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August 30 - September 5, 2017



CityPulse's Summer of Art: "The Fire that is Fall," by Andrea Jeris. See page 9 for story.

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AN HOUR WITH ANDY SHOR

The Likely Next Mayor of Lansing




What:
Join City Pulse editor & publisher Berl Schwartz and reporter Todd Heywood who will be discussing mayoral politics with Andy Schor


When:
Thursday, September 28 @ 6pm
Doors open @ 5pm

Where:
Lansing Brewing Co.
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Watch:
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Andy Schor



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Correction

Because of a reporting error, a story on Kevin Wirth, who was murdered in his home on Kalamazoo Street, incorrectly reported the reaction of a friend of his to the decision by 54-A District Judge Louise Alderson to delay trying his accused killer after he was found incompetent to stand trial. The friend, Christin Harris, was incorrectly reported as saying she was "disappointed" in the decision. It should have said that she was "disappointed that the criminal justice court process can take so much time."

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1215

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1442. Signs, Section 1442.15 Window Signs; Permitted Zoning Districts.

Effective date: August 30, 2017

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk

www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope
CP#17-230

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On August 17, 2017, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

July 24, 2017 Special Meeting
August 1, 2017 Regular Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#17-232

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1403

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 50-792, 50-793 AND 50-794 OF DIVISION 6 – EAST VILLAGE DISTRICT – OF ARTICLE VII – OTHER DISTRICTS - OF CHAPTER 50 - ZONING - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING.

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1403 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on August 15, 2017, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1403

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1403 is intended to stimulate interest in redevelopment in the East Village District by reducing some of the restrictions that may be preventing redevelopment. The ordinance made the following general changes to the district:

- Loosened the required housing mix
- Eliminated the requirement to provide for commercial land uses on the first floor in some areas of the district
- Eliminated the requirement to implement the concepts recommended in the 2000 East Grand River Corridor Study
- Eliminated the requirement to provide for a public pedestrian pathway adjacent to the Red Cedar River
- Eliminated the two-story minimum building height in certain areas of the district

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1403 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

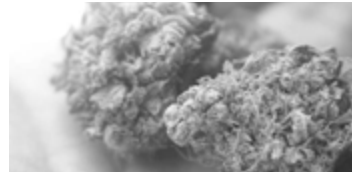
Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-231

CityPULSE

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Dispensaries nervously await city, state regs. See P. 6.



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Get to know the founder of the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival.



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Monday was the 13th annual Pulsar Awards. Here are the winners.



Cover
Art

"The Fire that is Fall," by Andrea Jeris.

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CITY PULSE **on the AIR** NOW AT 10:30 A.M. SATURDAYS on WDBM **IMPACT** 88.9FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

TRUMP GOES WILDLY OFF SCRIPT.
SOME FLESH-EATING ZOMBIES ARE GREAT PEOPLE! THE MEDIA ARE THE ENEMIES OF AMERICA! AND THE REAL VICTIM HERE--

START HERE!
BUT THEN--

--IS ME, DONALD J. TRUMP!
THAT I CAN TELL YOU.
AND THEN--

PUNDITS ARE OVERJOYED.
SUCH GRAVITAS! THIS WAS THE MOMENT HE BECAME PRESIDENTIAL AT LAST!

THE OL' TRUMP TWO STEP

TRUMP READS A LACKLUSTER SPEECH MOSTLY AS WRITTEN.
FLESH-EATING ZOMBIES ARE VERY BAD, AND I DISAVOW THEM, ALL RIGHT? I DISAVOW.

PUNDITS REACT WITH DISMAY.
THE PRESIDENT'S BIZARRE BEHAVIOR RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS FITNESS TO SERVE!
IF ONLY WE'D HAD SOME INDICATION OF HIS FUNDAMENTAL IRRATIONALITY EARLIER!

AND THEN--

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND THE TROOPS, AND THE FLAG, YAPPA YAPPA, BLAH BLAH BLAH.

AND THEN--

TOM TOMORROW © 2017

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

'Good luck with that' Insurance man pushes for elusive downtown grocery store

Everybody thinks it would be "awesome" but it never happens. A grocery store in downtown Lansing is a humble dream compared to a casino or a performing arts center, but it has proven just as elusive.

Paul Rathbun thinks the time is right. Cows are not kept here, and neither are coolers, but this man wants his milk.

