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October 26-November 1, 2011



## ANNUAL *Halloween* GUIDE

see page 17

## LANSING BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION PREVIEW

see page 9

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# Feedback

## Re-elect Carol Wood to City Council

I'm voting for Carol Wood to continue her outstanding work as Lansing's councilmember-at-large. Carol has earned my vote because she does what all council members ought to do — work so that the city makes a huge difference in the lives of Lansing's residents. She's the council member who knows the most about the workings of all city departments, about the city budget details and about the important place of Lansing in area governments, businesses and work force.

No one is more attuned to neighborhood needs. No one is more qualified to ask the necessary questions and then understand if the answers are fact or fable. No one is more aware of the vital issues facing Lansing and the actions needed to meet those issues.

In spite of the desperate smear campaign against her, Carol Wood has remained the class act she always is. She has not produced nor allowed any mud-slinging responses against her secretive, cowardly accusers. She is the quiet voice that calms the shouts of those who rant against her questioning ill conceived ideas.

Please join me in re-electing Carol Wood as our councilmember-at-large.

— **Claude Beavers**  
Lansing

## "Conspiracy:" A Lesson In World History

Many thanks to Paul Wozniak and the City Pulse for the cover story on Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Conspiracy". The detailed story on how this SS Nazi conference came about and the subject matter is something that needs to be told over and over. History of this kind must never be able to repeat itself. It is my sincere wish that this stage premier of "Conspiracy" will serve as a grim reminder that we must never forget what cruelty man is capable of inflicting. Hopefully, the exposure and publicity generated by this show will encourage and promote intellectual and historical curiosity to a younger generation of theatre goes about this incredible chapter in world history, because those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.

— **Gary Mitchell**  
"Conspiracy" cast member, Lansing

## Vote no on Lansing's deja vu millage

Six months ago voters turned down virtually the same proposal to override Headlee and increase property taxes 4 to 4.56 mills or 26 to 30 percent for five years.

Never override the Headlee Millage Cap, a Michigan Constitutional Amendment, which works in tandem with Proposal "A" to limit the taxing authorities of local governments and prevent property taxes from increasing more than the cost of living or 5%, whichever is less.

Bernero's budget projections for FY 2013 (beginning July 1, 2012) include: \$3 million loss in property tax revenues; \$1.5 to \$2.5 million increase in wages if furlough days are discontinued; and \$5 to \$6 million (12 to 15 percent) increase in benefits. The millage generates \$7.6 million.

Why end furlough days and incur a \$2.5 million expense? Lansing received a \$2.4 million COPS grant and rehired 11 police officers. Gov. Snyder recently signed a law requiring local government and public school employees to pay 20% of their health insurance costs instead of 5% or the going rate, starting Jan. 1. LCC offered Lansing \$2.52 million for Oliver Towers. Therefore, assumptions used to justify this second attempt have diminished significantly, or no longer exist.

Lansing can raise taxes up to 3.7292 mills without an election during the budget process in May to save police or firefighter jobs.

Passing the largest tax increase in history is unnecessary, won't prevent more public safety cuts and layoffs, and doesn't even guarantee we will be any safer.

Vote "NO" AGAIN on Nov. 8!

— **John Pollard**  
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.  
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com  
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
• Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:  
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

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

# CityPULSE

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**News & Opinion.** . . . . . 5  
**Public Notices.** . . . . . 4, 7, 8  
**Cover Story.** . . . . . 9  
**Arts & Culture.** . . . . . 13  
**Movies.** . . . . . 14  
**Halloween.** . . . . . 17  
**Books.** . . . . . 26  
**Advice Goddess.** . . . . . 27  
**Classifieds.** . . . . . 27  
**Jonesin' Crossword.** . . . . . 27  
**Out on the Town.** . . . . . 28  
**Turn it Down** . . . . . 29  
**Freewill Astrology.** . . . . . 33  
**Food.** . . . . . 34

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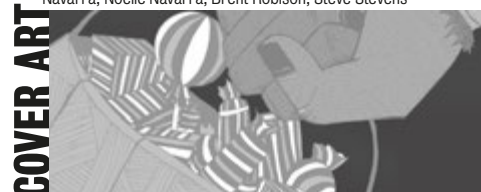
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7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

Lansing City Council at-large candidates  
 Rory Neuner, Derrick Quinney and Tom Stewart.



HALLOWEEN by JESSICA CHECKEROSKI

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-5-2011, 2627 N. East Street  
Special Land Use Permit - Church

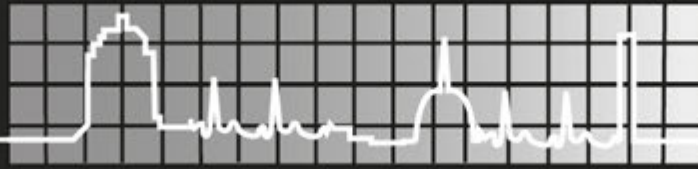
The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-5-2011. This is a request by St. Seraphim Russian Orthodox Church to establish a church at 2627 N. East Street. Churches are permitted in the "F" Commercial district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2011, at the City Council Offices, Tenth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk



# PULSE



## news & opinion

### Yes, we have bananas

**Bob Trezise Jr. moves on, albeit just a few blocks from Washington Square to Michigan Avenue: An exit interview**

Economic development types live by Power Point-y principles. Strategize comprehensively. Collaborate regionally. Measure outputs.

Bob Trezise Jr., president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Development Corp. and part-time poet, added an exotic variation: When your banana tree brushes the ceiling, move on.

Two conspicuous organisms in Trezise's office have achieved significant growth in the past six years, but only one of them is portable. Therefore, Trezise will soon have to part with his 12-foot-tall companion and listening post.

"We don't know how to get it out of here," Trezise shrugged.

Beginning Nov. 7, Trezise, 45, will head the nonprofit Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP, a public and private regional development group.

The banana tree isn't the only thing in Trezise's office that is facing limits.

Cities and townships are tightening their belts. State officials are looking for ways to yank the tax incentives that Trezise and his boss, Mayor Virg Bernero, leveraged into a string of urban renewal coups in Lansing.

"We have very few projects right now," Trezise said. "The banks are in almost total lockdown, and there's enormous uncertainty about incentives."

But Trezise senses a big sea change.

"It looks like, finally, regional cooperation is actually going to happen," he said. "Until now, it's been a fit and a start, a few modest examples here and there, but nothing real."

A new cooperative landscape is already taking shape in Michigan. Earlier this month, the Collaborative Development Council, a group of senior development gurus, came to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and the Michigan Economic Development Council with a map that breaks the state into 10 development regions. Trezise said LEAP is poised to be the lead agency for the region covering Clinton, Ingham and Eaton counties.

Trezise is already hip-deep in regional work at LEAD. Last week, he shuttled from his downtown office to the Capital Region Regional Airport, working on tax sharing agreements with neighboring DeWitt Township to put together an

"aerotropolis" straddling both jurisdictions.

Another hot item on Trezise's plate is the proposed sale of the Red Cedar Golf Course, which the city argues would jump-start development along the Michigan Avenue Corridor that connects MSU, East Lansing, Lansing Township and Lansing.

"So in a strange way, that's what our office is primarily doing anyway," Trezise said.

LEAP, formed in 2007, is often described as "troubled," but Trezise thinks the agency is poised to lead — with the right top banana.

"Now the pressures are great on municipalities, and you're going to see a great evolution in how government is



Trezise

operated," he said. "I find that very interesting."

He's keen to flex the same organizational skills he used at the LEAD when he took charge of the quasi-municipal agency in 2006, championed by the newly elected mayor.

Early in Trezise's tenure at LEAD, a prospective investor took him aside and told him the agency's former headquarters on North Washington Square was a "total embarrassment."

"It was a basement with cockroaches and mice and the entrance was off of an alley," Trezise said. With Bernero's approval, the LEAD leased offices at ground level of the newly renovated Arbaugh Building downtown, with big windows suited for nurturing investors and other living things.

While Trezise was unpacking, com-

munity activist Jessica Yorke, now a Lansing City Councilwoman, brought him a 3-foot-tall banana tree, some plant food, a little scoop, a spray bottle and care instructions simple enough "for an idiot."

"For the whole six years I've been here, talking to this tree every morning," he said.

The tree still hasn't produced a banana, but the conversations seem to have borne fruit. The LEAD offices are studded with awards and mementoes, many of them marking the administration's signature achievement, the redevelopment of the derelict Ottawa Power Station into the world headquarters of the Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America.

Next to the Ottawa project, Trezise is most proud of the scrambling and re-organization of Lansing's Principal Shopping District into Downtown Lansing Inc. Trezise's choice to lead the agency, Mindy Bilodeau, quickly organized a series of new downtown events. Last week, the office was buried in boxes of Halloween candy for Trick or Treat on the Square, which drew 15,000 people downtown last year.

"I couldn't believe the capital city could have a downtown with basically no festivals, summertime activities, sidewalk sales," Trezise asked.

For some, the city's controversial plan to tear down the old City Market and build a new one as part of a larger riverfront development was the zenith of the Bernero administration's my-way-or-else hubris, but Trezise doesn't see it that way.

"It wasn't a low point, it was one of the greatest high points," Trezise said. "We won. People are going to be living and working down there. We changed the riverfront."

For all his reputation as a hard charger, Trezise has a softer side. He has written hundreds of poems, which he shows mainly to friends and family.

"They're mostly about nature, modern man, how do we fit in, the pressures of family life," he said.

"Lansing Evening" describes a sunset over the Capitol: "The sky rivers of blues, yellows, oranges and reds/Drain from the basin of space."

In another poem, "A City's Ghost," the poet and CEO arrives at work early in the morning. "I stand still, the only soul in the city," he muses. It's a lyrical image, easily translated into PowerPoint for his new staff at LEAP: Be at work before everybody else.

— Lawrence Cosentino



### of the week



Property: 210 E. Maple Street, Mason  
Owner: John Eldridge and Mary Trust  
Taxpayer: John Eldridge and Mary Trust  
Assessed: \$85,700

Cool autumn days are here and Halloween is just around the corner. There is no better way to enjoy the autumn than to stroll through Mason to admire the stunning residential architecture, including the breathtaking house at 210 East Maple St., located one block from Courthouse Square in downtown.

Quite possibly the most dramatic gables in the Lansing area, the decorative designs are the focal point of this home. The fact is gables are not only decorative but are also functional features that protect and hide the exposed timbers. Gable designs are a staple of a variety of Victorian period architectural styles that include Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian and Queen Anne. The impeccably kept gables are complemented by the floral carved lintels which are also ornamental and structural.

Popularized in the United States between mid-19th century and early 20th century, Victorian style architecture is exquisite and this two story house's appeal is undeniable. An extra bonus — a matching carriage house.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Nyssa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.



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# First Ward fight

**The candidates are sparring over whether Lynne Martinez received favoritism from the Ingham County Land Bank, as opponent Jody Washington charges**

Accusatory campaign literature has ignited an argument between First Ward City Council candidates about whether one candidate is benefiting from favoritism by the Ingham County Land Bank.

Last week, First Ward residents received a mailing from the Jody Washington for City Council campaign comparing Washington and her opponent, Lynne Martinez, on community service, public safety and medical marijuana. Voters will decide between the candidates on Nov. 8 in a race observers say is close.

In the mailing, Washington accused Martinez of receiving “tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars for ‘consulting’ services from the Ingham County Land Bank, which is run by one of her biggest political backers.”

During “City Pulse on the Air,” Martinez confirmed that her firm, Martinez Consulting Group, consulted on projects for the Land Bank including its new bike share program, but she denied being paid the “tens of thousands” Washington referred to.

“I have been paid for two contracts to date, about a year’s worth of work, much less than \$10,000,” Martinez said during the show.

The Land Bank has two contracts with Martinez’s firm, Land Bank coordinator Joseph Bonsall said. One contract was for the bike share program and the other for the Land Bank’s foreclosed homes sale program, later renamed the PROP program. Both of those contracts have been extended, he said.

But even with the extensions, the total amount of her payment will not exceed \$5,500, Bonsall said.

Martinez was asked to bring community leaders, Realtors, lenders, Housing Coalition staff and Land Bank staff together to determine criteria for the PROP program, Land Bank Chairman Eric Schertzing said. She facilitated similar meetings for the bike share program, which is still in its planning stages, he added.

“You hire and you work with folks that you know you can trust to listen and do the job,” Schertzing said. “Lynne did a bang-up job on both contracts. She helped move us forward.”

Washington cited an article in Michigan State University’s student newspaper, The State News, that said a “\$20,000 match grant from the Ingham County Land Bank has been secured to fund the (bike share program),” but Schertzing, Martinez and Bonsall said the grant will be used to pay for the program, not Martinez’s salary.

“The money hasn’t been spent because the other matching dollars hasn’t been committed by matching entities,” Schertzing said,

Bonsall said in an e-mail that the bike share program must hire a program manager and raise a minimum of \$100,000 in additional capital before the grant money will be released. “To date, these contingencies have not been satisfied,” he wrote.

Washington acknowledged in an e-mail Monday that she had made an error since “the exact amount of public dollars that Martinez has received has not been published.” However, she said that “whether it’s thousands of dollars or tens of thousand of dollars, the overall point remains the same: At

a time when people across Lansing are struggling to find work, a privileged few are receiving jobs and contracts as political favors. That sends the wrong message to citizens who have already been given plenty of other reasons to lose faith in their elected leaders.”

Schertzing said his friendship with Martinez had no influence on his decision to hire her firm for the projects.

“Like many other people in the community, I know Lynne and I trust her to make good decisions,” he said. “She has experience in housing programs, she’s invested and involved in the community. The bike share was a facilitation thing that I knew she would be good at and she was.”

In addition to the financial allegations, Washington also stated during the radio show that Martinez’s contracts “didn’t go through the Land Bank board like it was supposed to.”

“We need more transparency in government and fewer shadowy consulting contracts between friends,” she said in an interview following the show.

However, Schertzing said Martinez’s contracts were too small to warrant board approval.

According to the Land Bank’s existing policy, “any purchase of goods or services less than \$5,000 require the approval of the Chairman/Executive Director,” not the board. The policy also states that any professional service under \$25,000 is exempt from the competitive bidding process, which also does not require board approval.

Schertzing also said that the board



Lynne Martinez



Jody Washington

See Fight, Page 7

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-5-2011, 301 W. Lenawee Street & 526 Townsend Street  
Rezoning from “D-1” Professional Office District to “G-1” Business District

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 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-5-2011. This is a request by Dan Essa to rezone the properties at 301 W. Lenawee Street & 526 Townsend Street, legally described as:

LOTS 1 THRU 4, LOTS 9 THRU 12 & E 7 R LOT 5 & W 3 R OF N 3 R LOT 5; BLOCK 147, ORIGINAL PLAT

from “D-1” Professional Office District to “G-1” Business District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the redevelopment of the subject properties for a mixed use building consisting of 244 residential units and first floor commercial uses.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2011 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 concerning Z-5-2011, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering Ordinance 1252, a City-initiated ordinance to amend Article III – of Chapter 50 – Zoning, Sections 50-31 and add a Division 5 – of the Code of the City of East Lansing, to provide standards of review for rezoning property and provisions for conditional rezoning.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering Ordinance 1268, a City-initiated ordinance to amend Section 40-4 of Article 1 of Chapter 40 – Subdivisions and Other Land Divisions – of the Code of the City of East Lansing.

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 McKenna  
City Clerk

### STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: Bolter Drain

#### NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Charles Blanchard, Jim Hershiser, Helen LeBlanc, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate) will meet on **Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.** at:

Delhi Township Community Services Center, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt, MI 48842

to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated August 31, 2011, to clean out, relocate, widen, deepen, straighten, tile, extend, improve, relocate along a highway, provide structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, and add branches and a relief drain to the drain known and designated as the Bolter Drain and to add lands to the Bolter Drain Drainage District, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Delhi Charter Township and the City of Lansing, in accordance with Section 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and for the protection of the public health of said Delhi Charter Township and City of Lansing, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to the Bolter Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. Any landowner or party with an interest in property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: October 13, 2011

Signed: Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
Phone: (517) 676-8395



# Upcoming:

Oct. 26–Nov. 2, 2011

## Breakfast with Bauer

State Rep. Joan Bauer will be having a "Breakfast with Bauer" event 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday. The event allows constituents to voice their thoughts and opinions on current issues. Bauer will also update attendees on what is happening in the state legislature. The breakfast will take place at Grumpy's Diner, 5600 S. Pennsylvania Ave. The next breakfast will be Nov. 19 at Gone Wired Café, 2121 E. Michigan Ave.

## Home improvement classes offered

The Greater Lansing Housing Coalition is offering a number of home improvement classes at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center. On Thursday, the coalition will offer a

class on winter energy solutions. On Tuesday, the coalition will offer a class on cabinets. The classes last from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Neighborhood Empowerment Center is at 600 W. Maple St.. To register for a class, call (517) 372-5980 or email [bruce@glhc.org](mailto:bruce@glhc.org).

## Creative nature programs at Fenner

Fenner Nature Center will hold two creative nature programs on Saturday with the help of local artists. From 10 a.m. to noon, artist Coleen French will teach attendees how to make a plantain salve to draw out splinters, stings and thorns. Each person will receive a half-ounce salve from the class. The course costs \$10 for Lansing residents and \$12 for non-residents. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., local author Melissa Dey Hasbrook will read from her new book "Circle ... Home," which discusses local land use, generational cycles and identity recovery. Coffee and tea will be provided at the program. A \$5

donation is suggested. Both programs require preregistration by either calling (517) 483-4224 or registering [www.mynaturecenter.org](http://www.mynaturecenter.org). The Fenner Nature Center is at 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave.

## Nuclear weapons panel

The Justice Witness Ministries is holding a program Saturday on the state of nuclear weapons. The event includes your choice of two movies followed by an expert panel discussion of nuclear weapons. The two featured movies are "Countdown to Zero," a documentary about nuclear proliferation, and "Gate-Atomic Flame," a movie about monks who carry a flame from the fires of Nagasaki back to the Trinity site where the first atomic bomb exploded. The movies begin at 1 p.m., and the hour-long panel discussion begins at 2:45 p.m. The event is free and takes place at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

# Fight

from page 7

reviews a list of all the checks that were cut during the previous month and was fully aware that Martinez's company was consulting on the projects.

In addition, the Land Bank's doors are open five days a week and fully staffed and Schertzing's cell phone number is posted on the organization's website so anyone can call with questions day, night or even on holidays, he said.

"So much good work was put into (these programs)," Schertzing said. "To try to find something wrong with it, I think it speaks more to the person saying that than it does to the target."

