color-



Mark Nixon/City Pulse

The bruschetta at HopCat is a heaping order, which we recommend not trying to eat it with your hands.

splashed, primitive portraits of John Lennon, Frank Zappa, Elton John and other rock stars, looking "as if they were painted by Grandma Moses," Judy said.

Some may deride HopCat's interior as the visual equivalent of its bruschetta — too much of a good thing. Personally, I

think they got the look right without jumping the shark. As we sat at HopCat's bar, I noted that less than a block away, one of East Lansing's first bars opened when voters overwhelming chose to make this town "wet" in 1968. As they said in the '60s, "You've come a long way, baby."

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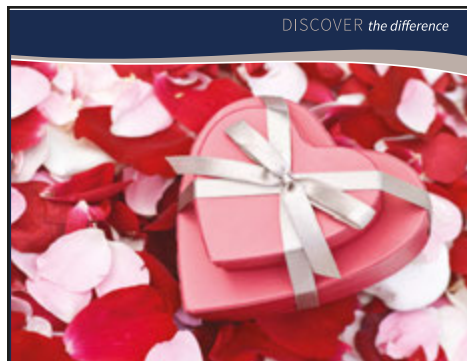
phone number so she could text me when our table was ready. Feelings among my friends on this practice are mixed, but I don't like it. We opted to sit at the bar and started our meal with beerbar cheese (\$4.95), a slightly spicy cheese spread served with half-moon pita chips. It isn't going to win any awards, but it was perfectly serviceable bar food to snack on.

While I'm not a bacon fanatic, offer me a buffalo chicken sandwich and I can't resist. I ordered the Angry Bird (\$9.50), a crispy chicken breast battered in buffalo sauce and dripping with blue cheese on a brioche bun. I always love the combination of spicy buffalo sauce and tangy blue cheese, and this was no exception. I wasn't crazy about the brioche bun; the sweetness of the bread competed with the sandwich instead of complementing it. The crack fries are a little bit sweet, peppery, crisp and well-seasoned. I've noticed that marketing something as "addictive" makes people like it even more, and people do love their crack fries.

The boyfriend ordered the Grand Royale (\$9.95), which I could describe as a sloppy joe in the way that one could describe the Christmas 2013 power outage as an "inconvenience." The sloppy joe was the size of my head. The sandwich was stuffed with jalapenos, crack fries, and cheese sauce, which also topped the entire thing and dripped down the sides, making a pool for the fries to swim in as they spent their final moments before being gobbled up. Picking up the sandwich wasn't an option, but eating it was made easier by

the huge steak knife stuck into the top of it, signifying that this sandwich wasn't for the lighthearted. The Grand Royale was intimidating, and it was fantastic.

If HopCat keeps pouring beer, it will be successful. But my search for a great brunch in East Lansing continues.



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