Last summer, Rathbun, a partner in the Rathbun insurance agency, bought the former Rum Runners, at 601 E. Michigan Ave., at the northeast corner of Michigan and Cedar Street, across from the ballpark. He has the building nearly cleared out, listed the property last week, and he's pushing for a downtown grocery store as first-floor tenant.

The cleintele, Rathbun said, would come from the new apartments going up downtown and an established coterie of loft dwellers, including himself, who don't want to get into the car to pick up the day's needs.

Rathbun said he's willing to "cut a deal" with a tenant who commits to starting a grocery store. He plans to live in the 2200-square-foot space above the store and rent the lower level.

"Good luck with that," commented Shirley Decker Prescott, co-owner of Okemos-based Mert's Meats.

Prescott offered a painfully recent cautionary tale. Two weeks ago, Mert's closed its Lansing store, at 1629 E. Michigan, several blocks east of downtown, after three years. The Lansing store specialized in meat, but it also had a modest variety of groceries.

Prescott said the Lansing store got "great support" from downtown workers and Sparrow Hospital employees, but none from the surrounding neighborhood. Business was good for the first two years, she said, but plunged sharply in the third

year.

Prescott said an associate of Rathbun approached her about moving Mert's to the old Rum Runners spot, but she declined.

"I wish him well, but that's a terrible location and there's no parking," she said. "And there's no neighborhood either."

But many variables skew the calculus of the grocery business, and it's hard to compare one situation with another.

Rathbun contends that his spot is closer



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Downtown Lansing still lacks a grocery store, but Paul Rathbun thinks the old Rum Runners building, which he bought last summer and has almost cleared out, would make an ideal spot.

to downtown and further from the temptation to go to Kroger or Meijer.

He admitted parking is scanty, but he hopes the store will rely on foot traffic anyway. There are a few metered spaces along Michigan Avenue in front of his space, and he plans to get permits for a few spaces in the ballpark lot across Cedar Street.

As for Prescott's "no neighborhood" remark, Rathbun disagrees.

"I agree that there's not the numbers for a full grocery store," he said, "but with

the right mix of stuff, I have no doubt they would make money, because I live in that neighborhood and people are clamoring for it."

Rathbun said he pays \$1,600 a month for 800 square feet in his current loft, a block east from the Rum Runners spot.

"They're not the cheapest place to rent," he said. "The people that live in my building are professional people, they are doing a residency at Sparrow. They walk there, and some of them don't even have a car. They want to live in a cool building downtown, and they want the whole downtown experience."

Bob Trezise, director of the Lansing Area Economic Partnership, said it would be "great" to get a grocery store downtown, but it's hard to tell if the demographics support it.

"Whether we are at the tipping point or not, it's impossible to say," he said.

The Lansing City Market, only two blocks away from Rathbone's building, offers another cautionary lesson. After a long life as a traditional city market, the city tore it down and tried several combinations of fresh produce, dry goods and specialty stores in a new building along the riverfront. None of them stuck. Food emporiums of all stripes failed so often there that city officials started to spin it as a "small business incubator."

Trezise said there are incentives for a grocery downtown, such as the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, or OPRA, which freezes taxes on a new investment in an obsolete property. The state's Community Revitalization Program, a tool for mixed-use buildings in urban areas, might help with infrastructure such as a loading dock.

"I'm certain this kind of project could qualify for a CRP," Trezise said. "If they put a grocery store in that building, it's reasonable to think that the MEDC and us would be engaged with incentives to make a good go of it."

Last year, state Rep. Andy Schor, a candidate for mayor of Lansing, sponsored

See Grocery, Page 6



Eyesore Revisited
6109 S. Cedar St.
Lansing

This property was featured as an Eyesore of the Week (see below), in March 2015, following a reader tip. At that time, the owner had indicated his preference to work with actual tenants rather than building speculative structures in the hope of attracting businesses. However, he also indicated that a new development had been identified and that a new building was imminent.

The site's former service station has been replaced with a tidy new Dental Dreams medical office. Clad in multi-colored brick and a heavy cornice fashioned from finished exterior insulation, the new business has brought renewed activity to this corner lot.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye Candy of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

Regulation anxiety

Pot dispensaries nervous as state, city laws take final shape

The medical marijuana industry in Lansing is on edge.

The City Council is close to voting on an ordinance that would reduce the number of dispensaries to 25 overall, with 15 licenses to be approved in the first year and 10 more in the next. And the city has already ordered six to close because they violated a moratorium on new ones. A City Pulse survey last spring found there were about 60 dispensaries operating here.