—Nyssa Rabinowitz

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
ELECTION NOTICE  
CITY GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011  
FOR  
THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING  
INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES, MICHIGAN**

To the electors of the City of East Lansing, please take notice that an election will be held in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

**For the purpose of electing the following non-partisan offices:**

East Lansing City Council	3 Members
East Lansing School District Board of Education	1 Member
Lansing School District Board of Education	3 Members

For complete ballot wording, contact the East Lansing City Clerk at 517-319-6914 or log on to the City Web site at [www.cityofeastlansing.com](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com)

**Polls at said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m.**

**LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:**

- Pct. 1 - Brody Hall, MSU
- Pct. 2 - Peoples Church, 200 West Grand River Avenue
- Pct. 3 - East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 4 - Capital City Vineyard Church, 1635 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 5 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 6 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road
- Pct. 7 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3383 Lake Lansing Road
- Pct. 8 - East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 9 - Bailey Community Center, 300 Bailey Street
- Pct. 10 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 11 - Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive
- Pct. 12 - All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road
- Pct. 13 - Shaw Hall, MSU
- Pct. 14 - West Akers Hall, MSU
- Pct. 15 - East Wilson Hall, MSU
- Pct. 16 - Wesley Foundation, 1118 S. Harrison Road
- Pct. 17 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road

All polling places are accessible and voting [instructions](#) are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille.

The East Lansing City Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and accept absentee ballots for qualified electors.

**PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE** – Under a Michigan law passed in 1996 and upheld in July 2008 by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters are required to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

**To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information Web site at [www.mich.gov/vote](http://www.mich.gov/vote)**

Marie E. McKenna  
City Clerk

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SLU-3-2011, 105 W. Allegan Street  
Special Land Use Permit - Church**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-3-2011. This is a request by Barefoot Christian Church to establish a church at 105 W. Allegan Street (lower level of 200 S. Washington Square). Churches are permitted in the "G-1" Business district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2011, at the City Council Offices, Tenth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request to modify and replace the existing front porch on the house at 352 Marshall Street. The change is being requested to construct a new porch on the front of the house.

**Call (517) 319-6930**, the Department of Planning and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Marie McKenna  
City Clerk

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-4-2011, 400 Block, Liberty Street  
Rezoning from "C" Residential District to "F" Commercial District**

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 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-4-2011. This is a request by Speedway, LLC to rezone three parcels of land at the southwest corner of Liberty and N. Cedar Street, legally described as:

Lot 8, except that part used for highway purposes, and Lots 9 & 10, Block 5, Original Plat

from "C" Residential District to "F" Commercial District. The purpose of the rezoning is to provide additional land for the redevelopment of the Speedway Gasoline Station at 1201 N. Cedar Street.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, 2011 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 concerning Z-4-2011, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.



# STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS

The Nov. 8 election could move the Lansing School District into a brighter future by selecting three candidates with “vision,” or the Board of Education could remain locked in conflict and controversy, experts say.

BY NYSSA RABINOWITZ

Nov. 8 won't attract many voters. There's no presidential race to encourage people to get out to the polls. There are no gubernatorial hopefuls vying for a chance to change the state.

Instead, there are a City Council and Board of Education election and several ballot proposals, and the school vote could be the most critical for the city, educational experts say.

“It's a matter of the school district really being at a crossroads,” said Ruben Martinez, director of the Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University. “Someone has to make some hard choices. Tomorrow's leadership on the board is of utmost importance.”

Eight candidates are competing for three open seats on the Lansing Board of Education at a time when it seems that everything that could go wrong is. The superintendent is leaving, the district is in the process of restructuring and the budget is in disarray, to name some of the more major problems.

Out of the candidates, only one, Nicole Armbruster, is seeking reelection. Current board members Jack Davis and Ken Jones are not seeking an additional term and will leave the board at the end of the year.

Many school districts are facing a “perfect storm” of obstacles, former Lansing Mayor David Hollister said. State revenue is down, which lowers the amount of money each district receives. Student enrollment is down, lessening revenue because states base financial contributions on a per pupil basis. Property taxes, which also help fund the district's schools, are decreasing because of the foreclosure crisis.

Meanwhile, costs only continue to increase, Hollister added. Legacy costs, which include retiree health and pension benefits, are increasing and insurance costs for employees continue to rise year after year.

“I'm deeply worried about the schools,” Hollister said. “If the schools are not thriving, the city will not thrive.” On top of that, the Board of Education and the district's administration have rarely worked together to solve issues, resulting in a loss of the community's trust, Hollister said.

At the request of the board, Hollister headed a district restructuring committee in 2009, which presented a comprehensive plan for right-sizing the district, including consolidating the three open high schools into one new building. Martinez was part of the committee's leadership team as well, but when the group presented its findings to the board after six months of intensive research, the board voted against it.

Financial mishaps, such as the discovery of \$7.9 million in overlooked funds in a recent audit that Supt. T.C. Wallace's administration called a mistake only increases distrust, said Lansing teachers' union President Patti Seidl.

“The board can only make informed decisions based on what the administration gives them,” she said. “Ultimately the buck stops in (the superintendent's) office.”

## FINDING A NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Most districts are dealing with the financial effects of a down economy and trying to offer the same services with less funding, but Lansing public schools are unique in that the incoming board will also have to start the search for a new superintendent in addition to dealing with funding cuts, said Jennifer Rogers, director of communications for the Michigan Association of School Boards. Wallace, hired five years ago, is retiring under pressure at the end of his contract.

For Hollister, this one issue is by far the most important out of the



Hollister

myriad of critical decisions that a new board will likely face in the coming years.

“This is singularly the most important decision that a school board makes because it impacts the community for an extended period of years, maybe even decades,” he said.

Hollister said there are “mechanisms to take over a failing school district,” such as an emergency financial manager, but only the board has the ability to hire and fire a superintendent and administrators.

In a district where students are underperforming on state tests and the dropout rate continues to increase, a new superintendent with a vision for the future of the district could start the turnaround that Lansing so desperately needs, he said.

Hollister said that Lansing has great opportunities within the district, such as the International Baccalaureate program at Eastern High School, but even world-renown programs such as that are also accompanied by problems — Eastern has one of the district's highest dropout rates, he said.

A new administration could create a new curriculum for the district, or better promote the programs that are offered, in order to draw students not just from Lansing, but also from the region, Hollister continued. Programs like the Chinese immersion program, which is running at full capacity despite being housed in a facility that can't keep up with the program's demand, should be duplicated. An emphasis should be placed on technology, internships and an international curriculum, he said.

In Hollister's opinion, those types of opportunities would bring families to the district, rather than having them leave.

“There are schools that are thriving because they have talented leadership,” Hollister said. “My advice: hire the smartest, brightest, youngest, most talented person they can find — and then get out of the way.”

The challenge will be attracting the kind of leadership that can turn

the district around after all the controversy and hostility that has occurred between the board and the current administration, Hollister said.

“The problem is those (superintendent) candidates go right to the website and look at the minutes or look at the action in the previous months and go, ‘I'm not sure I want to apply for that job,’” he said.

A new administration could also help alleviate some of the staffing and financial issues that the district has been facing, Seidl said.

“(Money is) always the bottom line,” she said. “The board's going to be challenged to get an administration in that's in tune with an urban setting and know how to run the district.”

Seidl attributes many of the financial problems, especially the discovery of millions of unspent dollars in a cash-strapped budget, to the administration's lack of transparency with the board and the community.

The district is already predicting a \$20 million deficit for the 2012-2013 school year and has spent the majority of its rainy day fund, Hollister said.

This year's staffing fiascos could also potentially be resolved with a new administration that has experience running a large urban district, Seidl added.

“We had over 200 teachers in the whole scheme of things that were displaced or laid off,” Seidl said. “That meant we had close to 90 classrooms that had no teachers assigned to them at the start of the school year.”

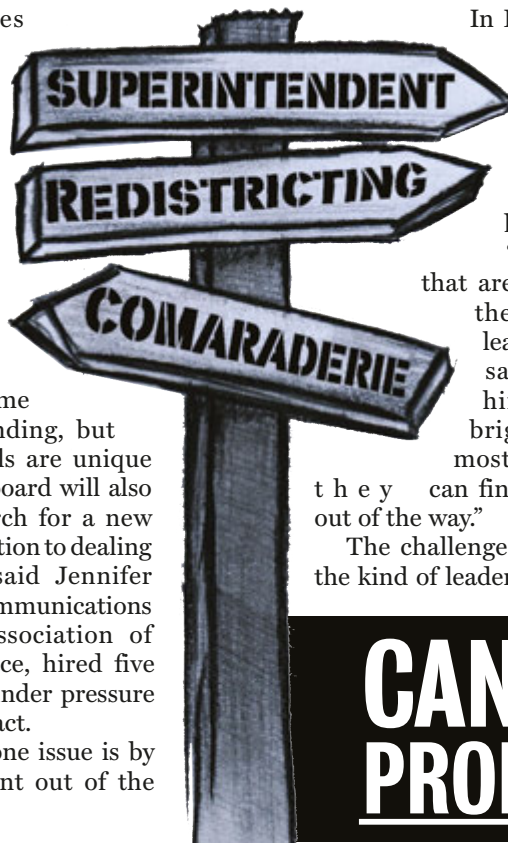
Seidl said the majority of the laid-off teachers have already been recalled and the displaced teachers have been reassigned to try and offset large class sizes in the schools. Most of the reorganization occurred during Labor Day weekend when the teachers' union and Myra Ford, a board member and former human resources worker, went to the schools to work on the reassignments.

“I'm hoping (the administration) learned from their mistakes and that they will absolutely do the right thing next year and not balance the budget by displacing and laying off way more teachers than they need to,” Seidl said.

## RIGHT-SIZING THE DISTRICT

In an effort to streamline the district and save money, the board is looking to

See Schools, Page 12



**CANDIDATE  
PROFILES** ON NEXT PAGE



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

On Nov. 8, Lansing voters will choose three new members to sit on the Board of Education. Voters will choose from a field of nine candidates. Last month, City Pulse asked each candidate to complete a questionnaire on current issues that the board and the Lansing School District are facing. All candidates' responded. City Pulse requested answers be 50 words or less. Responses were not edited or condensed.

To hear more about the candidate's views, listen to the Oct. 12 podcast of "City Pulse on the Air" at [www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/flex-84-radio-show.html](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/flex-84-radio-show.html)

It will rebroadcast at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 on 88.9 FM The Impact.

**Candidate Withdraws**  
Lansing Board of Education candidate Karen Truszkowski withdrew from the race in mid-October, citing "unexpected obstacles," according to the Lansing State Journal. Her name will still appear on the ballot, which was already printed when she withdrew.

### Lansing School District Facts:

The Lansing School District has 30 school buildings: 23 elementary schools, four middle schools and three high schools.

LSD offers parents seven magnet school choices such as a Chinese-Immersion program, an International Baccalaureate program and a Montessori program.

LSD serves about 13,000 students, according to State of Michigan count data for the 2010-2011 school year.

This is down from about 15,000 enrolled students during the 2006-2007 school year.

LSD has a predicted \$20 million deficit for 2012-2013 school year, according to the Lansing State Journal.

# THE DATES

## Board of Education candidates were asked:

<p><b>What are your plans to improve the Lansing School District?</b></p>	<p>Find a Superintendent who will engage our teachers, staff, students and community. Empower them to improve academic achievement and the safety and climate of our schools. Maximize facilities and concentrate resources to support and build on the programs that work. We must make the LSD competitive among our surrounding districts.</p>	<p>Working with a reduced student population and a significant budget shortfall, I will realign our schools to make better use of successful educational models within the district. I will pursue an innovative and dynamic Superintendent for the district that can transform the district into a leader in 21st century education.</p>	<p>I would like to solve fiscal issues, combat the declining enrollment along with raising the high school graduation rates. I would also like to increase involvement from the community and parents while improving the overall image of the district.</p>
<p><b>Do you think the state should appoint an emergency financial manager for the school district?</b></p>	<p>Absolutely not. I do not feel an Emergency Financial Manager will understand, or care about, the intricacies of our Lansing community. They will only look at the bottom line and not what is good for our students, teachers and community long-term.</p>	<p>No. An outside party should not be brought in without regard to the wishes of the community. It is incumbent upon the new school board to take mature and focused actions necessary to bring the district into alignment with budget constraints, while also elevating the educational experience for our students.</p>	<p>No, I believe that if the LSD meets the proper decisions in the next year we can avoid an emergency financial manager and feel that it is illegal under the Michigan Constitution as it strips elected officials from their offices.</p>
<p><b>Do you agree with Superintendent Wallace that the audit that found the additional \$7.9 million does not reflect a problem with district leadership?</b></p>	<p>While it is not unusual to have a margin of error when dealing with such a large budget, district leadership did not listen to our employees when they were told they were cutting too deep. This highlights a complete lack of communication and cooperation between central administration and our buildings.</p>	<p>While the amount is a significant sum, I don't believe it is a condemnation of the leadership. Representing less than 5% of the district's overall budget, it seems more indicative of district wide efforts to control costs than it does something in error or ineffectual.</p>	<p>I disagree with Wallace. If we are overseeing funds in amounts as high as the 7.9 million that was found, I feel that this definitely shows a lack of trust and inadequate accounting practices. The absence of someone taking responsibility for this finding reflects a problem of leadership.</p>
<p><b>How would you lower costs for the district without compromising the learning experience in the classroom?</b></p>	<p>I am passionate about the opportunities that restructuring our district can offer. If we concentrate our resources, we will have the opportunity to offer our students more options. If we make our district competitive, we can retain students and not have to face additional cuts each year.</p>	<p>Effective management of resources does not inherently compromise the learning experience in class rooms. Consolidating resources and classes where possible should be pursued while also evaluating all areas not directly related to education for reduction.</p>	<p>In my opinion, one option is, partnering with the Ingham ISD and/or the City of Lansing for payroll processing; there could be a significant amount of funding saved which would provide more dollars to be put into the classroom without compromising the education of our students.</p>
<p><b>Do you support privatizing employees?</b></p>	<p>I am not supportive of privatizing positions that have direct interaction with our children. District employees have a vested interest in our children and their well-being. I do, however, support the idea of contracting out administrative services such as our Financial Department and Human Resources.</p>	<p>No. Privatization is evaluating the deliverable to students based solely on cost not on the quality of educator. Consolidation of services and cooperation with other entities for administrative or non-educational services should be pursued before we look at privatization.</p>	<p>I do not support privatizing employees by any means as there are not any long term financial benefits of doing so and doing so may cause other unintended consequences.</p>
<p><b>How can the Lansing School District stem the tide of parents' sending their children to non-district school and attract parents outside of Lansing to send their children to Lansing schools?</b></p>	<p>We must restore trust in the Lansing School District. Parents are entrusting us with their child(ren)'s education and we must deliver. We need to address the safety and climate in our secondary schools and offer academic opportunities to make our children successful. We must make Lansing the school of choice.</p>	<p>By focusing on improving the program, celebrating the successes within the district and presenting a thoughtful focused vision for the future, the perceptions of the district will improve and over time draw students back to the district. Dependable, proven leadership is key.</p>	<p>We need to better educate parents on the great programs that are offered through the LSD such as the magnet schools which are geared towards the interest of the students, the STEM program which focuses on Science, Engineering and Mathematics, and also the learning environment of the Montessori.</p>

### Nicole Armbruster, 32

**Education:** Graduated high school in 1998. Bachelor's from MSU in political science with a concentration in public policy, 2010.  
**Occupation:** Property analyst for the State of Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority



under the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

**Significant appointments:** The Lansing Board of Education in January 2011; Education Division chairwoman for the Capital Area United Way

**Elected positions:** Treasurer (last year) and vice president (current) of the Lewton Elementary PTA

### Jeffrey Croff, 41

**Education:** Mason County Central Senior High School, 1988. Graduated from MSU with a BA in interdisciplinary humanities, 1996.



**Occupation:** Vice president of marketing for Astera Credit Union, artistic director, Icarus Falling Theatre Ensemble

**Significant appointments:** Member of the Mayor's Drug Free Youth Task Force Committee; Member of stage & entertainment technologies advisory board for the Ingham Intermediate School District;

Member of the Jingle Ball committee for the Michigan Historical Foundation; Former board president of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Ingham County

**Elected positions:** None

### Mark Eagle, 26

**Education:** Holt High School, 2004. Central Michigan University BS in political science, 2008, and master's in public administration, 2010.



**Occupation:** Disability advocate

**Significant appointments:** Former commissioner, Michigan Commission for the Blind

**Elected positions:** None



**Rachel R. Lewis, 23**

**Education:** Everett High School graduating valedictorian, 2006. Michigan State University BS in family community services and BA in psychology, 2010.  
**Occupation:** Older child adoption specialist/ foster care case manager at Bethany Christian Services



**Significant appointments:** Student member of the Junior Board of Education for the Lansing School District; Member of the Mayors Youth Advisory Council  
**Elected positions:** None

**Steve Manchester, 71**

**Education:** Ypsilanti High School, class of 1957. Eastern Michigan University BS in political science, 1962, teacher Certificate, secondary school, 1963 & MA, secondary school admin, 1967.



**Occupation:** Retired as of October 2006  
**Appointments:** Ingham County Board of Health, 1980-'85 (chairman, four years) Community Mental Health Board of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham counties, 1997-'02; 2003-present (have held all executive Board positions; Chaired Finance Committee, 1997-'02)  
**Elected Position:** Student Council Secretary, Eastern Michigan University, 1962-63

**Andy Mutavdzija, 26**

**Education:** Imlay City High School, 2003. James Madison College, Michigan State University, international relations and journalism, 2008.  
**Occupation:** Legislative director for Democratic



State Sen. Bert Johnson  
**Significant appointments:** Michigan Political Leadership Program, 2009 Fellow; Center for Progressive Leadership 2010 Fellow  
**Elected positions:** None

**Peter Spadafore, 26**

**Education:** Waverly High School, 2003. James Madison College at Michigan State University, BA in social relations and policy, 2007.  
**Occupation:** Assistant director of government



relations, Michigan Association of School Boards  
**Significant Appointments:** Chairman, Save Our Students, Schools and State Task Force; member, Michigan PTA, Committee for Child Advocacy; president, James Madison College Alumni Association  
**Elected positions:** None

**B. Michael Williams, 66**

**Education:** Graduated high school in Long Island, N.Y., 1963. BBA from University of Michigan, 1977.  
**Occupation:** Chess instructor  
**Significant appointments:** None



**Elected positions:** None

Restructuring the district schools in order to increase performance of the students and increasing the Districts efficiency is a top priority. Work to engage the parents in their child's education at the middle school and high school levels and actively participate in and support programs which promote student achievement.

Make the District respected in the community. Then, recruit partners to provide added resources to the district. The district must focus on each child, especially those unready for school success. Until parents and non-school leaders help give each child a chance to succeed, the district cannot meet its educational obligations.

I will use my experience in budgeting, education policy and consensus-building to ensure students receive an excellent education; do my own diligence in selecting a top-notch superintendent with a record of success; balance the budget; leverage assets like MSU and LCC; and reconfigure our district with parent and community input.

First, I plan on hiring a new, transformational superintendent passionate about student success. Secondly, refocus board decisions on what's best for serving Lansing's children. Thirdly, find ways to recreate success and eliminate waste and failure to create a district that attracts and retains students, families and businesses.

My focus is to make kids smarter, period. To that end I'll a) help reduce discipline problems, b) find underutilized monies in the budget, c) improve parent involvement through TV-21 programming, d) introduce Chess instruction in all District schools and e) reward good teachers and wash out bad ones.