As the state prepares to follow new regulatory legislation that takes effect in December, a commission appointed by the governor is considering shutting down all dispensaries as illegal and preventing operators from getting state licenses.

"It's frustrating," said Robin Schneider, legislative liaison for the National Patients Rights Association. "They're torn between leaving the patients in pain without access to medicine and staying open and keeping people employed."

That anxiety was echoed at an Aug. 21 meeting of the state Medical Marijuana Licensing Board. One member, Retired Michigan State Police Sgt. Donald Bailey, proposed shuttering all dispensaries and preventing their owners from obtaining licenses on the grounds they are operating illegal businesses. Under the Bailey proposal, all facilities would have to shut down by Sept. 15. The board's chairman, Rick Johnson, endorsed Bailey's motion, but it was tabled while the board sought an opinion from state Attorney General Bill Schuette on the board's authority to do so.

The Bailey proposal will be considered at noon Sept. 12 at Eagle Eye Golf Course in Bath Township when the board reconvenes.

Schneider called the proposal "mean." State Sen. Rick Jones, a Republican from Grand Ledge who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and pushed through the new licensing laws, said he supports closing them. That support, however, comes with the caution that patients need to be able to stock up on medications before any such shutdown.

City Councilwoman Jody Washington is "leaning" toward supporting the shutdown until the state hands out licenses.

"It's getting to be too much," she said. "They are all illegal, so why should they be rewarded? I just don't get it."

The city has stepped up enforcement of a May 2016 moratorium meant to prevent new dispensaries from opening until a licensing ordinance can be adopted.

A document prepared by Jim Smiertka, Lansing's city attorney, and provided to the Council on Monday shows that since June, the city has investigated 16 facilities for violating the moratorium. Of those, six have had to close, eight were deemed OK and two are still being examined.

Even as city officials crack down, the Council continues to wrestle with crafting a licensing ordinance that will satisfy both medical marijuana advocates and neighborhood leaders. It's a fine line, but Schneider said the Council appeared to be moving closer to a proper balance.

"I think when you land in the middle, neither side is going to be happy," she said.

"That's where this is. It's right in the middle."

She praised a draft discussed by the Council on Monday night that changed some of the buffer requirements for dispensaries from previous versions. That draft would shake loose more retail spaces for dispensaries.

However, Councilwoman Carol Wood has proposed amending the draft to include previous restrictions. The biggest difference is how city officials measure distances. In the current draft, a dispensary could be 500 feet or more from playground equipment. Wood wants the distance measured from property line to property line.

City Council's Committee of the Whole will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Sept. 7 to review Wood's

proposed amendments as well as a new draft submitted Monday night by Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke.

Under the new state law taking effect in December, municipalities may cap the number of dispensaries and use zoning to limit where they can locate. In fact, it leaves those decisions entirely to local governments, which can ban them altogether.

A 25-dispensary cap is troublesome to some on Council. Washington said she would rather see it capped at 20 and evenly distributed throughout the city's four wards.

Council President Patricia Spitzley said

she would rather "let the market take care of it."

Spitzley also expressed concern about a provision in the draft ordinance requiring applicants to show they have \$100,000 in net assets. The city does not require such a showing for any other business. However, state law will require applicants to prove they have the resources to run the business.

"I am not sure how that can be done," she said, particularly in light of the ongoing issues with federally backed banks and credit unions refusing to handle marijuana-related business dollars. That is because marijuana remains illegal on the federal level.

She said it may be time for the cannabis community to rally together and create their own banking facility that doesn't have federal backing.

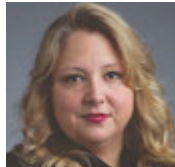
Because the businesses don't have access to traditional banking operations, they often have a lot of cash on hand. That's an attractive target for thieves.

To address potential security concerns, the Lansing ordinance would require that whenever the facility was open it would have to have a security guard on duty. No other business in Lansing has such a requirement.

"I don't think that's necessary," said Jones, a former sheriff of Eaton County. "I think what's important is that there is a real security system in place. I have been to dispensaries where you have to show your ID just to enter, then you have to be buzzed into another room where the marijuana is. I have been to others where they don't check the ID and the marijuana is right there in the open being guarded by some guy with a shotgun. That doesn't make sense."

— TODD HEYWOOD

'Neither side is going to be happy. It's right in the middle.'