No. The Board of Education has the vital duty of making the decisions necessary to balance the budget. The Board of Education knows the body of the district and it is their job to approve budget with the understanding of how it will impact the children of the district.

No! – it basically eliminates public schools in Lansing without fixing a large fiscal problem concocted by Michigan's legislature and Governor. An EFM would balance the books by paying educators in the schools significantly less money. This "dumbs-down" the workforce, gets rid of experienced educators and hurts kids immeasurably.

No. EMs are unaccountable and have the power to close schools, abolish contracts and make financial and academic decisions without parental consent or community involvement. Thus, it is important to reconfigure our district together, as a community, and to hire a superintendent who will be responsible with LSD's funds.

No. I believe that an emergency manager is unnecessary and circumvents the publicly elected board of education. Through cooperation with employees, a new board can come to terms with the financial problems of the district to balance the budget and provide great services to the students.

No. With hiring of a new Superintendent, I'll make sure his Finance people are better qualified to handle money problems, in-house. An appointed E.F.M. will not have the vested interest needed to do the job without making other things worse.

I believe the problem is decisions were not made in a timely manner to allow a more accurate budget to be proposed. Some of the money that was "found" was from employee positions which were not filled as anticipated or unexpectedly vacated. That money highlights a breakdown in performance.

It's probably a problem. I'm on a local public board; its budget exceeds \$140 million. We do "quarterly amends," essentially rewriting our budget every 90 days. Not legally required, it's wise. If the District closes its books just once per year and then sees what happened, a surprise can emerge. Develop a leaner administration.

No. This is another example of why we need responsible leadership in LSD. I spoke with a teacher who days before school started still had no classroom. Many teachers remain displaced and students are suffering as a direct result of oversized classrooms. We must hold our leaders accountable.

I believe there's a shared responsibility. More time and care needs to go into the budget. All parties must come together proactively to plan long-term. Pointing fingers and assigning blame won't deliver better services to students, instead we should focus on what will and avoid these problems in the future.

The leadership problem started 3 years ago. And not just in the Finance Dept. The "discovery" of \$7.9 million didn't surprise me. I've been told of lots of 'cushion' in the budget and I've pledged in my campaign to go line-by-line to find it. Then, Wah-La. Surprise!!

As a member of the Board of Education I would look at promoting the programs that promote engagement of the students, parents and community. Utilize volunteers and consolidation of programs to keep the things that optimize the learning experience in the classroom.

Most school funding pays employees, primarily teachers and other trained people who specialize in helping kids learn. A child's education primarily involves interacting with educators. We cannot improve schools by "dumbing-down" teaching, which results if we insist on adults doing more teaching while earning less.

I would expand partnerships with MSU, LCC and the local business community; collaborate with neighboring districts to purchase goods in bulk; nurture successful programs that draw students and parents to LSD; and reconfigure our school district with community input to ensure we are making the most of our limited resources.

Everything's on the table. I'll explore increased efficiencies in non-instructional services first. There are many opportunities for LSD to collaborate with other districts, governmental entities and the business community that save both parties money while providing the service. All budgeting decisions must take value to the classroom into consideration.

Make Kids Smarter! That, alone, will give parents reason to re-populate the district with additional students. The revenue gained, with the 'cushion' money found, will help avoid any cuts. Or any school closings.

No. I support our local union and collective bargaining unit for teachers and the applicable support staff. There is room for consolidation of support services within the ISD; however I believe that this can be done without moving to a private sector.

No – the most important people facing students each day are teachers and staff. I want them accountable to the Board and its Superintendent. Then we can best strive for each child's success in school. "Privatized" employees meet the profit needs of their employers & not necessarily the educational needs of kids.

No. Privatization is not the silver bullet in solving budget issues. In addition to costs, I care about the quality of service provided. We should support our teachers who care for children each day and who often purchase supplies out of their own pocket, instead of constantly cutting their salaries.

I prefer to keep employees of the district, public employees. It's better for the district, it's better for the community and it's better for the employee. Given the times, when crafting a budget we have to consider all solutions, but privatization should be the last resort.

Privatizing employees will not save more money than the indifference-to-students gained. The teachers aren't the broken part of the District and need no fixing. The teachers are broke, not broken and deserve salary increases.

There is no doubt that student/family retention is a major problem in our district. As a board we must find a way to replicate the programs that promote student success. Encourage mentorships with members of the community and encourage parental involvement in the academic arena.

LPS must provide "high quality" programs with parents defining "high quality." This means programs that prepare students for college or well-paid vocations. LPS can offer qualities unavailable elsewhere, including a diverse student body that enriches learning. Let's be smart and make LPS an interesting place for serious students to be.

Lansing School District's unique programs have waiting lists and we should expand them by partnering with MSU and LCC to leverage our existing assets. We have many successes to highlight, which can change LSD's negative perception. The administration must be responsible with district funds and make safety a top priority.

A good district begins with good leadership. The board and school officials must work to restore faith and trust between the community and the district to ensure that parents choose the Lansing School District when deciding where their children will be educated.

Unlike other candidates, I have volunteered for twelve years in Lansing schools as a Chess Instructor. Research shows Chess increases test scores in Math, Science and Reading. The key to attracting more parents and their kids to Lansing schools is increasing academic performance. We must make the kids smarter, period.



## Schools

from page 9

streamline operations, which could mean closing schools, Martinez said.

"They're overbuilt for the number of students that they have," he said. "It costs a considerable amount of money to maintain all those buildings."

The district reported just over 13,000 enrolled students last school year, according to State of Michigan count data. That's down from over 15,000 students in 2006.

Yet, the district has not consolidated or restructured its buildings to account for the demographic shift, Martinez said.

The district runs 30 buildings, including four middle schools and three high schools that are operating under capacity, he said.

Two years after Hollister's study was

turned down, the board has convened a new restructuring committee to look into how to right-size the district and best consolidate resources, board President Shirley Rodgers said. Armbruster chairs the committee. The committee is meeting with teachers, parents and community groups to discuss options and is scheduled to make a presentation to the board in early December.

While the board could theoretically pass a consolidation plan based on the committee's recommendations before the new members are sworn in, Rodgers thought the possibility was unlikely.

"Based on prior history, there will be a lot of discussion," Rodgers said. "I would say the possibility exists for it to have some resolution, but I honestly believe that some of the decisions might not be made until January."

Rogers said it would be essential to brief the newly elected members on the board's

**"I'M DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SCHOOLS," HOLLISTER SAID. "IF THE SCHOOLS ARE NOT THRIVING, THE CITY WILL NOT THRIVE."**

plans as soon as they are confirmed so that they can feel comfortable making decisions when they are sworn in.

"We obviously will have at least two new members if not three, and so anytime you have new people coming into the mix well that changes the dynamic and that changes the conversation," she said. "We have to work very hard to have a board that is committed to students first, community second and that we come together to make decisions that are in the best interest of students and their learning and the communities as a whole."

John Hall, president of Lansing's parent advisory council, said the redistricting

issue is one of the most critical for the district because it could help utilize the district's money as well as possible through consolidation. He said he was looking for board candidates with new ideas to help move the district forward.

"We have to figure out how to consolidate our resources to better teach our children," Hall said. "If we don't have a quality education system, nobody's going to want to come to Lansing. It matters to everybody what schools we have here because that's part of the basic infrastructure of the city."

### RESTORING CAMARADERIE

Despite all the hardships the district faces, one desire was constant: This election has to bring in people who will work together to restore the district's camaraderie.

"I think this year it's really important to bring back the image of the Lansing School District to what it used to be," said Beth Farrand, president of the Lansing Association of Educational Secretaries.

"We need people to come to our board and understand what we're going through, and they need to look at all sides," Farrand said. "I want to see people be committed, really be committed, to helping our district, our city and our state."

Farrand said the breakdown in communication between the board and administration, as well as the administration and the employee community, has caused the district to lose a lot of the positive image it once had. She wants the new board members to restore the district to what it was, restore pride in the community and really promote the good things that the district offers, such as advanced placement classes.

Farrand said she was impressed to see so many young candidates in the field for the open seats because they bring enthusiasm and their recent experiences in education with them.

"I think youth is really important because it gives us perspective," she said. "I know it's a funding thing, but I want to see that kind of dedication come back into our district."

Hollister said he is looking for candidates with a vision for the future, passion and a commitment to collaboration to lead the district forward.

Rogers said being able to work with the new board members, regardless of who comes in, will be key for the board members who are staying.

"We all came in new at some point," she said. "We have to be as helpful as we can possibly be. I don't think that will be a problem as long as we all keep in mind the primary reason we're there and that's the students and their learning."

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# Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

## He's so money, baby!

Justin Derke gets his Vegas on for VH1's 'Ton of Cash'

By JAMES SANFORD

Forget vampires, werewolves and goblins. What makes Justin Derke shiver is a wheelbarrow.

On his VH1 show "Ton of Cash," Derke is one of the contestants trying to transport \$1 million in cash from Malibu to Las Vegas. A challenge in the ninth episode found him trying to move some of the money via wheelbarrow over rocky terrain.

### 'Ton of Cash'

Airs at 2 a.m. Thursday on VH1  
Watch episodes online at [www.vh1.com](http://www.vh1.com)

It did not go smoothly.

"It was awful," the 22-year-old

Derke said, with a sigh. "The mountain was so jagged and I had so many bricks in the wheelbarrow that every bump I hit a couple bricks would fall out."

Although many thousands of dollars were lost along the way, Derke emerged triumphant: The towering drag queen from Lansing is moving on to the "Ton of Cash" finale (airing at 2 a.m. Thursday; episodes can also be seen online at [www.vh1.com](http://www.vh1.com)), in which the remaining cash will be awarded to one survivor.

Derke can't reveal whether he takes home the prize, but he's delighted with much of the feedback he's been getting from viewers via Facebook and Twitter.

"Even though I was there to experience it firsthand, now I get to hear people's takes on what I did," he said.

"I really haven't read any negative stuff, aside from a couple of comments that I

expected because of who I am. I've had a lot of younger gay people message me saying, 'It's awesome that you're doing this, because you're showing that gay people can be strong.' That's great to hear."

While it's commonplace to hear reality-show participants complain about how producers and editors made them look on the air, Derke is pleased with his portrayal on "Cash."

"Even though I'm a bigger guy, I can still keep up," he said. "At one point, I was carrying eight bricks, which is about 100 pounds."

"I look really good. They edited me really well. There's some stuff they didn't show that I wish they had and some stuff they showed that I wish they didn't. (But) everyone's role in the show is basically what they were."

That includes bodybuilder Chuck Bono, who verbally assaulted Derke after one of the contests didn't go particularly well, using some anti-gay slurs that VH1 bleeped out. Derke didn't hear Bono's comments on the spot. "I didn't know about it until later that night when (fellow contestant) Amie Rose told me," he said. "I didn't know what to do. I wanted to throw my drink at him, but that wasn't allowed. But his character was 'tell it like it is,' so that (kind of language) wasn't surprising."

Bono didn't make it to the final round; Derke isn't shedding any tears over that. "I wanted him off since day one," he admit-



The 6-foot-7-inch Justin Derke towered over most of the competition to win a spot in VH1's "Ton of Cash" finale.

ted.

Derke had a plan in place to get to Vegas. "My strategy was to make myself known at first. Then, when we got down to eight (remaining contestants), down to four, my strategy was to lay back and not get involved in the fights, to not start fights. I wanted to play both sides."

He's satisfied with how it worked out.

"I usually get along with girls more than I do with guys," he said. "But when it came to the guys, I kind of charmed my way into them. I started making friends and I started deciding who should get picked off. (The producers) didn't really show it, but I was very strategic."

As a Gemini, he said he has a natural knack for persuasion. "And when alcohol was involved, it wasn't hard to get people to do my dirty work," he said, with a smile.

Even when the "Cash" gang was partying, Derke said he made sure to stay sharp. "I never got too drunk to the point where I didn't remember anything. I wanted to stay at least a little bit sober to remember things, in case I could use them later to blackmail somebody. I definitely had my fun, but I didn't get too crazy."

Aside from planning to travel, Derke isn't certain what he wants to do now that the show is winding down. "I'd like to be in the television industry, now that I've experienced it," he said. "It was a lot of fun."

He's not drawn to a production job, though. "I'm more of the star," he said, smiling. "I think my role is in front of the camera, not behind it."



Photo by Luke Pline of lukeanthony Photography

From left, "Conspiracy," Riverwalk Theatre's World War II drama, features Mike Sobocinski as the Wannsee Conference stenographer, Greg Pratt as Muller, Michael Hays as Heydrich, Jeff Boerger as Kritzingner and Eric Grill as Stuckart. The Stages of the Law production, based on the acclaimed 2001 HBO movie of the same name, was adapted for the stage by Emmy winner Loring Mandel, who wrote the original teleplay.

## Meeting of the (evil) minds

Riverwalk's 'Conspiracy' is a historical horror story

By MARY C. CUSACK

As director James W. Houska said in his welcome last Saturday night, "Conspiracy" is not a show to be enjoyed. It is, however, an important event in history that people should experience and talk about, and Riverwalk Theatre's production provides that opportunity.

Based on a true event, "Conspiracy" recreates the secret Wannsee Conference held in Berlin in 1942, at which the "question" about what to do with the Jews in Europe was answered. Chaired by Gen. Reinhard Heydrich (Michael Hays), the meeting brought together 15 major players from various agencies, departments and affiliates of the Nazi regime to essen-

tially get everyone on the same page — after which all the pages detailing the meeting were to be destroyed. (One copy survived.)

Director Houska designed the stage, a wonderfully opulent room in a mansion overlooking a frozen German lake. Bob Nees designed the enormous conference table at which the party sits, and its symbolic shape should be part of any post-show conversation.

The meeting is coordinated by Heydrich's right hand man, Lt. Col. Adolf

### 'Conspiracy'

Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Dr., Lansing  
7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27;  
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28 and  
Saturday, Oct. 29; 2 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 30  
\$14 adults; \$12 seniors  
and students  
(517) 482-5700  
[www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

### Review

See Conspiracy, Page 14



# Conspiracy

from page 13

Eichmann (Evan Pinsonnault). Eichmann orchestrates a meeting of manners, with fine wines and liquors, cigars, savory appetizers and a buffet lunch, all served at the appropriate time.

The beauty of the setting and the luxuriousness of the amenities offer a stark contrast to the absolute barbarism of the purpose of the meeting itself.

Emmy winner Loring Mandel's script does not attempt to make these characters sympathetic; neither are they all painted as mustache-twisting evildoers.

Instead, the author has created a complex cast of characters whose levels of competency and commitment vary as much as their backgrounds and motivations. Some characters are fleshed out more thoroughly, likely based on their impact on historical events. Even the most minor of these players are given unique personas, even if the essence of that persona is myopic incompetence.

Among the cast, four stand out in particular. The first and most obvious is Hays as Heydrich. Hays has the necessary physical presence and authority to pull off this role. At one point, he seems about this close to using the Force to crush the throat of a simpering Joseph Buhler (Mark Zussman).

As Heydrich's second, Pinsonnault delivers a solid performance as Eichmann. Pinsonnault has previously trod the boards of Riverwalk as simpletons in "Fortinbras" and "Into the Woods." As Eichmann, Pinsonnault is efficient and meticulous, obviously ambitious and as cold as the frozen lake that is ever-present just over his shoulder.

Sparks fly when Erik Grill raises his voice of relative reason as legal authority Wilhelm Stuckart. Grill has a commanding presence, even when going toe-to-toe with Hays. While still as racist as any of the others, he pushes for a more humane solution that could be defended using the letter of the law.

Arguably the only sympathetic character is Wilhelm Kritzinger (Jeff Boerger). The character could be played as weak or whiny, but Boerger instead imbues Kritzinger with a nuanced blend of emotions. Kritzinger may be the only one who recognizes that the war against the Jews is spiraling out of control, that the decisions being made in that room will spell ruin for the nation that he loves and that he is in over his head.

With its large cast, "Conspiracy" is a complex story to follow at first. However, as the predetermined outcome of the meeting becomes clearer, keeping track of the characters matters less than witnessing their complacency or commitment to the "Final Solution of the Jewish question."

## THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

### 'Gattaca': Looking back at a vision of the future

New Zealand-born writer-director Andrew Niccol built his career on thoughtful dramas with science-fiction elements, such as Jim Carrey's "The Truman Show,"

in which a man spends his entire life on TV (when the movie was released in 1998, reality-television had yet to become omnipresent), or "S1m0ne," which involves a director (Al Pacino) who uses digital technology to create a superstar beauty to replace a temperamental star (Winona Ryder).

This week, Niccol returns to familiar ground with "In Time," a thriller set in a future society that caters almost exclusively to the wealthy, who can purchase immortality; the aging gene freezes up around age 25, allowing those who can afford it to extend their youth indefinitely. The film stars Justin Timberlake, Amanda Seyfried, Alex Pettyfer, Cillian Murphy and Olivia Wilde.

The release of "In Time" is a perfect opportunity to look back on Niccol's debut film, 1997's "Gattaca," which starred Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman and a then barely known actor named Jude Law. Although the film was not a commercial success at the time, it has since found an international following. (A few years ago, I was stunned to find my favorable "Gattaca" review had been translated into German by the owner of a "Gattaca" fansite.)

Like "In Time," "Gattaca" envisions a world in which health and youthfulness are prized above everything else. The proper genetic make-up determines your destiny, and parents are willing to pay plenty for designer genes to ensure that their children live long, active and comfortable lives.

Those unlucky enough to be "natural births" — such as Hawke's charac-

ter, Vincent, the product of his parents' romantic getaway on what's known as "the Detroit Riviera" — run the risk of being labelled "in-valid," a title that guarantees a career in cleaning up after the prized and privileged. While Vincent dreams of being an astronaut, he was born with impaired vision and a 99 percent chance of heart disease; his father, who has a clear vision of what life holds in store for Vincent, warns him that "the only way you'll see the inside of a spaceship is if you're cleaning it."

So Vincent infiltrates Gattaca, the training ground for astronauts, by passing as a "valid" — thanks to blood, urine, skin cell samples and hair clippings provided by Jerome (Law), a genetic marvel who was paralyzed in an accident. Ultimately, Vincent's masquerade will be jeopardized by a murder investigation and by his growing attraction to Irene (Thurman), a Gattaca staffer whose stunning beauty conceals inner weakness.

While technology has marched ahead — instant DNA analysis makes life much easier for police officers seeking suspects and employers eager to know everything about workers — fashion has gone back to the Camelot years, which gives the picture a memorable look that's simultaneously Tomorrowland and yesteryear. It's also fun to see the assortment of talent Niccol had in his cast: Where else will you see novelist Gore Vidal, Oscar winner Ernest Borgnine and then-rising stars Maya Rudolph and William Lee Scott?

Entertaining, suspenseful and even touching, "Gattaca" remains a fascinating, thought-provoking piece. It's interesting to recall that Hawke and Thurman met on the set and married the following year; sadly, the marriage did not last — yet the cult status of "Gattaca" has endured.



Courtesy photo

Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke crave designer genes in "Gattaca."