- Robin Schneider, patients' rights advocate, on Lansing's proposed ordinance

Grocery

from page 5

a bill that would direct at least 5 percent of community revitalization money in Michigan toward helping develop grocery stores in Michigan urban areas. The bill has passed committee and awaits consideration by the House.

Schor said it would be "awesome" to have a grocery store in the spot Rathbun is proposing.

"Grocery stores make it work in other

cities," Schor said. "This is an amenity that people want and must patronize in order for them to be successful."

Mindy Biladeau, director of Downtown Lansing Inc., said a market study of the downtown area, which balloons in population by 1500 percent during the day, will be ready by December.

But Biladeau agreed that even with solid numbers, when it comes to retail, a lot of variables cloud the crystal ball. There is no "magic number" that would give a green light to a greengrocer, she said.

"It depends on the mix of products, the location and a lot of other things," she said.

"The trends are going in the right direction downtown, but whether we're there or not, who knows?"

Rathbun's would-be grocery is on a prime corner. The building had a long run as the Schetzer (later Schetzer & Sons) menswear store from 1916 to 1971 and did brief turns as an antique shop and furniture store before becoming Rum Runners in 1997. The notoriously rowdy bar with the black walls and dueling pianos upstairs closed in 2013.

This summer, Rathbun's team soda-blasted the lurid paint off the walls, stripping the interior down to classic

urban-loft boards and brick — with one major exception. In a few days, a crew from Volunteers of America will arrive to take custody of a hulking pizza oven still sitting on the first floor. Rathbun donated the oven, the tables and chairs and the other equipment Rum Runners left behind.

The oven is so big the window on the Michigan Avenue side will have to be removed to get it out.

"They took one look at it and said, 'We can cook 30 turkeys in it,'" Rathbun said.

Now all they need are the turkeys.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

ARTS & CULTURE

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Fun for a foundation

The third annual Michigan Chicken Wing Festival funds cancer foundation

By EVE KUCHARSKI

Lansing resident Shirley M. Carter, 61, by all outside accounts has been swamped. She has had entertainment to book, food to secure and prizes to plan for an estimated 6,000 people. But on Friday, she'll finally be able to take a breather with the start of the third annual Michigan Chicken Wing Festival.

"Chicken wing festivals have been around for 28 years now," Carter said. "But there hasn't been one in Michigan, not an official one. There have been festivals where they've had wings there, or a wing bash,

but this is different. It's something new for Michigan, the official chicken wing festival, and why not in Lansing? It's the capital."

The festival, which has more than 20 local sponsors, will include everything from an inflatable bounce house for kids to a beer and wine tent for adults and, of course, plenty of with chicken wing vendors. But despite all the festivities, Carter

said she started the festival for a more serious cause than an enjoyable weekend.

"It's not only the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival, but it supports a nonprofit I have for breast cancer and other survivors of cancer," Carter said.

Carter's foundation is called Against All Odds and has been around since 1999. Carter herself is a two-time breast cancer survivor, having been diagnosed for the first time in 1995.

"When I first was diagnosed, I was married but things started falling apart in the home, and by '99 I was separated," Carter said. "Being that my job closed out on me, I started researching for support and as a survivor, unable to work, I couldn't find a job."

Without a support system and means of income, Carter said she witnessed firsthand how the disease can damage not only one's physical health, but also the ability to cope with trying times. She said she spent time researching means of treatment when she was ill and eventually was able to land on her feet.

However, Carter said that she understands that springing back to normal isn't always a possibility for everyone. That's why her organization helps individuals on a case-by-case basis. Carter's help can include going to medical appointments with patients, paying a patient's phone bill for a few months as they recuperate or just being a friendly face.



Courtesy Photo

Founder of the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival (left) Shirley M. Carter with friend and fellow Against All Odds Member Queen Esther Murrell.



Courtesy Photo

Finley's was one of dozens of vendors to contribute its services to last year's festival.

For Dimondale resident Betteye Bolden, 64, Carter aided her by informing her of new treatments and organizing a way for her to fly out of state for it.

"I didn't know what to do. I didn't know where to go, who to trust, who to talk to. I was just devastated and she was able to find organizations for me that helped me — like this Angel Flight that she found for me," Bolden said, referring to a medical flight-sharing program. "They flew me to the Mayo Clinic. It was free of charge and they arranged housing for me and everything. I wouldn't have even known that such an organization existed."