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# Tony Bennett: At 85, he's still winning over young fans

His chart-topping 'Duets II' CD includes teamings with Lady Gaga, John Mayer and the late Amy Winehouse

By JAMES SANFORD

There was a surprising scene last week at the Wharton Center. A group of five young women — probably in their late teens or early 20s — were oggling a framed poster of a singer just outside the entrance of the venue.

## Tony Bennett

8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28  
Great Cobb Hall  
Wharton Center,  
East Lansing  
\$37-\$77  
(800) WHARTON  
www.whartoncenter.com

"Do you have his new CD yet?" one asked her friends. "It's so great!" another chirped. "I can't wait to see him. Did you get

tickets already?"

If the face on the poster had belonged to Justin Timberlake or Justin Bieber or

Eminem, there wouldn't have been anything startling about the situation.

But the man who had the ladies all excited was none other than Tony Bennett, a performer old enough to be the grandfather of any of them.

Bennett has been entertaining audiences for more than half a century, and he's still on the road. He'll return to the Wharton Center Friday.

In an interview with Canada's National Post newspaper last week, writer Mike Doherty noted, "At 85, he's fit as a Stradivarius, his singing voice still strong enough to fill a concert hall without amplification."

"His new album, 'Duets II,' on which he collaborates with 17 younger stars, is his

first-ever chart-topping effort in the U.S., out of 73 releases dating back 60 years."

"Duets II" includes teamings with John Mayer, Amy Winehouse and even Lady Gaga, who won over Bennett.

"What I couldn't believe is this highly intellectual artist — she's different every night," he told The National. "I've never seen anybody that creative in the performing arts. She sings as good as Ella Fitzgerald, or anybody that I ever heard."

He was also wowed by the late Winehouse, in what turned out to be her last recording session.

"She felt a camaraderie with me, and realized, 'This guy knows what I'm doing.' And she put a couple of Dinah Washington licks on the record."



Courtesy photo

Lady Gaga meets Tony Bennett on Bennett's chart-topping "Duets II" CD.

## It's trick or doggy treat

Canine costumes return to Old Town Friday

By CITY PULSE STAFF

When Tim Barron started his costume contest for dogs 23 years ago, it was considered a novelty. These days, he says, "It's a Lansing institution."

"It was not as popular to dress up your critters 23 years ago," said the WLMI-FM morning show host.

"Now, you can get store-bought costumes at Meijer."

But Barron said it's almost always the handmade outfits that impress the crowd. "It's just like when we were kids:

It was always better when we had to work with old clothes and make our own."

The tradition continues Friday in Old Town, with Barron, WLMI's Melik Brown and WLNS meteorologist Jake Dunne doing the judging. Doggie Trick or Treat begins at 4 p.m., followed by the contest at 6 and a post-show Yappie Hour at Preuss Pets, 1127 N. Cedar St., from 7 to 9 p.m.

## Costume Contest for Dogs

4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28  
Corner of Turner St. and  
W. Grand River Ave.,  
Lansing  
Free  
929wlmi.com

City Pulse file photo

Dogs turn into walking hot dogs during the annual dog costume contest in Old Town. It's the 23rd years for the event, which is hosted by WLMI-FM's Tim Barron.



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# The bigger picture

## A local photography group honors its late leader

By CARLEE SCHEPELER

A Lansing-area photography group gathered at Perspective2 last Wednesday to pay respects to their former leader, Brian Knoblock, who died unexpectedly on Oct. 2.

The Mid Michigan Photo Meetup was formed last November by Knoblock and Mark Chamberlin. The pair met through Perspective2 owner Lynne Brown.

The group originally planned a memorial walk around Old Town — one of Knoblock's favorite things to do — but postponed it because of rain.

Knoblock, 47, was the owner of Lansing IT, a consulting firm that works primarily with small businesses. A master of all things Apple and "i-things," Knoblock helped Brown with computer issues a few times per year. They had been friends for over 10 years.

"He had so many dot-coms in his head," Brown said. She added that the "photo-geek" side of Knoblock's personality had a fascination with legacy equipment, like Polaroids and old film.

"One of the things he loved best was to teach," Brown said, looking at a photo of Knoblock teaching a class in her studio.

Knoblock maintained a close relationship with many of his clients. The Michigan Federation for Children and Families, which worked with him for over 15 years, posted a tribute on their website, saying, "Brian did so many things that were thoughtful, sweet and considerate, not for the recognition or praise but simply because he had a huge heart."

"He was such an understated guy," Brown continued. "He donated tons of time to animal shelters; he served in the military. He had been caring for his elderly mother, who had dementia, for over three years, until she passed away a few months ago."

Knoblock died of a heart attack. He had been complaining of stomach pains that afternoon, and his family believes it may have been related to an abdominal aneurism.

"He sent (the group) an e-mail that morning, and four hours later he was gone," Chamberlin said. "It makes you want to live one day at a time."

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Perspective2, 319 E. Grand River Ave. in Lansing. More information can be found at [meetup.com/lansingphoto](http://meetup.com/lansingphoto).



Brian Knoblock

Courtesy Photo



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## ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PULLOUT GUIDE

# Time for terror

## Visit some local haunted attractions

Expect some hell-raising this weekend at Michigan State University. But don't call the police: It's just a bunch of theater people orchestrating the annual mayhem at the Haunted Auditorium, or Haunted Aud, as they call it.

"The Haunted Aud was an idea that the theater class of 2009 had, the idea that we take the Auditorium at MSU and, for a weekend, transform it into a giant haunted house," said Tim Smela, one of the organizers of this year's gruesome goings-on. "We are now entering our third year of the project, and it has grown and evolved exponentially in that short time. The main goal of the Haunted Aud is to raise money for our student fund-raising group, Society for Performers and Arts Managers, which sends the senior class to a professional showcase every year."

The Haunted Aud provides SPAM with a major fund-raising opportunity. "But it is no cakewalk," Smela insists. "We began planning this year's Haunted Aud last April, working all summer to research and gather volunteers. Our concept this year is what we like to call 'The Psychology of Fear.' We spent most of the summer researching what scares people, and tried to incorporate this research into our design.

"Essentially, we have transformed the auditorium into a giant psychiatric ward, where patrons 'volunteer' to take part in the experiments inside. As guests walk through the facility, they will be faced with their worst fears and deepest worries."

Enter the Aud on the side of the building facing Farm Lane — and runs from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29, with final performances from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30. General admission is \$10, and tickets are available at the door.

If you're looking for a few more thrills this weekend, here are a few other attractions to consider.

### BestMaze Corn Maze

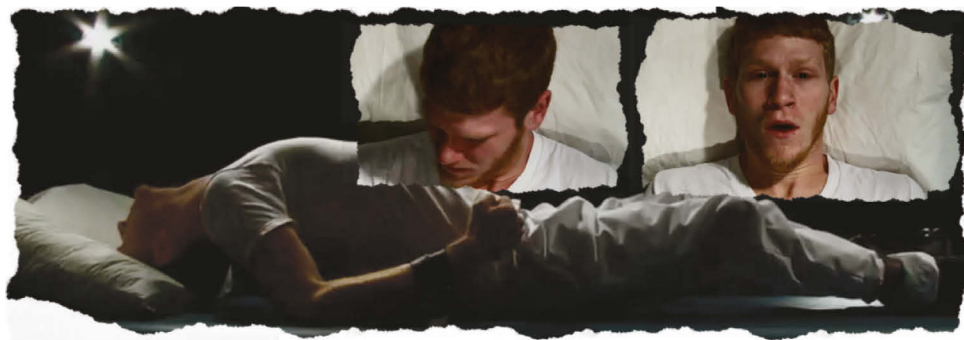
**Address:** 3803 Noble Road Williamston

**Hours:** 6-10 p.m. Friday; 1-10 p.m. Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Sunday

**Open Until:** Oct. 30

**Prices:** \$7 per person, Family discounts: three for \$20, four for \$25, five for \$30, Age 5 and under are free.

Features: For the first time in 11 years, the corn maze has a pirate theme — and a curse on the treasure. "Disturb it and you are cursed to be tossed around in the green sea lost for eternity," we are warned. There are four towers overlooking the maze, in



Courtesy Photo

You may need some therapy after visiting the creepy clinic inside MSU's Haunted Aud.

case help is needed. Those who have small children can bypass harder sections of the maze and enjoy fresh cider and donuts at the end.

### The Country Mill

**Address:** 4648 Otto Road, Charlotte

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. From Nov. 1 to Thanksgiving: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday

**Prices:** Haunted Cider Mill \$7; Haunted House for Kids \$2

Features: The Country Mill offers a few different spooky Halloween events, such as the Haunted Cider Mill and the Haunted House for kids. The Haunted Cider Mill is held in Orchard Barn.

The Haunted House for Kids is an indoor, family-friendly inflatable play-area.

### Shawhaven Haunted Farm

**Address:** 1826 Rolfe Rd, Mason

**Hours:** Tickets sold from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, and 7-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; events run until last person leaves.

**Open:** Oct. 27-29

**Price:** \$10 per attraction, or \$20 for all three attractions; \$5 corn maze; \$5 for The Last Ride; 3 and under are free.

Features: The farm features several haunted attractions: Wagons of Fear, Dead Maze and Samara's Boarding House, a grave simulator called The Last Ride and a corn maze. All the events are aimed at families.

"We don't get into a lot of blood and guts, like some of the others," said Doug Shaw, who has been running the farm with his wife for six years. They have had children as young as 7 go through without a problem, he said.

# THE HAUNTED AUD

THIRD ANNUAL

AUDITORIUM BUILDING

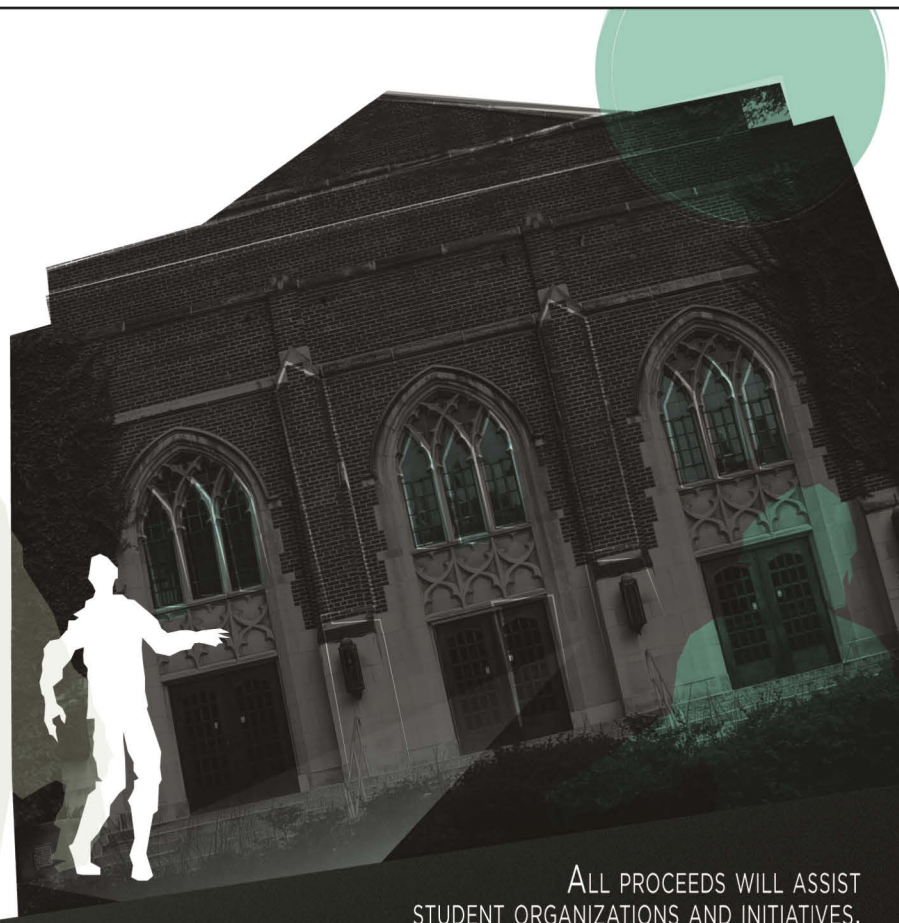
\$10 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

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OCT. 28 & 29: 8PM - MIDNIGHT

OCT. 30 - 8PM - 11PM



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MICHIGAN STATE  
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# Be sly, not sleazy

By JON JAMES

Halloween is just around the corner, and if you haven't gotten your costume together yet, it's crunch time. For women, your costume options may seem to range from Sexy Cop to Sexy Yodeler to Sexy Pirate to Sexy Mafia Hitwoman. What if you don't want a costume that is designed only to objectify your body for men? Here are 10 costume ideas that don't require you to dress like a stripper.

## #1: Famous Work of Art

Go as a famous painting or statue. Most statues can be relatively simple: Lady Liberty requires only a green sheet, some body paint and a flashlight, for example. Paintings can be a little more complicated, but also rely more heavily on makeup, meaning less to buy from the Meijer sale rack Friday night when the frat boys are buying beer. A Picasso just means drawing eyes on your cheek, and a Frida could be as simple as scribbling in a unibrow and poking your head through an afghan.

## #2: Literary Character

This becomes much less constricting if you pick a book that doesn't yet have a movie adaptation. Find a few key pieces of attire for the character, and the rest is up to your imagination. Props are also handy for this. "The Picture of Dorian Grey" is a relatively easy one. Get a portrait of an older person that looks somewhat like you, and dress similarly to it. A sufferer from "The Divine Comedy" leaves plenty of room for artistic interpretation. With this, you'll have to be prepared for nobody to recognize what you are. But look at this as an opportunity to start a conversation about your favorite book.

## #3: A Pun

They may be groan-inducing to hear, but puns can make a great visual joke, and are pretty accessible to everyone, so you won't feel like a total hipster with a costume too obscure for the crowd you're with. They can be simple, like beer goggles by cutting the ends off some beer cans and taping them to a pair of shades. Or they can be pretty elaborate: I heard of someone going as a Freudian slip by donning a slip as a skirt and the spectacles and beard of the famous psychologist. The wittier it is, the better a laugh it'll get when people finally figure it out. The important part when thinking of puns is finding a phrase with a fairly abstract word in it that has a visual homonym.

## #4: An Iconic Game Piece

If you have lots of cardboard and paint lying around, this can be cheap, though potentially time-consuming. A ball hat and hoop skirt in a primary color could make an easy "Sorry" pawn. Pretty much any structured dress in black or white paired with a cardboard crown of matching color could be adapted into a chess queen. Or you could apply some foil to recreate the candlestick from "Clue." Picking an older game is sure to induce some nostalgia.

## #5: A Mascot

Mascots tend to have a few simple elements that make them unique and iconic, so if you can capture that, you will be easily recognized. Using long hair and a coat hanger, redheads can replicate the flying pigtails of the face of Wendy's fast-food chain. A bonnet and sundress makes a simple Sunmaid raisins girl. A bouffant hairdo and white shirt with name tag, and poof! You're

Progressive's Flo. And if you want to make a different sort of statement, just throw in a little gore or a knife-in-the-head prop and show off your distaste for the corporation.

## #6: A Deceased Celebrity

Going as Gaga or Ke\$ha may require you to show more skin than you are comfortable with, but you need look no farther than the past to find a more conservative (and warmer) alternative. Prowl the thrift stores for this one: A pink pencil skirt and blazer make an easy Jackie Onassis, when combined with a cookie-tin-painted-pink hat. Use a draping white gown, plus a blond wig and faux mole for an instant Marilyn Monroe. Audrey Hepburn can be mimicked with a black dress, some gloves and a pair of knock off Ray-Ban sunglasses.

## #7: A Drowned Woman

Dead people are a Halloween staple, but not all have to include buckets of fake blood and prosthetic wounds. A wardrobe of washed-out gowns and some blue lipstick make for a quick reanimated asphyxiant. Seaweed can be added on the cheap with a roll of green crepe paper. This can also be combined with period attire to make you a victim of the Titanic or the Edmund Fitzgerald. If you really want to make it look like you've been down there a while, barnacles and coral can be made out of clay and adhered to the dress.

## #8: A Cartoon Character

If you have a colorful wardrobe, this can be a cinch. Blue dress plus pink tights plus chartreuse scarf equals Daphne from "Scooby Doo." A red trenchcoat and matching hat is all that is needed to match Carmen Sandiego. To recreate Popeye's "goyl" Olive Oyl, a red sweater, a black skirt, and hiking boots are all you'll need. And if it's crimefighters you like, any number of colored tights and bodysuits can mimic your choice of superheroine.

## #9: Go Greek

The whole toga thing may have been a bit overdone since John Belushi's chant in "Animal House," but that only means you have to throw a few props on it to get respect. With a couple minutes of homework, you can find a Greek goddess that speaks to you. Then it's a simple matter to fashion a bedsheet into a toga, and all that remains is to find a few props and symbols to give the hint as to which deity you are donning. Some bubble wrap and a stuffed dolphin make you Aphrodite, or add an art-related trinket to go as one of the Muses.

## #10: A Drag Queen

Dressing in drag for Halloween might be a little risqué for you, or it might be passe. But dressing in double drag is neither of these. This is another costume where the makeup is key: Go heavy on the cheeks, dark lip-liner, and bold, high eyeshadow. Lay on the glitter, whip out the old costume boas and wear your tallest heels. Sequins are a must on your dress. Then, for an extra gag, stuff a pair of socks in your bra and adjust them so one is visible. Make sure to do your hair big — or else wear a wig, like the queens themselves.



## Organist Accompanies Classic Silent Film Nosferatu

By JON JAMES

In 1922, when the now-classic vampire film "Nosferatu" hit the big screen, the only sounds heard in a movie theater were performed live by an in-house organist.

This weekend, to celebrate Halloween, Lansing Theater Organ recreates the experience by accompanying the German horror film on a pipe organ originally installed in Lansing's Michigan Theater. The Barton organ was moved in the 1980s when the theater was converted into an office building. It's housed in the Grand Ledge Opera House, where the accompaniment will take place.

Playing the organ will be Scott Smith, president of Lansing Theater Organ and Grand Ledge house organist. He also performed on the same organ from 1972 to 1980 as the Michigan Theater's last house organist. Smith has played alongside many silent films, but this is his first performance of "Nosferatu."

"For its time, 'Nosferatu' is really something to watch," Smith said. "It's a film that's always



German actor Max Schreck plays the bloodthirsty Count Orlok in the silent shocker "Nosferatu," which debuted in 1922.

intrigued me."

Smith isn't the first person to find the movie — which stars Max Schreck as the

bloodthirsty Count Orlok — fascinating.

After the filmmakers were successfully sued by Bram Stoker's widow Florence — who argued that "Nosferatu" was too similar to her late husband's novel, "Dracula" — all prints of the film were ordered to be destroyed. Some bootleg copies of the silent movie re-emerged in 1929, and it popped up again in the 1970s.

It has since become a favorite title among silent film fans and horror buffs.

For those familiar with "Nosferatu," this performance will be a bit different than watching it on DVD. Performing alongside

the film means plenty of improvisational playing for Smith, who has watched the film a number of times in preparation, writing some original themes and getting a feel for the movie.

He says that the biggest challenge is finding the balance between overplaying the scene by following the action of each character, and not establishing enough theme to enhance the scenes.

"If I'm doing my job right, 10 minutes into the film you won't even know I'm there," Smith said.

There will be certain "theme songs" for characters and settings, but to connect those melodies Smith will be following the film, creating music on the spot.

### 'Nosferatu'

Accompanied by organist Scott Smith  
3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30  
Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge  
\$10 fin advance; \$12 at the door  
(517) 372-0945  
(517) 394-9881  
www.lto-pops.org



# HALLOWEEN EVENTS

## Wednesday, October 26

**Grande Paraders Halloween Dance.** Square dancing, costumes optional. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

**Trick or Treat on the Square.** Washington Square transforms into a gathering place for fall fun. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing, Washington Square between Michigan and Washtenaw Avenues, Lansing. (517) 487-1661.

**Halloween Dance.** Show off your costumes, with a DJ playing Halloween songs. 7-9 p.m. \$5. Lexington Lansing Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555.

**Halloween Fun Nite Concert.** Kids are invited to dress up in costume and be in a parade. 7 p.m. FREE. Dewitt Junior High School, 2957 West Herbison Road, Dewitt. dewittband@aol.com.

**Family Fun.** Selling, pumpkins, gourds; we have a giant slingshot you can shoot gourds and pumpkins with, mini golf and more. 9 a.m.-Dusk, Price varies. Roadhouse Events Center, 3700 Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 521-3100.

**Pumpkin Palooza.** Create a make-it-and-take-it craft and enjoy a treat. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

**Drop-In Pumpkin.** Decorate a pumpkin to take home. 3 p.m. FREE. Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St. Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

**Drop-in Crafts.** Halloween crafts for children ages 5-10. 4 p.m. FREE. South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. www.cadl.org/events.

**Tween Halloween Party.** Grades 4-6. Wear costumes and join for some scary Halloween fun, food and games. 4 p.m. FREE. Mason Library, 145 West Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

**Scary Stories.** Members of the Lansing Storytellers will tell spooky tales, not for the faint of heart. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

**Howell Opera House Contra Dance.** Ruffwater Stringband members join Michigan's Troubadour Neil Woodward to make acoustic dance music. 7-9 p.m. \$5 donation. Howell Opera House, 123 W Grand River Ave., Howell. (517) 540-0065.

## Thursday, October 27

**Zombie Night.** With a food drive to benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Zombie Twister and Zombie Bowling, and ghost stories. 7-9:30 p.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

**S.E.M.G.H. Ghost Hunting Program.** SEMGHS will share a PowerPoint presentation, along with video, audio and pictures from their investigations. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

**Great Pumpkin Walk.** Children are welcome to dress in their costumes and receive free door-to-door treats. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

**Safe Halloween.** Down M.A.C. Avenue, children can trick-or-treat and interact with college students. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.cityoflansing.com.

**Shawhaven Haunted Farm.** Get closer to fellow GRC'ers and ride the haunted hayride. 8 p.m. \$9. 1826 Rolfe Road, Mason. nburton@mwadvocacy.com.

**Family Fun.** 9 a.m.-Dusk, Price varies. (Please See Details October 26)

**Trick-or-Treat.** At Eastwood's stores for some haunting treats and giveaways. With Jammin' DJ's, face painting, cider, donuts and more. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-9209.

**Old Town Ghost Tour.** A spooky look of Lansing's historic Old Town with anecdotal and paranormal evidence of life from beyond the grave. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$5. Old Town Commercial Association, 1232 Turner St., Lansing. (517)

485-4283.

**"Land of Oz."** With 27 costumed actors and 46 new puppets transforming the inn into a colorful Land of Oz. 5-7 p.m. FREE. The Wild Goose Inn, 512 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-3334.

## Friday, October 28

**Halloween Party.** The Club will be decorated and there will be a costume contest. 5 p.m. FREE. Eagles Club, 835 High St., Williamston. (517) 655-6510.

**Corn Maze.** Not scary, fundraiser for Make a Wish. 6-10 p.m. \$7. 3803 Noble Road, Williamston. (517) 521-2378.

**Rep yo City.** Performance by Stylez Scene, and DJ Circuit Breaker. \$50 for best costume. 6 p.m. \$7 advance; \$10 door. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 528-3109.

**Trail of Terror.** 1/3 mile intense scary walk. After dark-10:30 p.m. \$10. 3803 Noble Road, Williamston, www.bestmaze.com.

**Williamston Haunted House.** By the Williamston Boy Scout Troop 63. Ghosts, goblins, and scary monsters, too. 6-10 p.m. \$3. Williamston Community Center, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. (517) 349-8348.

**Family Fun.** 9 a.m.-Dusk, price varies. (Please See Details October 26)

**Dog Trick-or-Treating.** Bring your dogs and join the original Doggie Trick-or-Treating and costume contest. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Old Town, Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-4283. jana@gone2thedogs.biz.

## Saturday, October 29

**Thriller Dance Workshop.** Learn the entire dance from beginning to end, for all skill levels. Noon-3:30 p.m. \$12 members; \$16 guests. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 364-8800.

**Swing Halloween Dance.** West Coast swing lesson, with pizza. 7 p.m. \$15. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 712-6674.

**Williamston Haunted House.** 6-10 p.m. \$3. (Please See Details October 28)

**Howloreen.** Dog trick or treating at participating businesses and costume contest. 4-9 p.m. FREE. Old Town, Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-4283. www.iloveoldtown.org.

**Corn Maze.** 1-10 p.m. \$7. (Please See Details October 28)

**Meet Spider, Bat and Mother Nature.** Experience nature, while enjoying Halloween activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**Trunk or Treat.** Kids can trick or treat, take a turn in the bounce house, or paint a pumpkin to take home. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Kelly Automotive, 495 N. Cedar St., Mason. (517) 676-9311. www.kellyautos.com.

**Trail of Terror.** After dark-10:30 p.m. \$10. (Please See Details October 28)

**Family Fun.** 9 a.m.-Dusk, Price varies. (Please See Details October 26)

**Mitten Mavens Present.** The Mitten Mavens Vampire vs Zombie Bout: Come dressed in a costume. 6-9 p.m. \$10 door; \$8 advance; \$6 student; FREE 10 years and younger. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. mittenmavens.net.

**Trick-or-Treat.** Williamston businesses welcome trick-or-treaters. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Downtown Williamston, Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-1549. www.williamston.org.

**Halloween Weekend Party.** Halloween costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, hayrides, bonfire, train-rides, pony rides and more. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. The Peacock Road Tree Farm, 11854 Peacock Road, Laingsburg. (517) 651-9193.

**Trunk-or-Treat.** Businesses will be set up out of their trunks. 1-3 p.m. \$5. McCormick Park, located at N. Putnam St. and High St., Williamston. (517) 655-1549.

**Halloween Adventure.** A Halloween Fun House and

inside the nature building discover crafts, pumpkin decorating, "treats" and exhibits. 10 a.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

## Sunday, October 30

**Williamston Haunted House.** 6-10 p.m. \$3. (Please See Details October 28)

**Corn Maze.** 1-9 p.m. \$7. (Please See Details October 28)

**DJ Olympics Boat Halloween Party.** Second annual Halloween Costume Party. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10 suggested donation. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 614-6439. www.capitalcitydjolympics.com.

**Family Fun.** 9 a.m.-Dusk, Price Varies. (Please See Details October 26)

**Halloween Weekend Party.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 29).

## Monday, October 31

**Williamston Haunted House.** 6-10 p.m. \$3. (Please See Details October 28)

**Kid Zone.** Ages 5-8. Stories, games and make a craft project around a Mad Scientist theme. Costumes welcome. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Dav-enport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3. www.dtdl.org.

**Halloween Extravaganza.** The Pink Boat is throwing a Halloween extravaganza benefiting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. 5 p.m.-Midnight. \$45. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (248) 291-PINK. www.thepinkboat.org/troppo.

**Family Fun.** 9 a.m.-Dusk, price varies. (Please See Details October 26)

**Halloween Storytime.** Ages 3-5, wear costumes to enjoy fun stories with crafts. 11 a.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 203 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

**Drop-In Crafts.** Children can make halloween related crafts. 2 p.m. FREE. Webberville Library, 115 South Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

## Tuesday, November 1

**Day of the Dead Celebra-**

**tion.** With an installation dedicated to the victims of homophobia, prejudice and hate crimes, along with a program of diverse cultural activities. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370.

## Wednesday, November 2

**Day of the Dead Fiesta.**

Enjoy Mexican food, a mariachi band, and the Fantasia Folklorico Dancers. Donations to Cristo Rey Community Center. 6-8:30 p.m. suggested \$5 donation. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7160.

# SEASONAL BEER

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BY ALEC J. NAGY

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Strong pumpkin ale with a rich flavor, backed up by lots of spice.

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Oatmeal stout brewed with coffee and a double dose of chocolate.

**8.3% ABV**

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**12 oz. bottle (6-pack) | \$9-\$10**

Contrary to its name, this English-style Extra Special Bitter has a crisp, breadly malt flavor.

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**Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.**

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**12 oz. bottle (6-pack) | \$9-\$10**

A classic malt-focused brown ale with a pleasant, roasty flavor.

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**12 oz. bottle (6-pack) | \$9-\$10**

An American-style Extra Special Bitter with a slightly hoppier flavor than its English sibling.

**5.5% ABV**

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**12 oz. bottle (6-pack) | \$9**

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# I was a teenage 'Dracula'

All-of-Us Express makes vampires family-friendly

By **CRISTINA TOSCANO**

"Dracula" is not usually thought of as being kid-friendly. But All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre thinks otherwise.

Tim Kelly's adaptation lightens up on the gore and adult overtones of Bram Stoker's story to make it more accessible for younger audiences and, according to East Lansing's Parks, Recreation and Arts department coordinator Kathleen Miller, all of the actors are under 18.

The cast includes Aaron Mahoney as Dracula, Austin Tanner as Professor Van Helsing, Adam Fox-Long as Jonathan Harker, Renee Bieler as Lucy, Camara Sigworth as Mina and Phillip Cobb as Renfield. "Dracula" is directed by Miranda Hartmann.

Miller says that with the "Twilight" films becoming so popular — "Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Part One" opens in theaters Nov. 18 — the theme of Dracula no longer represents an extreme amount of horror.

To go along with the theme, the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 11



Photo composite by Dylan "Boofer" Lees and Lisa Lees

Lucy (Renee Bieler) is stalked by Transylvania's most infamous citizen in the All-of-Us Express version of "Dracula."

a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29. Anyone who donates is eligible to win \$250 worth of free groceries from Meijer. To register, visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org), and use the sponsor code HannahCC.

**HAUNTED MANSION**  
**@SPIRAL**

**\$ 300 CASH PRIZE**  
**FOR BEST COSTUME**  
**Saturday October 29th**

Lansing / East Lansing's Largest Halloween Party  
 18+ Welcome — Doors at 9pm  
 Arrive Early THERE WILL BE A LINE!

[www.SpiralDanceBar.com](http://www.SpiralDanceBar.com)  
 1247 Center St, Lansing 48906  
 517-371-3221



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**NOVEMBER 6**

With infectious energy and highly charged rhythm, Yamato brings a heart-pounding spectacle of athleticism and musical expertise.

“Pure energy meets spiritual high”  
-The Scotsman

# YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

Friday, November 4 at 8PM

Media Sponsor  
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This presentation is supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, General Mills Foundation, and Land O'Lakes Foundation.



A dazzling display of flamenco dance and music, featuring one of flamenco's premier dance troupes. Experience a passionate evening of fiery footwork, music and costumes.

# COMPAÑIA FLAMENCA

## JOSÉ PORCEL: *GYPSY FIRE*

José Porcel, Artistic Director

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:30PM

Dance Series Sponsor  
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Media Sponsor  
MICHIGAN RADIO



A “brilliant, zany film-noir musical biography” raves *The New York Times* about Nellie McKay’s new cabaret show, “*I Want to Live!*,” inspired by the 1958 movie of the same name that won Susan Hayward an Oscar.

# NELLIE MCKAY

## “I WANT TO LIVE!”

Saturday, November 19 at 8PM

Variety Series Sponsor  
Accident Fund

Media Sponsor  
WKAR



With the use of amazing larger-than-life puppets, kids will be enchanted watching the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly unfold from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

TICKETS JUST \$8

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the story of a life cycle

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# The sum of his parts

City Pulse editor scores with cancer memoir

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If the prospect of one journalist interviewing another makes you queasy, you're not alone, but James Sanford wasn't going to tell you this story himself.

That's why the arts and culture editor at City Pulse, now a best-selling Kindle Singles author, sat at my kitchen table last week to talk about "The Sum of My Parts," a frank and funny memoir of his battle with testicular cancer.

No — not "battle." That noun isn't Sanford's style, nor are adjectives like "heroic" or "triumphant." If you read Sanford's sardonic City Pulse film reviews, you know his melodrama-whacking machete has been tempered by decades of disease-of-the-day dreck from Hollywood.

A lot of the fun — that's right, fun — of "The Sum of My Parts" comes from the 48-year-old Sanford's get-real, this-is-not-a-movie approach.

"There was never a terrifying turning point at which I woke up in a pool of my own blood, or collapsed in the middle of a busy street, or found myself immobilized by paralyzing pain," he writes. "I just kept going, wishing all the time that I would wake up one morning to find my body had returned to normal."

Maybe that's why "The Sum of My Parts" has been downloaded by thousands of grateful readers around the world. Sanford, who is in complete remission, doesn't try to push a "personal journey" on the reader, much less a "spiritual triumph." He simply lays himself bare, literally and figuratively. He gives the precise physical and psychological details he tried to find, but couldn't, when he was diagnosed.

What is surgery and recovery like? Is there a scar? How did the experience make him feel about his body? Why did the hospital charge him \$40 for a post-operation cookie? (Only the last question is never answered.)

Last month, Sanford got a one-word e-mail from a reader: "Life-changing."

Not bad for a veteran journalist who studiously avoided writing a word about himself for decades.

"I never thought it would leave my computer, much less go worldwide," he said.

Although Sanford has written hundreds of stories, profiles and reviews, he never considered diving into autobiography until he interviewed Wade Rouse, a bestselling quirky-funny memoirist in the David Sedaris vein, for City Pulse in August 2011. During a conversation at Rouse's home in Saugatuck, Rouse suggested that Sanford write down some of his own experiences in journalism. At about the same time, Sanford was enjoying Roseanne Cash's



Courtesy Photo

James Sanford, who now lives in Lansing was diagnosed with testicular cancer in the summer of 2002 while he was working for The Kalamazoo Gazette. His recovery is chronicled in "The Sum of My Parts," which is published by Amazon's Kindle Singles.

autobiography, "Composed."

During the grim, long winter of 2011-2012, he brushed aside his movie-addict stack of DVDs and started work.

Hired at 16 to work for the Grand Rapids Press, Sanford has interviewed a lot of famous and/or interesting people and seen a lot of changes in journalism. To his surprise, the memoir was "cranking along," heading for book length at 50,000 words plus, until he reached 2002 — the year he was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

It was like driving into a tunnel. "Up until then, the book was lighthearted, quirky fun, and now it's going into swelling groins, radiation treatments and all that," he said.

At first, Sanford decided to limit himself to a "cancer chapter," but the subject was too big. He decided to describe the whole experience in gory detail and worry about what to do with the manuscript later.

"I was pretty sure nobody would want to read about my crotch," he cracked.

There's a lot of graphic crotch regarding in the book, to be sure. When Sanford finds a lump in his scrotum, he deludes himself that it's a spider bite or some other passing problem. He tries hot baths, ice packs and old-fashioned denial.

His conclusion regarding "magical thinking:" "If it ever works, you certainly can't prove it by me."

Sanford not only has to deal with his cancer, but with other people who are dealing with his cancer. Ignorance is a constant theme. When Sanford first tells friends and colleagues about his diagnosis, some of them ask if he would ever be able to have sex or go to the bathroom again, or if he would need a colostomy bag. Other

friends asked him in all innocence whether the cancer was caused by diet or sexual promiscuity.

"What did you do wrong, so I can avoid it?" was his acerbic paraphrase.

Many assumed it's a death sentence: "Looking at them, I could tell they were already mentally shopping for the perfect black suit or tasteful black dress to wear to the funeral."

The book's most horrifying moment comes when Sanford gets into the tub for a nice post-surgery soak and suddenly glimpses his scar.

"It looked like I'd been chewed up by a wolf and sewn hastily together," he said. "Nobody told me it would take a few months for the scar to heal. I thought I was permanently disfigured."

But the body part Sanford most thoroughly scrutinizes in "The Sum of My Parts" is his head. Tapping into the fear and worry over his cancer led him to into every other issue he had with his body over many years, going back to junior high school.

"That was completely unexpected," he said. "I was glad I didn't write about it when I went through it or immediately afterward. It wouldn't have had the same perspective."

The larger theme of liberation — coming to terms with your own body, whatever its condition — emerges naturally from

the cancer story.

With Sanford's skeptical wit to lighten the load, the "cancer chapter" turned out to be lighthearted and quirky anyway. Right, James?

"People seem to agree with you," he said, cautiously. "I don't know. It was funnier to experience it through writing than to live through it."

## An excerpt from 'The Sum of My Parts'

*Shortly before I was scheduled to be taken into the operating room, I was dressed in a thin, white cloth gown and placed onto a gurney. A nurse handed me a blue Magic Marker. For a second, I wondered if she wanted an autograph, or something.*

*"Could you draw an arrow pointing to the place where we're going to be operating?" she asked. It was a good thing I was flat on my back because otherwise I think I would have rolled on the floor, laughing hysterically.*

*"Are you kidding?" I asked.*

*"No, this is our policy," she said. "Just draw an arrow to indicate which side we should be operating on."*

*She left the room. I was alone. Completely puzzled, I hiked up my gown, uncapped the marker and drew a large, hollow blue arrow on my left thigh, pointing toward my left testicle, which was visibly larger than the right. Inside the arrow I wrote the words "this side, please!" and colored in the space around it. My instructions were as explicit as possible. A neon sign could hardly have done a better job.*

*A few minutes later, I was wheeled down a hall and into an operating room. My first impression as I passed through the swinging doors was that it was far colder than I would have guessed. Even more surprising were the sounds that greeted me: some sort of buoyant calypso music, complete with shimmering steel drums. I almost expected to smell jerk chicken cooking.*

*The surgeon, an anesthesiologist and two nurses were waiting for me with carefree smiles on their faces, as if Happy Hour had started and the banana daiquiris were half-off. Granted, I had not spent much time contemplating what my first visit to an operating room would look and sound like, but even if I had, I would never have imagined this.*

*"Hello!" the surgeon said. "How are you feeling?"*

*I mumbled something about feeling fine and commented that the music had surprised me.*

*Everyone chuckled. "We like to keep things light around here," someone said, which was another thing I guess I never expected to hear in an operating room.*

*The anesthesiologist asked me if I had ever had anesthesia before. I had not.*

*"There's nothing to worry about," I was told. "Just relax and breathe deeply and concentrate on counting backwards from 10."*

*"Sometimes, people like to picture themselves on a beautiful beach," one of the nurses said. Well, the musical selection certainly would help in painting that picture.*

*I closed my eyes and tried to envision a sun-drenched beach with swaying palm trees and welcoming waves.*



### 'The Sum of My Parts'

Available through Amazon's Kindle Singles at [tinyurl.com/3mp8xvc](http://tinyurl.com/3mp8xvc)

The downloadable Kindle application is available on the same page.