Bolden was inspired after receiving help from Carter, so she decided to help Against All Odds too. Although Bolden's cancer has since come back, she said she has since become more knowledgeable about the disease and now advocates for patients to get 3-D mammography — multiple images of the breast that help patients get a clearer picture of their cancer — to ensure they have a better understanding of their own health.

"In my particular case, I had not been informed that there was a possibility that I had breast cancer, so I kind of didn't stay up with things. I went and got my first initial exam but I didn't come back because I didn't know I had breast cancer," Bolden said. "And it happened the second time. Ever since the first diagnosis I have had my mammogram every year."

That's exactly the type of situation Bolden and Carter hope to avoid. For now, Bolden has to suspend her advocacy in preparation for another flight back to the Mayo Clinic. She said that with Carter's help, she's been able to monitor her dis-

ease's relapse even better.

"I'm still under the doctor's care but thanks to Shirley, things that I don't know, I call her and she's just like a walking dictionary. She just pops up questions with answer and phone numbers and stuff," Bolden said. "She's not just for breast cancer. She's for all the things that can go wrong."

Despite Carter's best efforts however, she can still sometimes lose a patient. She said that for her, she becomes personally attached to each patient she aids.

"It touches me personally because I lost a lot of family members to cancer and a cousin died on 9/11 last year. She went through four rounds and I was her patient advocate. It can take a toll when you're dealing with someone so close to you," Carter said.

But this only pushes Carter to go further in her efforts.

"I have my way of knowing that at least I was there. At least I gave them information. And there were certain patients I helped with the information and there's no charge from our program," Carter said. "I go and speak to hundreds and thousands of people at seminars and it's rewarding for me to do that. I make sure to take my 'me time' and I have friends around me."

And in a way, the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival is just Carter's way of taking both her "me time" and ensuring she can fund her patient advocacy.

"Everybody loves chicken wings, and a lot of people are coming in from out of town from Knoxville, Minnesota, California and busloads from Kalamazoo," Carter said. "We call it a staycation. It's on Labor Day weekend and not everyone can afford to take one last vacation. Why not come to the festival?"

2017 Pulsar Award Winners

By CITY PULSE STAFF

This year marked the 13th annual City Pulse Pulsar Awards. The awards are dedicated to recognizing great theater in the Metro Lansing area and calling attention to some of the hardest working members of the local thespian community. This year's awards ceremony was Monday night at the Lansing Brewing Co.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners. To have been considered a nominee, a show must have been seen and scored by at least three Pulsar judges to qualify.

The Pulsar judges were Erin Buitendorp, Mary Cusack, Kathy Helma, Tom Helma, Meegan Holland, Paul Wozniak, David Winkelstern, Sue Winkelstern and Ute Von Der Heyden.

All of the Lansing area's community, professional or college theater groups were in contention. Pulsars do not cover children's theater, high school theater, gala presentations, student showcases or workshop shows. The season ran from July 1 last year to June 30 of this year.



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

The Pulsar Awards are dedicated to recognizing achievements in local theater. This year, the 13th awards were held at the Lansing Brewing Co.

Best Play

"A Painted Window"
Williamston Theatre

Best Musical

"Heathers"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Director, Play

Mary Job
"Taking Shakespeare" — Williamston Theatre

Best Director, Musical

Blake Bowen
"Heathers" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Musical Direction

Yasmin Gewirtz
"Peter and the Starcatcher" — Owosso Community Players

Best Choreography

Karyn Perry
"Heathers" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Set Design

Lee Jones

"Urinetown" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Properties

Michelle Raymond
"Summer Retreat" — Williamston Theatre

Best Sound Design

Jason Painter Price
"The Tempest" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Lighting Design

Daniel Walker
"A Painted Window" — Williamston Theatre

Best Costumes

Morgan Bowen and Shannon Bowen
"Heathers" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Make-up/Hair

Meredith Wagner
"Urinetown" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Make-up/Hair

Anna Szabo
"Eurydice" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Original Script

Christy Hall
"A Painted Window" — Williamston Theatre

Best Specialization

Alison Dobbins, Media Design
"The Tempest" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Lead Actor, Play

Michael Hays
"The Hemingway Play" — Riverwalk Theatre

Best Lead Actress, Play

Terry Heck
"Taking Shakespeare" — Williamston Theatre

Best Supporting Actor, Play

Lynch Travis
"A Painted Window" — Williamston Theatre

Best Supporting Actress, Play

Ja'Nay Duncan
"Disgraced" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Featured Actor, Play

Heath Sartorius
"Eurydice" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Featured Actress, Play

Laura Croff
"Wonder of the World" — Riverwalk Theatre

Best Lead Actor, Musical

Martin Underhill
"Man of La Mancha" — Starlight Dinner Theatre

Best Lead Actress, Musical

Bethany Heinlein
"Urinetown" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Supporting Actor, Musical

Jonathan Hamilton



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

The crowd looked on as winners received their Pulsar awards on stage.