# The name behind 'Anonymous'

Screenwriter John Orloff never gave up on his dream project; now, it's opening nationwide

By JAMES SANFORD

When John Orloff was a kid, there was essentially one topic being discussed in his house.

"Growing up, if you wanted to be part of the conversation, you had to be talking movies," he said, with a smile, during a visit to Ann Arbor last month. Orloff was on a promotional tour for "Anonymous," which he wrote and executive-produced; his previous screenplays include the Angelina Jolie drama "A Mighty Heart," two episodes of HBO's "Band of Brothers" and the animated film, "Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole."

The 45-year-old Orloff calls himself "fourth-generation Hollywood." His brother, Greg, won an Oscar for sound mixing on Jamie Foxx's "Ray." His father directed commercials. His grandmother, Peggy Knudsen, was an actress in the 1940s and appeared alongside Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in "The Big Sleep" and with Joan Crawford and John Garfield in "Humoresque." His grandparents, Jim and Marian Jordan, became radio legends in the 1930s as Fibber

McGee and Molly, and eventually wound up in films, too.

"I was really fortunate in that I always wanted to make movies," Orloff said.

One movie he particularly wanted to make was "The Soul of an Age," based on a screenplay he started in the late 1990s. More than 10 years — and 20 drafts — later, his dream project has become "Anonymous," a historical drama that boldly theorizes that William Shakespeare's immortal plays and sonnets were actually written by Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford; Orloff poses the idea that Shakespeare, seen in the film as a ne'er-do-well actor at the Globe Theatre, was paid by the nobleman to take credit for the writing, since moonlighting as an author would have been verboten in the earl's social circles.

Orloff's interest in the topic dates back to his days as a graduate student at University of California at Los Angeles when he saw an episode of PBS' "Frontline" about the controversy over whether Shakespeare, who had a modest education and little opportunity for travel, could have written such sophisticated, wide-ranging works as "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Coriolanus"



Courtesy Photo

Screenwriter John Orloff, at right, hangs out with "Anonymous" star Rhys Ifans at the New York premiere of the historical drama. Orloff began working on the project in the late 1990s, turning in about 20 drafts of the screenplay.

and "The Tempest."

"I had no idea there was an authorship question," Orloff said, "and the more I read the more fascinated I became. I thought, 'I want to be a filmmaker, but I don't quite have the gumption to write something like this.' It seemed large, intimidating and controversial."

So Orloff spent time focusing on studying directing and production instead, until his wife (who was then his girlfriend) got a job at Home Box Office.

"She kept bringing home scripts, and many of them were awful," he recalled. "But these writers had agents and they had careers. I started to wonder if maybe I should write again."

So he went back to work on "Soul." Unfortunately, his timing was terrible.

"I finished it two months before 'Shakespeare in Love' came out," he said.

While the Oscar-winning "Shakespeare" may have stolen his thunder, Orloff still managed to impress some readers with his tale: "It got me an agent, which got me into Tom Hanks' office, which got me 'Band of Brothers.'"

Orloff wrote two episodes of the acclaimed World War II drama series Hanks produced for HBO, which led to him adapting Mariane Pearl's memoir "A Mighty Heart" into a well-reviewed 2007 film.

Yet Shakespeare was always lurking in the background. "I never let go of anything," Orloff said. "Any time I was in a meeting, I would talk about ('Soul')."

That included a meeting he had with director Roland Emmerich, who was trying to find a screenwriter for "The Day After Tomorrow." "I couldn't deliver that; it's not

my skill set," Orloff said of the 2004 apocalyptic epic. "But I started to pitch him the Shakespeare idea and the story fascinated him immediately. That started this nine- or 10-year odyssey that's finally coming to fruition."

Orloff's original screenplay was "more contained," he said. "It was about the Earl of Oxford and (playwright) Ben Jonson and Shakespeare and how each one wants what the other one has. When Roland did his own research he discovered the Oxford/Tudor theme (including the connection between William de Vere and Queen Elizabeth I) and asked, 'What do you think of putting this into your script?' Suddenly, it opened up this intimate little script into a much more interesting tableau."

"Anonymous" is now a multi-level story, incorporating royal secrets, covered-up scandals and power plays that have deadly consequences. "There are a lot of moving parts in this movie, a lot of characters and a lot of plotlines that you're waiting to see how they will intersect in the third act," Orloff said.

He acknowledged "Anonymous" takes a few historical liberties along the way, altering the date of writer Christopher Marlowe's death and changing the premieres of "Richard II" and "Richard III" for the purposes of the plot.

"There are dramatic choices one makes whenever one makes a historical drama. But at the end of the day, there is hopefully some sort of emotional truth rather than physical truth." (As any theater scholar could tell you, Shakespeare was never a stickler for accuracy himself.)

"Art is supposed to challenge you and make you think, and hopefully this film does that," Orloff said. "Even if you think Shakespeare did write the plays, that's OK. It's not as much about the authorship question as it is about the intersection of art and politics. Can words change the world? Is the pen really mightier than the sword? That's a theme that's always relevant."

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## Exploring the horrors of hatred

**Day of the Dead event  
attacks homophobia**

By **CARLEE SCHEPELER**

This year's Day of the Dead celebration at Michigan State University will not only bring together the Latino community, but the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community as well.

"El dia de los Muertos," as it is traditionally known, is a festival in which families remember their ancestors who have passed away. This year's theme is homophobia awareness, and events are scheduled throughout the Nov. 1 celebration to honor



Courtesy Photo

Painted faces and costumes are part of a traditional Day of the Dead event.

victims of hate crimes.

"There have been so many tragic events recently where young (homosexuals) have committed suicide," said Estrella Torrez, an assistant professor at the Residential College of Arts and Humanities. She has

been involved with MSU's Day of the Dead events for the past three years.

"This isn't a new phenomenon, but it's really coming to the floor in the media right now. We thought, 'OK, this is the time to try to address this hate crimes and violence that's occurring within (the Latino) community.'"

National events like National Coming Out Day and Spirit Day recently took place to show support for the LBGTT community, but Torrez said homophobia isn't discussed adequately within the Latino population.

"It's the same violence that happens in other groups," she said, "but it isn't discussed as much as it may be in other ethnic communities. We have this opportunity with the Day of the Dead celebration to bring awareness and have dialog. We need to accept our brothers and sisters regardless of sexual orientation, and this is a great opportunity for that."

This year, the celebration includes a documentary called "Just Because I Am," which is about LBGTT people that have been victims of violence or hate crimes. One of the subjects of the film will speak later in the evening.

Traditional Aztec dance performances and an "ofrenda" installation will also be featured during the program. An "ofrenda" is an offering that is traditionally performed for the Day of the Dead, and this year it is dedicated to gender-shifters.

"It's incredibly important to celebrate the Latino culture," Torrez said. "A lot of times individuals don't recognize that there's a significant Latino population in Michigan. This is one way for us to share some of our beautiful culture and history with not just MSU, but the Lansing and southeast Michigan communities."

### Day of the Dead

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# Macabre Michigan

**'Ghostwriters' collects spooky stories from authors around the state**

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Do you believe in ghosts? I do — and just not Casper, but also malevolent ghosts of the kind found in “Ghostbusters.”

So who you gonna call when you want to read about ghosts?

Naturally, “Ghostwriters.” That’s the title of a collection of short stories, written by 12 Michigan authors and edited by Keith Taylor and Laura Kasischke, both University of Michigan writing professors.

Kasischke, who contributed the story “Ghost Anecdote,” says she personally

doesn’t believe in ghosts, but emphasizes that “my family was big into ghosts.” She said her mother’s side of the family was Irish and English, so it came naturally: “She put on a good show for a child.”

The author of several novels — including the recent “The Raising,” which has tinges of the paranormal — said that once you talk to people about ghosts, you find “there’s a lot of it going on.”

Her belief is that “since the material world is all there is for us, we want to believe in the impossible.”

She candidly admits that several stories in “Ghost Writers” got her going, including Laura Hulthen Thomas’ “Bones on Bois Blanc,” the tale of a woman trying to find a final resting place for her mother’s remains. Hulthen Thomas is from Ann Arbor and teaches creative writing at U-M.

“It really did creep me up,” Kasischke said. “It evoked that place so beautifully.”

She said she was also impressed by the 27-year-old writer Elizabeth

Schmuhl from St. Joseph, whose short story “Belief” is set on a farm on the Paw Paw River. It is the first major publication for Schmuhl, who teaches high school.

Keith Taylor says his short ghost story, “The Man at the Edge,” is a metaphor for race and the homeless, and that the idea for the book grew from Kasischke’s story “The Gray Lady of Lake Huron,” which she wrote for a collection titled “Fresh Water.”

“We were sitting around talking about ghosts and wondering how many people have those experiences,” Taylor said.

He said it dawned on them to put a collection together with only two requirements: All the authors needed to be from



Courtesy Photo

Laura Kasischke is one of the editors of “Ghostwriters,” a collection of ethereal tales set in Michigan. Kasischke says she doesn’t believe in ghosts, but understands their appeal: “Since the material world is all there is for us, we want to believe in the impossible.”

Michigan and the stories all had to have a Michigan setting.

Taylor said he believes that ghost stories have been popular throughout the ages because “we are bound by our own mortality and we are desperate to crossover. We put ourselves against limits and ghosts secure that line. When we lose people we love we can’t believe they are dead.”

He said that he’s not sure there will be another anthology of ghost stories, but he added, “I want to write some more myself.”

As we talked, Taylor conjured up the idea of tracking the path of his Irish grandmother, who died by her own hand on the barren plains of Alberta Canada early in the last century. He said no one knew she had committed suicide until 90 years later when he accidentally discovered an obscure book of Canadian police reports while sorting books for a sidewalk sale in Ann Arbor. That alone would make a great

start for a ghost story.

Not all the ghost tales in “Ghost Writers” will make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. U-M Professor Eileen Pollack’s short story, “The Devil in Cross Village,” is more of an essay about Father Weikamp and the time he spent in Cross Village, establishing a mission there in the 1800s. Weikamp’s crypt is just a short walk from the tourist attraction Legs Inn, where locals still tell tales of Weikamp rising from the dead. Pollack’s atmospheric writing would be right at home in a segment of “Tales from the Crypt.”

Another Ann Arbor writer Steve Amick delves into local legend Harry Bennett, who built a “castle” on the Huron River in Ypsilanti, complete with a moat and lions. He also built a lodge in Northern Michigan, outfitted with extraordinary precautionary devices to protect against attack.

Taylor said Bennett’s name has slipped back into obscurity and he now has to explain who the anti-union thug was.

Bennett was the muscle for Henry Ford, but he also was said to be haunted by voices. Amick writes

about the depths of Bennett’s depravity and the elaborate schemes he would undertake to eliminate the “haints” or voices. As those familiar with Amick’s writing would expect, “The Lake, the River and the Other Lake” is worthy of its own “Weird Tales” comic.

Other writers contributing to the collection include Nicholas Delbanco, author of 25 books and U-M faculty member; Lolita Hernandez (“Autopsy of an Engine”); James Hynes, whose most recent novel, “Next,” was a little creepy itself; and Elizabeth Kostova, author of “The Historian,” the bestseller written in pure Draculean prose.

Taylor said he knows the collection is not as spine-tingling as others might like, “but that was kind of the point.”

“Ghosts become ways we understand our fears,” he said. “Maybe even our hopes. Sometimes they are the way we test belief. And, yes, sometimes they define place.”

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“The Gray Lady of Lake Huron,” which she wrote for a collection titled “Fresh Water.”

“We were sitting around talking about ghosts and wondering how many people have those experiences,” Taylor said.

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**ADVICE GODDESS**

# Whiff the wrong man



**AMY ALKON**  
adviceamy@aol.com

**Q:** I admire that you often add research to your columns, so I thought I'd ask you about an article I read on birth control pills.

Apparently, taking the pill can cause the "wrong" man to smell good to you — a man you might not be into once you're off the pill. Unfortunately, I experience severe mood swings when I'm not taking the pill — uncontrollable rages for about a week a month. But, now I'm worried that I'll choose a partner I'll lose interest in reproducing with when I'm off the pill. Also, I wonder whether being on it is lying about who I am. Of course, if I can't control my mood swings, it won't matter, because I'll scare every man away!

—Medicated

**A:** It seems those health class videos about getting your period — "You're a woman now!" — were a tad incomplete. One week a month, you're also Chuck Norris.

The cause of your rage probably isn't all the people saying deeply offensive things to you like "Are you using that chair?" but a nosedive in your level of "the happy hormone," serotonin. Dr. Emily Deans, a psychiatrist with the terrific blog "Evolutionary Psychiatry" on PsychologyToday.com, explains that your period gets launched by a drop in progesterone, "which can interfere a bit with the machinery that makes serotonin. This can lead to hunger, cravings, agitation, insomnia, irritability, and rage" or, to put it in relationship terms: "Someday, my prince will run."

Deans says the pill can help alleviate these symptoms, and certain variations seem especially helpful: the 24-day pill and the three-monther (meaning Auntie Flo visits only once every three months). The problem is the issue you brought up. The article you read references the research of Swiss biologist Claus Wedekind, who made a bunch of women sniff a bunch of men's stinky T-shirts to study the pill's effect on mate preferences. Women who weren't on the pill went for the smell of men

with dissimilar immune systems — men with whom they'd produce children with a broader set of immune defenses. Women on the pill preferred the smell of men with immune systems similar to theirs (the immunologically redundant), probably because the pill chemically mimics pregnancy and cues a genetic adaptation that leads women to seek out kin to protect them when they're pregnant.

If that isn't enough bad news for you, the pill's pregnancy simulation seems to kill the attractiveness bump women get at ovulation, their most fertile time of the month, when their faces, scent, and other features become subtly more appealing to men. (It may also lead ovulating women to dress and act less provocatively than they otherwise would.) In a study by psychologist Geoffrey Miller, female lap dancers not on the pill earned an average of \$276 a night whereas those on it brought in only \$193, making pill-using lap dancers \$80 less hot and sexy to men per night.

So, the answer for your mood swings is... count to 10 when you get angry (because it sometimes takes that long for your rocket-propelled grenade launcher to warm up)? For a more peaceful alternative, Deans advises that some women's PMS symptoms are alleviated by certain antidepressants (SSRIs, or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as fluoxetine and sertraline) but notes their problematic downside: "Nothing kills sex drive like an SSRI!" Deans has had some success prescribing bupropion, a non-SSRI antidepressant she calls "unlikely" to be a sex drive killer, but observes that "it can be agitating and cause insomnia."

As a possible non-drug alternative, Deans suggests magnesium malate supplementation: "Five hundred milligrams of magnesium malate at bedtime seems to help with anxiety, rage, and PMS symptoms such as cramps and headaches," she says. "Magnesium is typically low in standard American diets and not found in large amounts in multivitamins and is generally safe if you have normal kidneys." Deans adds that cycling from a low-carb diet to a higher-carb, low-protein diet three days

to a week before starting your period can ease PMS symptoms, possibly by helping with serotonin uptake.

There is a prejudice that you're a better person if you just try to meditate yourself out of your rage on those weeks when you find yourself in the mood for long walks on the beach followed by a home strangling. But fixing brain problems by taking a pill is really no different from taking insulin for diabetes to keep from going into a diabetic coma. You're just taking a brain that's slacking off in the neurochemical department and bringing it up to par. Especially once you're in a relationship, a little "better living through chemistry" (or diet or vitamins) certainly seems preferable to doing "the little things" to keep your love alive — like sticking Post-its around the house with cute little messages like "Homicide comes with a stiff prison term."

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

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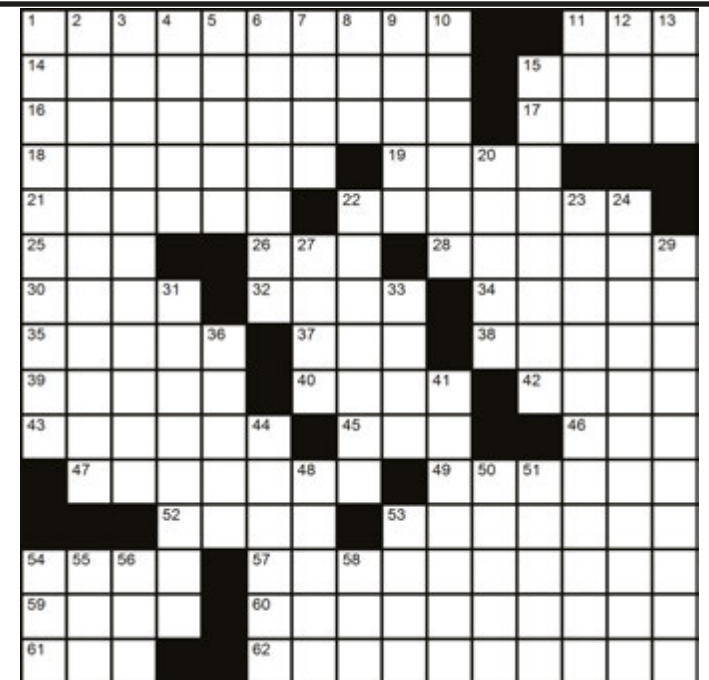
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free to Be" — no theme, just freestyle madness.  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Document of 1215
- 11 Set one's sights
- 14 Arrangement of resources or funds
- 15 "So Big" author Ferber
- 16 Hang in there till the end
- 17 Little girl's dream birthday present
- 18 Actress Ann of "The Whales of August"
- 19 301, in ancient Rome
- 21 To the back of the ship
- 22 Words yelled on the porch
- 25 It merged with Bell Atlantic to become Verizon
- 26 Shady figure?
- 28 1990s wrestling show on USA (until the league changed its name)
- 30 Flubs
- 32 Fashion legend Christian
- 34 Potato pancake
- 35 Rum desserts
- 37 Toots & the Maytals genre
- 38 Fathers
- 39 Leg of a race, in French
- 40 Chilean currency
- 42 Riga resident
- 43 Washington-area airport
- 45 "Star Trek: Voyager" station
- 46 \_\_\_-Hulk (Marvel superheroine)
- 47 Feature at the end of some wire cutters or French nails
- 49 More widespread



- 52 Ultra-bright
  - 53 Copper head?
  - 54 Dish out little barbs
  - 57 Like a "Let's Make a Deal" door selection, odds-wise
  - 59 Dollar competitor
  - 60 Digit-al agreement?
  - 61 Vessel in some rites
  - 62 Metalworkers' locales
- Down**
- 1 Furniture in a spa
  - 2 Cloud type
  - 3 Disco fixture
  - 4 Nighttime in Nogales
  - 5 Actress Amy of "Angel" and "Dollhouse"

- 6 Like a stone mound set up as a memorial
- 7 Top-of-memo abbr.
- 8 Movie with Blu the macaw
- 9 Affect
- 10 Aphid that creates a milky food for other insects
- 11 Fuss
- 12 Traveler's stop
- 13 One of a dozen
- 15 Huge blunder
- 20 Monks' hoods
- 22 Instruction for Johnny, in a "Breakfast Club" monologue
- 23 Preservationist working at a museum
- 24 Suddenly surge forward
- 27 Have trouble with the "missus"?

- 29 Canadians, vis-a-vis Cambodians, e.g.
- 31 Trees of the future
- 33 Sound like a heavy smoker
- 36 Scary words on a school paper
- 41 How some indie bands' singles are released, for music connoisseurs
- 44 Gets down
- 48 "Am I right?" at the end of UK sentences
- 50 Unable to sit still
- 51 Vowel sound
- 53 Similar
- 54 Stick in the microwave
- 55 Wall climber
- 56 Turn down
- 58 Storm heading: abbr.

### City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?  
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# OUT on the TOWN

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Calendar listings submitted after the deadline will be published if space permits. Paid classes will be listed at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Submit your event online at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-5069. E-mail information to [calendar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:calendar@lansingcitypulse.com) or fax to 371-5800. Info can also be mailed to 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

## OCT. 27

### Halloween arrives early in East Lansing

Why wait till Monday? you can put on your costume early again this year and take part in the Great Pumpkin Walk. This popular holiday celebration will feature family-friendly trick-or-treating along East Lansing's downtown streets. Families are encouraged to bring their costumed children to the event to receive treats from more than 50 downtown merchants. Each year, more than 1,000 trick-or-treaters flock to this Halloween event. While in downtown East Lansing, children can also attend Safe Halloween from 5:30-7:30 p.m. along M.A.C. Ave. for trick-or-treating, games and interaction with college students in one of Michigan State University's predominantly Greek neighborhoods. Also in conjunction with the event, the Wild Goose Inn (at 512 Albert Ave.) hosts its 4th Annual "Land of Oz," featuring 26 costumed actors and 46 puppets transforming the inn. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing. (517) 319-6877.



Courtesy Photo

### Wednesday, October 26

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Occupy Wall Street Discussion.** About the demonstrations on Wall Street. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced, practice in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

#### EVENTS

**Espresso Book Machine.** Talk with experts about making books/Esspresso printing project. 1-4 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6449.

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

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Last market of the season. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

**Lansing Christian School Open House.** Informational meeting for families with school-age children. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779.

See Out on the Town, Page 30

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Courtesy Photo

## OCT. 27

### Solitude at Lake Michigan prize picks

Loreen Niewenhuis, author of "A 1000-Mile Walk on the Beach," stops in Lansing to talk about her book and journey. When Niewenhuis turned 45, she felt compelled to break out of the day-to-day routine and to take on a big challenge. So she decided to walk all the way around her favorite place: Lake Michigan. "My mid-life crisis evolved into a mid-life adventure," Niewenhuis said. Niewenhuis shares her story and holds a book signing at Everybody Reads in Lansing. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

## OCT. 29

### Music to be heard by all

The 40th annual Spartan Spectacular takes place this Saturday at the Wharton Center. It's an annual concert sponsored by the Michigan State University Band Department that brings together over 400 MSU students and faculty for a musical celebration of the school. This year's concert features performances by the MSU Symphony Band, Jazz Octet I and the Spartan Marching Band. Various faculty members also join the show, such as MSU College of Music Professor Richard Sherman, who will be performing the third movement of Sonata Latino, with fellow Professor Deborah Moriarty accompanying on piano. The concert showcases the array of talent in the MSU College of Music, said Cormac Cannon, assistant director of bands for the college and the producer of the show. 8 p.m. \$12 adults; \$10 seniors. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. [Wartoncenter.com](http://Wartoncenter.com).



Courtesy Photo

## OCT. 29

### From spiders to splendid holiday fun

Halloween can be spooky and even a bit creepy, but the Harris Nature Center intends to change all that: "Halloween Adventures" offers a chance to meet spiders, bats and Mother Nature in what the center calls "the friendly forest." Children have the opportunity to learn more about nature through the theme of Halloween as the nature center hosts animals from Preuss Pets and invites visitors to discover a new appreciation for such misunderstood creatures as snakes, spiders and bats. Kids can take a hayride with a naturalist through the park and then enjoy spooky stories while roasting marshmallows. The day also includes a Halloween Fun House, games outside, crafts inside, and a real pumpkin piñata full of candy. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.



# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

## 'HAUNTED HOUSE' MUSIC AT MAC'S



Photo by Dave Trumpie

Robert Perry

For those who can't wait until the weekend to get in costume and shake that thang to some booming house music, Mac's Bar could be the spot. On Thursday, it hosts a night that's dubbed "Haunted House." Aside from a costume party, area DJs will also make some noise, including Ruckus, John Beltran, Jake Pechtel, Rachael P, and Robert Perry. For those who dig deep-house music and techno, you may want to check out "Indigo Play," a recent song Perry (who is also a producer) released for Dot Dot Records: The track is included on a compilation titled "Dots."

Thursday, Oct. 27 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$5, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## RED-RUM RUNNERS HOSTS HALLOWEEN SHINDIGS

Rum Runners, which claims to have "the best Halloween decorations in Lansing," will

host its 2011 Halloween parties Friday and Saturday. "We are very proud of our decorations," said Mike Walsh, a representative for Rum Runners. "We have employees that have worked on set design and prop-making for major construction. So much of our decor is custom-made, painted and installed." Both days include costume contests and cash prizes. Saturday is the customer-favorite "Tour of Terror." Best costume winner gets \$200 cash for first place and a \$50 gift certificate goes to the runner-up.

Friday, Oct. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 29 @ Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21 and over. www.rumrunnersusa.com.

## ULI'S HAUNTED HAUS OF ROCK HOSTS FREE SHOW

For those looking to head-bang to some familiar tunes, Uli's Haus of Rock could be the spot on Saturday when it hosts a free rock show/Halloween costume party. Taking the stage is Jamboozle, a high-energy, Lansing-based cover band that formed in 1998. The band plays a blend of rock hits from the past 40 years as well as tunes of today.

Saturday, Oct. 29 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing. FREE, 21 and over, 8:30 P.M. to 1:30 a.m.

## FRONTIER RUCKUS MASQUERADES AT THE LOFT



Courtesy Photo

### Frontier Ruckus

Local indie-folk wunderkinds Frontier Ruckus returns to Lansing Saturday for an evening of performance and Halloween masquerade at The Loft. The band is still busy touring the country in support of its latest album "Deadmall and Night Falls," which was just re-released in a double-vinyl edition

by local record label Lower Peninsula Records. Costumes are encouraged and the promoters ask guests to come "shrouded in mystery and fun anonymity." Prizes will be given to the most extreme look. Also taking the stage will be The Soil and the Sun (Grand Rapids-based folk rock), and Timothy Monger State Park, which is a musical project of Monger, who is also a part of the Great Lakes Myth Society, an area band. For those looking for some bumpin' bass, DJ Space and DJ Janitor will spin remixes and mash-ups. For ticket information visit fusionshows.com. Tickets are also available at Flat, Black & Circular and Music Manor.

Saturday, Oct. 29 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$10 advance, \$12 at door, 18 and +, doors 8 p.m. DJ show admission: \$3 for 21+, \$5 for 18+.

## NEON DJs SPIN SPOOKY GROOVES



Courtesy Photo

### Chase Frarey, a.k.a. iNoV8

Mac's keeps up the ghostly spirit on Saturday when it hosts "Neon Halloween." The night includes a costume contest and sets of "spooky grooves" from some of the resident Neon Tuesday DJs, including Roque Ybarra, Xaos, iNoV8, Dry Bones, Andy Lynch, and Chase Frarey, a.k.a. iNoV8. Frarey is a Midi-manipulating East Lansing-based DJ, who specializes in "hyphy, funky, crunky" and "bouncy bass and crunchy melodies"

Saturday, Oct. 29 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$7, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## SPIRAL INTO THE 'HAUNTED MANSION'

Spiral Video & Dance hosts the "Haunted Mansion: Ultimate Halloween Party" Saturday. The night features DJ John Cruz spinning Top 40 and dance music videos. The nightclub promises "crazy shows all night long," along with a special "Rocky Horror" number after midnight. The winner of the Spiral costume contest receives a \$300 cash prize. For more information, visit www.spiraldancebar.com.

Saturday, Oct. 29 @ Spiral Video & Dance, 1247 Center St., Lansing. FREE, 18 and over, 9 P.M. to 3 a.m.

## MICHIGAN PRINCESS RIVERBOAT SAILS THROUGH DEVIL'S NIGHT

The Michigan Princess is an old-fashioned triple-deck riverboat that has been sailing the Grand River since 1888. On Sunday, party people are invited to board the Princess for the second annual Devil's Night Costume Party, which features live music from a dozen local DJs. The boat will remain docked for the night, with the exception of one "midnight cruise" down the Grand River from midnight to 1 a.m.

The event, which is hosted by Boxcar Management, acts as a fundraiser for the Lansing Derby Vixens, an area roller derby team. Another highlight of the night is the announcement of the finalists in the 2011 Capital City DJs tournament, which is an annual local house, techno, and hip-hop DJ competition. For more information, visit www.michiganprincess.com.

Sunday, Oct. 30 @ The Michigan Princess, 2971 West Main St., Grand River Park, Lansing, 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cover begins at 10 p.m. \$7 with costume, \$10 without costume.

# UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

## LIVE AND LOCAL

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

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	Native Sons, 8 p.m.	Lyric'Lee, 9 p.m.	DJ Cutt Nice, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ With Travis, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Road	Still Rain & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Jedi Mind Trip & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Cheap Dates & DJ Donny D, 10 p.m.	Showdown & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.
Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Shaun Hughes, 9 p.m.	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 8:30 p.m.	Smoking Jacket, 9 p.m.	Smoking Jacket, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square	John Beltran, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Driver Rider & Road Show, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Gadget, 9:30 p.m.	Hooties, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Fundamentals, 9 p.m.	Chris Bathgate, 7 p.m.	Frontier Ruckus, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Robert Perry & Ruckus, Noon	The Elevator Conspiracy, 9 p.m.	Inov8 & Roque Ybarra, Noon
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.			Jive Turkey, 10 p.m.	Jive Turkey 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road		ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.	Hulkster, 10:30 p.m.	J.Y.D. Band, 10:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.

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





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Lansing Symphony Orchestra	Trowbridge Pizza & Pasta
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## Out on the town

from page 28

### MUSIC

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. [www.enjoyenso.com](http://www.enjoyenso.com).

**Original Songwriters Competition.** Seven acts will perform original songs judged for prizes. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4825.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**"Detroitland."** Richard Bak will discuss his book "Detroitland." 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext 4. [www.dtdl.org](http://www.dtdl.org).

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting.** Dinner & conversation. Needed: knowledge of great literary SF. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

**Fall Reading Series.** With Laura Apol author of "Crossing the Ladder of Sun." 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

**Dr. Colleen Tallen.** Author of "Decide While You Can." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-9923.

**Book Review.** Discussion led by Dennis Burnside, of James W. Douglass' "JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters." 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 323-6452. [www.cadl.org](http://www.cadl.org).

## Thursday, October 27

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Optimal Aging.** For family caregivers, providers and those interested in older adult care. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-3745.

**Slow Flow Yoga.** Geared toward beginners. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. [fofnc.org](http://fofnc.org).

**EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout.** Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 session. Hawk Meadows Park, Off Delta River Dr., Delta. (517) 243-6538. [www.ecotrekfitness.com](http://www.ecotrekfitness.com).

**Yoga 2XL.** Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Knee High Naturalists.** Ages 2-5, learn about different themes such as turtles, bugs, flowers, and

birds. 10-11 a.m., \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. [fofnc.org](http://fofnc.org).

**Legal Information.** The MSU College of Law Mobile Law Clinic will provide legal information and more. 10:45 a.m.-Noon, FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Astronomical Horizons.** Lecture by Professor Michael Velbel, "Sample Return from Comets and Asteroids: Promise Progress and Prospects." 7:30-9 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**Trademarks and Copyrights.** On the benefits of federal trademark and copyright protection & more. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 336-8088.

### EVENTS

**Euchre.** Come play euchre and meet new people. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Morning Storytime.** Songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Arts Expo.** College arts program representatives will meet with high school students interested in pursuing degrees in the arts. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [www.michiganyoutharts.org](http://www.michiganyoutharts.org).

**Women's Dinner & Awards.** The 28th Annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony. 5 p.m. Donations. Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. [www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org](http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org).

**Acrobats.** The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China is the first national performing arts troupe created by the Chinese government. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$25, \$35. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

### MUSIC

**Jazz Thursdays.** Lansing jazz legend Betty Baxter, vocals. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-4150.

### THEATER

**"The Dead Guy."** The Pitch: You get one million dollars but how you spend it is televised. 8 p.m. \$22-\$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org).

**"Conspiracy."** About the 1942 Wannsee Conference, in which Nazi and SS leaders gathered in a Berlin suburb to discuss the "Final Solution." 7 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 31

Lansing Concert Band presents

# Autumn Winds

**Sunday, October 30, 2011**

**East Lansing High School Auditorium**

**3:00 p.m. • FREE ADMISSION**

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Artistic Director and Conductor

Guest conductors **Kenneth Bloomquist and Daniel Alt**

Hosted by **Ken Beachler**



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# Out on the town

from page 30

\$10; \$8/seniors/students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Loreen Niewenhuis.** Author of "A 1000-Mile Walk on the Beach." Time to be announced. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

## Friday, October 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Relics of the Big Bang.** Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3 adults; \$2.50 students & seniors; \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

**LGBT Media Night and Discussion.** Watch LGBT movies and shows followed by discussion. Room 262. 4:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing.

### EVENTS

**Teen Advisory Group.** Plan teen events and give suggestions. Ages 13-18. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.3. www.dttl.org.

**Breakfast With Tom Izzo.** Crime Stoppers of Mid-Michigan annual fundraising event. 7:30-9 a.m. \$35. Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-4614.

**Grand Sousa Concert.** An old-fashioned Sousa concert. 7:30 p.m. \$10; FREE students. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Dr., East Lansing. (517) 333-7600.

## MUSIC

**Tony Bennett.** Bennett returns. 8 p.m. \$37-\$77. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com.

**Kallet, Epstein and Cicone.** Folk classics. 8 p.m. \$15; \$12 members; \$5 students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street, East Lansing. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Ethan Keller.** Alternative. 10 p.m. \$5. Rubbles, 112 W. Michigan St., Mt. Pleasant. (989) 772-1132.

## THEATER

**"The Dead Guy."** 8 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details October 27)

**"Conspiracy."** 8 p.m. \$14; \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details October 27)

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**"A Governor's Story."** With Governor Jennifer Granholm. 10:30-Noon, FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-9923.

## Saturday, October 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Relics of the Big Bang.** 8 p.m. \$3 adults; \$2.50 students & seniors; \$2/kids. (Please See Details October 27)

**Tai Chi in the Park.** Taught by Bob Teachout. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**The Threat of Nuclear Weapons.** "Countdown to Zero" or "Gate: Atomic Flame." 12:45-3:45 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 9:30 a.m. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-6003.

See Out on the Town, Page 32

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**TO PLAY**

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

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

Answers on page 33

## General Membership Meeting

Help keep the movement alive  
and shape the future of Capital Area Local First!

Join us at 4:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 3 at  
Physicians Health Plan  
1400 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
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## Out on the town

from page 31

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

**Every Mission Tells a Story.** Unique international fairly traded goods from third world countries. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 655-3592.

**Herbal First Aid.** Make a "Plantain Salve" for drawing. 10-Noon, \$12; \$10 Lansing residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

### EVENTS

**Taste of Okemos.** 30 restaurants showcase talents. 2-4 p.m. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 children. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 204-5962.

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

**Sunday on Saturday.** Casual setting worship and fellowship. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.

### MUSIC

**Arnie's Karaoke.** 9 p.m. FREE. Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 694-2698.

**Hall and Morgan.** Folk with vocal harmonies. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295.

**Mobile Deathcamp.** Metal music, all ages. 8 p.m. \$8. The Blackened Moon, 3208 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing. (517) 819-8059.

**Mason Symphony.** "Heroes and Villains" will be a

family concert. 7 p.m. FREE; tax-deductible donations. Mason High School, 1001 S Barnes St., Mason. (517) 485-1897.

**The Return of DJ Clarinet.** Music from big band to bossa nova. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Coffee and Friends Cafe, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-0962.

**Spartan Spectacular.** Music for the family. 8 p.m. \$12; \$10 seniors. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

### THEATRE

**Family Movie Matinee.** Enjoy popcorn while watching a family-friendly movie. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3. www.dtdl.org.

**"The Dead Guy."** 8 p.m. & 3 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details October 27)

**"Conspiracy."** 8 p.m. \$14; \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details October 27)

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Melissa Dey Hasbrook.** Discussion with author of "Circle... Home." 1-2 p.m. Suggested \$5 donation. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

## Sunday, October 30

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**"Relics of the Big Bang."** 4 p.m. \$3 adults; \$2.50 students, seniors; \$2 kids. (Please See Details October 27)

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 2 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-8789. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

**The Super Sky Show.** Hosted by Seymour Sky, on the all-puppet talk show, for kids. 2:30 p.m. \$3 adults; \$2.50 students, seniors; \$2 students. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. www.pa.msu.edu/abrams.

**"Inspiring Talk" by Mata Yoganandaji.** Meditation follows for as long as you wish. No charge. 2:45 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

### EVENTS

**East Lansing Farmers Market.** A market robust with a diverse selection of fresh, farm-grown products. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400

Hillside Ct., East Lansing. (517) 319-6823.

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Mojito spins salsa, merengue & Bachata. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$5, 21 and over; \$7 under 21. Fahrenheit Ultralounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

### MUSIC

**University Chorale and State Singers.** Works by Palestrina, Handel, Rheinberger, and more. 7 p.m. FREE students; \$10; \$8 seniors. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

**University Chorale and State Singers.** Including works by Rachmaninoff, Howells, Palestrina, Handel, and more. 7 p.m. \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; FREE students. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

**Autumn Winds.** With Clare Grundman's "Concord" Edvard Grieg's "The Last Spring," Scott Joplin's "Sunflower Slow Drag," and John Philip Sousa's "Semper Fidelis." 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Dr., East Lansing. (517) 641-4264.

### THEATER

**"The Dead Guy."** 2 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details October 27)

**"Conspiracy."** 2 p.m. \$14; \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details October 27)

## Monday, October 31

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**GriefShare Seminar.** A DVD series, with small support group discussion, part of an ongoing 13 week program. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

**Homeschool Science Series.** Series introducing students to scientific principles. Grades 3-5. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8116.

### EVENTS

**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.

**Euchre.** 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. (Please See Details October 27)

### MUSIC

**Open Mic Jam.** With Kerry Clark Blues Company. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

### THEATER

**Monday Morning Movie.** Get your film fix at the library. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District

Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.4.