"Urinetown" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Supporting Actress, Musical

Emma Kron-Deacon
"Heathers" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Featured Actor, Musical

Grant Cleaveland
"Urinetown" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Featured Actress, Musical

Laura Croff
"Catch Me If You Can" — Riverwalk Theatre

Best Ensemble Cast

"1984"
Williamston Theatre

Special Recognition for Contributions to Greater Lansing Theater

Carmen Decker



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

Williamston Theatre's Executive Director John Lepard accepted several Pulsars on Williamston Theatre's behalf.

Placemaking for regional revitalization

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing helps to create community

By **DYLAN TARR**

In the last few years, Lansing has seen a huge volume of urban revitalization projects. Old Town, REO Town and sections of Michigan Avenue are being pumped up and revamped. This year, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing is taking this same spirit of reinvigoration on the road to surrounding communities, with its first ever Create Place Consulting Program.

“The arts council started in 1965 and through the years our work has been about supporting and promoting arts and culture in the tri-counties,” said Deborah Mikula, executive director of the Arts Council. “Some of our work in the last three or four years has been very focused on creative placemaking.”

Placemaking is an economic development strategy that helps communities through the addition of art with heavy input from those living in the area, Mikula said. But with urban revitalization’s infamous sibling, gentrification, the Create Place Consulting Program’s community involvement is meant to change a community for the better — and for everyone.

“It’s coming from the residents and those that are working in those communities,” said Mikula. “The opinions, the ideas, everything comes from them. We’re then synthesizing through it and then writing up a plan of attack that came out of their own mouths.”

Already, the Creative Place consulting program has drawn up preliminary plans with two out of the three communities they’re working with in 2017.

“In St. Johns, they want to do a farm-to-table event,” said Mikula. “It will be created with all locally sourced food and would become an event that would help them pay for a three-story mural downtown.”

In Mason, Mikula said community members want to spruce up a highly trafficked alley in their downtown.

“They’re calling it their Art Alley,” said Mikula. “They would like to activate that space and put a lot of art along the walls, put lighting in and make it a vibrant space to gather and to highlight some of the things that are happening in Mason.”

Eaton Rapids, the third community the Arts Council is consulting with, has not yet decided on a of placemaking project. They intend to enact, but Mikula has high hopes for it.

The program consists of two meetings, the first a preliminary brainstorming session with the Arts Council and community members from the selected towns.

The brainstorming group consisted of roughly 20 members from St. Johns’ own

Arts Council, members of Clinton County’s Economic Development Center and other community members.

“We let the community choose their own people to be at the table,” said Mikula, “people that could make projects happen that were creative enough in their thought process and wanted to come around the table to discuss the projects.”

In the second meeting, the teams finalize the plan and draw up a course of action to accomplish it.

“Once the plan is written and handed back to them, we ask that they accomplish it in a year,” said Mikula. “We provide technical assistance throughout the year and if they call us we can come back together and keep them motivated to accomplish those placemaking ideas.”

None of these initiatives could have been possible without financial partnerships between the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative and a dose of state funding.

“Gov. Snyder has allocated a number of resources to each of the prosperity regions across the state to support different projects,” said Mikula. The Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative received a portion of these funds and used them to support the Arts Council’s Create Place consulting program.

Despite all the moving parts, Mikula’s hopes for the projects are straightforward: “That they happen and that they make an impact,” she said. “We want to see more communities actually create some robust and vibrant projects that will get more people in their community to see the impact they’re making through arts and culture.”

Only in its first year, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing is already taking applicants for the 2018 iteration of Create Place Consulting Program.

“We’re trying to go out of the urban core and do some work within some of those smaller communities that might not have the kind of resources at their disposal,” said Mikula. “We had the city of DeWitt call, we have meetings scheduled with them in October and we’re looking at Grand Ledge and Williamston, too.”

While the Arts Council plans this year and next year’s Create Place Consulting Program, it’s easy to get caught up in a pile of organizational logistics. But Mikula says their objective isn’t really that complicated.

“At the end of the day it’s about the pride we feel in our community,” Mikula said. “We want to see the pride just keep increasing and our communities becoming better places because of the work that they’ve done.”

Meet the artist

Colorful inspiration

By **EVE KUCHARSKI**

Each artist finds inspiration in something different, but for Andrea Jeris, 66, it’s usually color. That’s how she came to paint the autumnal tree on this week’s cover.

“That one is in my very own neighborhood and coming home on a Saturday from breakfast, I stopped the car and started taking pictures of different colors, those bright oranges and golds against the bright, blue sky,” Jeris said. “Color is what excites me, so I just had to stop and take it and then I had to paint it.”

Jeris’ fascination with art started early. “I was doing watercolors in high school. When I was 16, my dad had signed up for a mail-correspondence art course for a hobby for himself,” Jeris said. “In about three months, he lost interest in the course and he gave me all the supplies that came with it, which included a full set of oil paints. That was what started me in oil.”

It wasn’t long before Jeris began experimenting with a variety of mediums.

“I tried every other type of art as well and I loved them all, but if you want to get good at something, you have to stick with it, so I just kept painting,” Jeris said. “When I was in school, that’s what I did — I painted constantly. That’s why I have two bachelor of fine arts degrees. When I was graduating, they said, ‘You have enough art classes to get two degrees!’ No matter what I was taking, I was always taking painting classes.”

Those degrees are both from Eastern Michigan University, but Jeris holds a degree in commercial art from Oakland Community College as well, along with time spent studying fine art advertising in Detroit and plein air painting — painting out of doors — in Palo Alto, California.

Her time spent studying plein air painting has given Jeris an affinity for painting outdoors, but she isn’t a fan of one subject over another — something that she said makes art “more fun” for her.

“For a long, long time I did landscapes and I did life drawings and people. I never did still-lives, because I thought, ‘Who

wants to paint a bowl of fruit?’ And then I saw some online where they were a lot more modern takes on a still-life and I liked that. So, I tried that,” Jeris said. “They say to paint what you love, so I looked outside and I love the birds in my backyard that I see constantly, so I tried painting a bird. I thought, ‘Well that turned out pretty well, I like that.’ And then a couple of cats and I liked that, so I just expanded my subject matter to include just about anything that I like.”

Although she is retired from a career in graphic design, Jeris said she considers her oil painting to be a second career. She is also a big fan of artist Duane Keiser’s concept of daily painting. Jeris said she makes an effort to create something every day.

“You paint small, you paint quick, it’s just very satisfying doing these little works,” Jeris said. “I think you learn a lot by doing them very quickly and doing small works because if you make a mistake, you can just move on to the next one. And you can use these small ones as study to do large ones.”

Although Jeris usually sticks to fairly small canvases, 6-by-6 to 6-by-10 inches or so, she isn’t opposed to doing larger works. And she certainly isn’t planning on stopping her creative output.

“I just took a trip out to the Shiawassee Arts Center with a friend and she was dropping off some artwork and they have these huge fields of sunflowers and we took a lot of pictures out there,” Jeris said. “So right now, I’m working on painting a field of sunflowers.”

To find more of Andrea Jeris’ work, find her gallery at dailypaintworks.com.

Jeris’ work is the last entry in the second year of City Pulse’s Summer of Art program. City Pulse features art on the cover that the artists donate to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing to be auctioned at its annual Holiday Glitter fundraiser in December. The artist receives a 30 percent commission. This year, City Pulse featured 12 covers.



Jeris



Courtesy Photo

“Rain, the great equalizer,” by Andrea Jeris.

Books behind bars

Michigan inmate is successful author

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Prison writing and tattoos have a lot in common. Both give us a look at the soul of a person we can't experience in any other way. Both are seared with pain and often give us a glimpse of a culture we know nothing about.

Addict, convicted murderer and now published author Curtis Dawkins, 49, provides keen insight into an unknown world in his debut book, "The Graybar Hotel," a collection of short fiction.

The book joins a long history of jailhouse writing, most notably, authors like O. Henry, Jack London, Malcolm X and Jack Henry Abbott.

The 14 short stories written over the last 12 years of incarceration let us into Dawkins' world of locked cells, cheap mattresses, the yard and daydreaming cellmates.

I caught up with Dawkins by phone from the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater, to learn more about what led him to prison and what inspires him to write.