## Tuesday, November 1

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group.** Support group for persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 10 a.m. FREE. Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health Center, 812 East Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 614-7820.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit.. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. Judy @ (517) 543-0786.

**Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group.** Self-help support group for persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

**Compassionate Friends Support Group.** For grieving parents who have lost a child of any age. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army South Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 708-7370.

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

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

**Yoga 40.** For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Yoga for Wellness.** A continuing class for people with some yoga experience. 9:30-11 a.m. FREE first class. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640. www.dharmayogaarts.com.

**Women's Self-Defense Workshop.** Learn to set physical and emotional boundaries, self-defense techniques, and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

**Homeschool Science.** Eight-week series, introducing students to scientific principles. Grades 5 to 7. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr., Lansing. (517) 485-8816.

**History in the Making.** Local restaurants have been invited to present the history of their business and/or building. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Grand Ledge, Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2383.

### EVENTS

**Speakeasies Toastmasters Club Meeting.** Open to new members. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham Community Health Center, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 282-5149.

**DJ-hosted Trivia.** Prizes awarded to the top three teams. 8-9:30 p.m. FREE. Tin Can, 644 Migaldi Lane, Lansing. (517) 925-8658.

**Game On.** Board and video games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Mojito spins tunes for salsa. 9

See Out on the Town, Page 33

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# Out on the town

from page 32

p.m.-Midnight. FREE. 621, 621 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-2212. www.621downtown.com.

**Donia Bijan.** Author of "Maman's Homesick Pie," 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7801.

## MUSIC

**Open Jazz Jam.** Weekly jazz series hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-4464.

## Wednesday, November 2

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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


**Meditation.** 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 26)

**Community Yoga.** 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 26)

**Wheel Throwing Clay Class.** Learn the basic use of pottery wheel for simple forms. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$35. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

**The RecordSetters.** With Dan Rollman and Corey Henderson. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7801. www.schulerbooks.com.

**Post Polio Support Group.** With Aletha Kuenstler, retired nurse and polio survivor, will share her book, "Chronic Illness." 7:30 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-1039.



Free

## Meditation

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Everyone welcome - For information:  
Call: (517) 347-1655 or (517) 853-1675

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

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

**Practice Your English.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 26)

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** An encore market, inside. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Wednesdays.** 7-10 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 26)

**Lansing Matinee Musicale.** The theme is autumn. 1 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. www.lansingmatineemu-sicale.org.

## THEATER

**"Will Rogers: an American Original."** Set in 1934, this production will re-create the look and feel of one of Will Rogers' famous "lecture tours." 7 p.m. \$18-24; \$10 students. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 372-0945.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting.** 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details October 26)

**Fall Reading Series.** With Andrew Hudgins author of "American Rendering: New & Selected Poems." 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

# LILY'S

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**FRIDAY, OCT. 28**

**WAYLAND**  
**CIRCUS ASYLUM**  
**BLIND REFLECTION**  
**THEE UNKNOWN**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 29**

**JAMBOOZLE**  
**HALLOWEEN PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 30**

**BATTLECROSS**  
**SILENT DIVIDE**  
**DOZIC**  
**ROTATION 200**  
**BALL DELUXE**  
**KILL WHITEY**  
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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

October 26- November 1

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "Life is not just a diurnal property of large interesting vertebrates," poet Gary Snyder reminds us in his book *The Practice of the Wild*. "It is also nocturnal, anaerobic, microscopic, digestive, fermentative: cooking away in the warm dark." I call this to your attention, Aries, because according to my astrological reckoning, you'd be wise to honor all the life that is cooking away in the warm dark. It's the sun-at-midnight time of your long-term cycle; the phase when your luminescent soul throbs with more vitality than your shiny ego. Celebrate the unseen powers that sustain the world. Pay reverence to what's underneath, elusive, and uncanny. Halloween costume tips: Draw inspiration from the shadow, the dream, the moon, the depths.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Speaking on behalf of the cosmic powers-that-be, I hereby give you permission to make your love bigger and braver. Raise it to the next level, Taurus! Help it find a higher expression. Wherever your love has felt pinched or claustrophobic, treat it to a liberation. If it has been hemmed in by a lack of imagination, saturate it with breezy fantasies and flamboyant dreams. Cut it free from petty emotions that have wounded it, and from sour memories that have weighed it down. What else could you do to give love the poetic license it needs to thrive? Halloween costume suggestion: the consummate lover.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You've heard the old platitude, "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." The owner of a pizzeria in Mildura, Australia updated that sentiment in 2010 when the area was invaded by swarms of locusts. "They're crunchy and tasty," he said of the bugs, which is why he used them as a topping for his main dish. It so happens that his inventive approach would make good sense for you right now, Gemini. So if life gives you a mini-plague of locusts, make pizza garnished with the delectable creatures. Halloween costume suggestion: pizza delivery person carrying this novel delicacy.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Some doors are almost always locked. On those infrequent occasions when they are ajar, they remain so for only a brief period before being closed and bolted again. In the coming weeks, Cancerian, I urge you to be alert for the rare opening of such a door. Through luck or skill or a blend of both, you may finally be able to gain entrance through — or perhaps exit from — a door or portal that has been shut tight for as long as you remember. Halloween costume suggestion: the seeker who has found the magic key.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Microbiologist Raul Cano managed to obtain a 45-million-year-old strain of yeast from an ancient chunk of amber. It was still alive! Collaborating with a master brewer, he used it to make a brand of beer. One critic praised Fossil Fuel pale ale for its sweetness and clove aroma, while another said it has a "complex and well-developed taste profile." I regard their successful project as a good metaphor for the task you have ahead of you in the coming weeks, Leo: extracting the vital essence from an old source, and putting it to work in the creation of a valuable addition to your life. Halloween costume suggestions: a friendly ghost, a polite and helpful mummy, a cloned version of Buddha, the person you were as a child.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "When I read a book on Einstein's physics of which I understood nothing, it doesn't matter," testified Pablo Picasso, "because it will make me understand something else." You might want to adopt that approach for your own use in the coming weeks, Virgo. It's almost irrelevant what subjects you study and investigate and rack your brains trying to understand; the exercise will help you stretch your ability to master ideas that have been beyond your reach — and maybe even stimulate the eruption of insights that have been sealed away in your subconscious mind. Halloween costume suggestion: an eager student, a

white-coated lab researcher, Curious George.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Sit, walk, or run, but don't wobble," says the Zen proverb. Now I'm passing it on to you as advice worthy of your consideration. Maintaining clarity of purpose will be crucial in the coming weeks. Achieving crispness of delivery will be thoroughly enjoyable. Cultivating unity among all your different inner voices will be a high art you should aspire to master. Whatever you do, Libra, do it with relaxed single-mindedness. Make a sign that says "No wobbling," and tape it to your mirror. Halloween costume suggestion: Be the superhero known as No Wobbling.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You could preside over your very own Joy Luck Club in the coming days. According to my reading of the astrological omens, the levels of gratification possible could exceed your normal quota by a substantial margin. You may want to Google the Chinese character that means "double happiness" and use it as your ruling symbol. And it might be time to explore and experiment with the concepts of "super bliss," "sublime delight," and "brilliant ecstasy." Halloween costume suggestions: a saintly hedonist from paradise; a superhero whose superpower is the ability to experience extreme amounts of pleasure; the luckiest person who ever lived.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): For over a hundred years, an English woman named Lena Thouless celebrated her birthday on November 23. When she was 106, her daughter found her birth certificate and realized that mom had actually been born on November 22. I'm guessing that a comparable correction is due in your own life, Sagittarius. Something you've believed about yourself for a long time is about to be revealed as slightly off. Halloween costume suggestion: a version of yourself from a parallel reality or another dimension.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Everyone is a genius at least once a year," said scientist Georg Lichtenberg. According to my reading of the astrological omens, Capricorn, the coming weeks will be your time to confirm the truth of that aphorism. Your idiosyncratic brilliance is rising to a fever pitch, and may start spilling over into crackling virtuosity any minute now. Be discriminating about where you use that stuff; don't waste it on trivia or on triumphs that are beneath you. Halloween costume suggestions: Einstein, Marie Curie, Leonardo da Vinci, Emily Dickinson.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're ready to shed juvenile theories, amateurish approaches, or paltry ambitions. I'm not implying you're full of those things; I'm just saying that if you have any of them, you've now got the power to outgrow them. Your definition of success needs updating, and I think you're up to the task. Why am I so sure? Well, because the Big Time is calling you — or at least a Bigger Time. Try this: Have brainstorming sessions with an ally or allies who know your true potential and can assist you in formulating aggressive plans to activate it more fully. Halloween costume suggestions: a head honcho, big wheel, fat cat, top dog.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): I know a woman who claims on her Facebook page that she speaks four languages: English, Elvish, Mermish, and Parseltongue. (For those of you who don't read Tolkien or Harry Potter, Elvish is the language of the elves, Mermish of the mermaids and mermen, and Parseltongue of the serpents.) My Facebook friend probably also knows Pig Latin, baby talk, and glossolalia, although she doesn't mention them. I'd love for you to expand your mastery of foreign tongues, Pisces, even if it's just one of the above — and the coming weeks and months will be an excellent time to begin. You will have a greater capacity for learning new ways to talk than you have since childhood. Halloween costume suggestion: a bilingual bisexual ambidextrous expert in reciting tongue twisters.

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



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Joe Torok/City Pulse

In addition to fine food, Dusty's Cellar in Okemos also features a well-stocked wine store and a broad selection of gourmet gift items.

## Don't let the name fool you

**Dusty's Cellar may sound like a second-hand store, but the food and service are definitely first-rate**

By JOE TOROK

If the renown of Dusty's Cellar doesn't precede your visit, its name might give the impression that a visit to a second-hand store is in the works.

What you'll discover, though, along with vintage wines and a unique gourmet boutique, is some of the finest dining around town.



### Review

And in this area, where many restaurateurs purposefully avoid such a classification in fear of missing out on a buck, Dusty's holds its head high. Our experience began with the apparent maitre d' asking if we had made reservations for our early Thursday evening visit: Reservations, it turns out, are advised. The gentleman's superciliously raised eyebrows met our response that no, we had not made reservations, so a seat at the bar or on the heated, enclosed Leelanau Patio was offered.

The patio was quieter than the main dining room, and we happily settled into patio's cool, metal mesh chairs and began to peruse Dusty's leather-bound menu.

Table service is well executed at Dusty's. Clad in all-black, the serving staff is friendly, knowledgeable and purposeful. Our server's timing was spot-on throughout the evening: He answered (or found answers) to our questions about the food, made gentle recommendations and appeared only when necessary — a skill many over-attentive servers never master. The pacing was superb.

We started with an avocado and jicama spring roll (\$10). An interesting attempt at fusion came with a fresh, cumin-seasoned slaw, and my thinking was that it would be a light start to the heavier entrées we ordered.

While the creamy texture and natural oil of the avocado got lost in the slightly over-fried spring roll, and the jicama did not impart the fresh crunch I had hoped for, the dish did come with a delicious, delicate house-made citrus marmalade. In the end, this appetizer's fantastic parts just didn't come together as a whole.

The meal brightened quickly with our salads, which were fresh and full of flavor. My companion chose an anchovy-filled caesar and I had the romaine wedge with bleu cheese dressing. With my salad, tomatoes and red onions mixed into the background, the fruit adding a touch of sweetness that helped balance the bitterness of the cheese and toasted walnuts. The walnuts and bleu cheese, forceful flavors individually, played well, both demanding attention but not overpowering the other.

The porterhouse with mashed potatoes and vegetables (\$34) was the evening's special. Cooked exactly to order (in this case, medium rare), the porterhouse, with tenderloin on one side of the bone and short loin on the other, was alternately elegant or rustic, depending on which side a cut was made. Like the T-bone, it's a fun cut of beef.

The potatoes — fluffy, with a hint of garlic — green beans and petite zucchini and carrots rounded out a dish beloved from Texas to the Upper Peninsula.

We went with the maple-glazed quail (\$23) for our second entrée. Crispy skin held the glaze, but the sweet maple mixed beautifully with the simple pretty, burnt-orange-colored squash that served as a

### Dusty's Cellar

Suite A  
 1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos  
 Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday; 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
 www.dustyscellar.com  
 (517) 349-5150

See Dusty's, Page 35

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# XIAO CHINA GRILL

By: Allan I. Ross  
 Photos by: Gaelle Cassin

For six months now, Xiao China Grill has been slowly building an avid fan base, wowing local diners with its distinctive American twist on an upscale pan-Asian menu. It's also been earning some well-deserved buzz as a destination location for power lunches, dinner parties and first dates.

"This is more than just a sushi bar or a fine dining restaurant," says owner/operator Frank Cheng. "Our goal has been to create a unique dining experience with a real urban feel to it. This is something completely different than Lansing diners are used to."

At Xiao, diners can count on world-class food, engaging service, and a visually stimulating ambiance in a centralized location—Xiao conveniently straddles Lansing and East Lansing near the corner of East Saginaw and Coolidge St. There's even a mini-museum, complete with authentic Asian musical instruments, outfits and works of art. It's all part of an ever-evolving process.

"Since we've opened, we've been continuously honing the menu to focus on what our diners like best and what else they're looking for," says Cheng. "We're always looking for ways to give people an experience like no other."

That constant state of improvement has given Xiao yet another new distinction—on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., the restaurant transforms into a stylish nightclub. And as if that wasn't enough, starting in November, the sushi bar will stay open until 3 a.m., giving late-night revelers something to stick around for after every other bar in town has given last call. Fat Cat Fridays provide live music and food and drink specials, and Shanghai Saturdays allow sushi fans to partake in half off martinis. At Xiao, it's like happy hour from open to close all week long.

"We're also going to be opening an expanded sushi bar on November 8, and we'll be having some incredible grand opening specials, including 25 percent off sushi," says Cheng. "We already have the best prices in town for our lunch and dinner menus, drinks, and sushi, but it's important to always be striving to be the best."

Xiao China Grill is more than just a meal—it's a dining event.




Pictured: Dragon Roll and Salmon Roll

**Costume Contest (18+)**  
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Visit our website for more events including **Shanghai Saturday**

517.580.3720  
 www.XiaoChinaGrille.com  
 3415 E Saginaw Street Lansing Michigan






# Dusty's

from page 34

bed to the dish. The stuffing in the bird — a mixture of wild rice and (the menu claimed) spicy chorizo that tasted more like smoked ham — was a tad strong solo, but when combined with mouthfuls of the subtle gaminess of the quail, with its dark, juicy meat, the dish came together nicely.

After two full meals, a heavy appetizer and salads, dessert might be eschewed. But at Dusty's, with a staff attuned to letting diners dine at their own pace, there is no hurry.

Even after we had plenty to eat, dessert was going to happen.

The key lime pie (\$6), our server told us, was the only non-Dusty's creation on the dessert menu. No matter. Served with an ever-so-tart raspberry sauce, the mildly acidic pie, velvety in texture and just

a touch sweet, paired well with a cup of fresh coffee (\$2.50).

What stood out from the final dish, though, was a small touch, a little detail: white chocolate mousse accompanied the pie. The star-shaped dollops, mild and milky in flavor, were silky smooth, melting in the mouth and disappearing into little daydreams. Their impressions let go begrudgingly, leaving nothing but a happy little smile; a fine flourish to an excellent evening.

Dusty's is the kind of place a penny-pincher might balk at, but what's refreshing is that you get what you pay for — great service, fine food and a relaxing evening. That's not an easy find, especially for the budget-conscious.

If you're looking for fine dining that caters to you without one-size-fits-all, scripted service, Dusty's Cellar is waiting for your reservation.

# foodfinder

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

## CAFES & DINERS

### JACKIE'S DINER —

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

### JERUSALEM BAKERY & MORE —

Some of the tastiest hummus you'll find in the area awaits you at this grocery store with a Mediterranean café twist. Short orders of baked kibbee, shwarma, falafel and much more are cooked fresh, while the hummus, tabouli and pillow-soft pita bread, among other selections, are ready to grab and go. 1456 E. Michigan Ave. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. (517) 485-9975. [jerusalem-pita.com](http://jerusalem-pita.com). TO, OM, \$.

### JOE'S GIZZARD CITY —

As "the only Gizzard City in the world," this 1950s-themed diner (in restaurant only, not in the bar) brings customers in for famous mounds of beer battered, deep-fried chicken gizzards. 120 W. Main St., Potterville. The kitchen closes one hour before the bar closes. 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-1 a.m., Friday-Saturday, noon-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 645-2120. [www.gizzardcity.com](http://www.gizzardcity.com), FB, TO, P, OM, Wi-Fi \$

### MENNA'S JOINT —

East Lansing-based franchise serves up its trademark "dubs" — wrap sandwiches packed with, among other options, potatoes, chicken cheese and more — at two area locations. 115 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-3 a.m. every day. (517) 351-DUBS. TO, D, OM, \$. Also at 4790 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-2:50 a.m. every day. (517) 324-DUBS. TO, D, OM, \$

### MIJO'S DINER —

Located near the Capitol

### CITY AIRPORT, MIJO'S OFFERS

hearty breakfasts like the massive western omelet made with five eggs to satisfy the hungriest appetites. 5131 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday. (517) 886-0406. TO, \$

### NEW YORK BURRITO/ DOWNTOWN SUBS & SALADS —

Popular dishes include the Philly-cheese steak and spicy Cajun chicken burrito. 216 S. Washington Square, Suite A. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. Barbeque menu on Friday & Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 374-8971. TO, P, \$

### OLD TOWN DINER —

A Lansing staple for more than 60 years, Old Town Diner specializes in breakfast skilletts. You could also opt for some fluffy pancakes, with crispy bacon and hash browns. 516 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. (517) 482-4050. TO, \$

### OLYMPIC BROIL —

From hand-battered onion rings to quarter-pound burgers covered in homemade Coney sauce, this restaurant makes almost everything fresh daily. 1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 485-8584. [www.olympic-broil.com](http://www.olympic-broil.com), OM, TO, \$

### O'NEILS —

This cozy, affordable eatery hugs it has the best Eggs Benedict in town. Also home to "the big one," a nine-egg omelet served free to anyone who can eat it in 30 minutes or less (otherwise it's \$14.99). 1017 E. Grand River, East Lansing. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. (517) 203-4745. TO, \$

### PENN AVE. DINER —

Southside diner known for its skilletts and other breakfast items, which are served any time. 6031 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. everyday. (517) 272-0504. TO, \$-\$



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### October Beer Tasting - Friday & Saturday

October 28 & 29 : 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 beers from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$17.50.

### 11/11/11 Wine Tasting - Friday

November 11 : 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$11.11.

### 11/12/11 Wine Tasting - Saturday

November 12 : 6:30-8:30 PM

12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$11.12.

### November Tapas Tasting

November 12 : 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Join Chef Kevin for a series of four tapas each paired with a different wine. Chef will discuss the wine pairings and cooking techniques. Cost is \$25.00.

### Dark Horse Beer Dinner

November 15 : 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Enjoy a five course meal paired with the great beers from Dark Hourse Brewing Company. Cost is \$46.50.



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