While talking, there was a sense of unspoken urgency since calls are limited to 16 minutes. A robo-operator alerts callers that calls are recorded, provides a number to call if the prisoner is harassing you and cuts in at 15 minutes, alerting you that you have one minute left.

Dawkins is an unusual prisoner. In 2000, he earned a master's degree in fine arts from Western Michigan University, studying under National Book Award winner Jaimy Gordon and regional writer Stuart Dybek. In addition to being published, both his former teachers contributed to the book.

In several of Dawkins' stories, there are glimpses of George Saunders' magical realism — elements of fantasy that are grounded in reality, such as in the story "573543," Dawkins' own prison identification number. The tale involves an inmate who

relates how his cellmate, Pepper Pie, teaches himself to disappear, aided by a prisoner number that was formerly held by a dead man. I won't ruin how Pepper Pie got his nickname, but it's hilarious and indicative of the importance of a nickname in prison.

Dawkins said he doesn't really have a jailhouse nickname.

"But my cellmate calls me 'Orville' because I like popcorn," he said.

How a man nicknamed Orville ended up in prison for life is not something Dawkins likes to talk about, but he accepts responsibility for his actions. In 2004, he found himself in a Halloween gangster's costume, wielding a .357 Smith & Wesson, a weapon he had bought to protect himself from the drug dealers he frequented.

His early life was characterized with alcohol addiction, but he cleaned up, and while studying at Western Michigan University he met his future partner. Kimberly Knutsen was a Ph.D. student with whom Dawkins had two children: Lily Rose and Elijah, joining Knutsen's son, Henry.

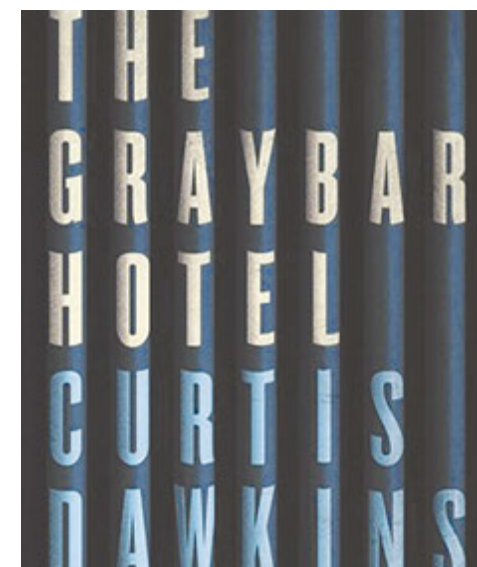
But Dawkins' idyllic reality soon succumbed to addiction again. After smoking crack, he went — there is no easy way to say it — crazy, becoming a murderer.

Although the situation was mind-numbing for Knutsen and the children, Dawkins said he still talks to them almost every day and is looking forward to an October visit.

Most publishers shy away from prison writing, so the circuitous way Dawkins' manuscript was accepted is fascinating.

While in prison, Dawkins said he began writing, including doing book reviews for a literary magazine. The editor of that magazine, Jarrett Haley, then moved on to become editor of the San Diego State Alumni Magazine. While doing an interview with prestigious alum, now a literary agent, Dawkins convinced her to take a look at his manuscript. She did and, within weeks, it was sold to Scribner Publishing Group.

Dawkins spends most of his time in prison reading and writing. He is listening to audio tapes of "Moby Dick" and T.S.



Courtesy Photo

Curtis Dawkins' fictional work written in prison, gained national attention for its keen storytelling.

Eliot reading "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock and Others." He recently finished an advanced reading copy of a book by National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward and predicts that "it will win a Pulitzer."

He reads in an eclectic fashion and calls authors Denis Johnson, Tim O'Brien and Don DeLillo among his favorites, along with the poet Billy Collins.

But Dawkins isn't resigned to publishing a single story. He said he has moved on to writing a futuristic novel about prison life, set in subterranean chambers where prisoners are put to sleep for the duration of their sentence.

Although he knows he will never get out of prison, he said "I'm really not here. I live mostly in my mind. I spend a lot of time in a fictional world."

Dawkins is also creative in other ways. He contributes to the University of Michigan Prison Art Project.

In a recent review in "Oprah" magazine the esteemed novelist Joyce Carol Oates called Dawkins a "wickedly skilled storyteller."

She may have understated his skills.

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

Capitol City Writers Association Meeting

Wed., Sept. 6 from 7-8:30 pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

Meetings are open to the public. This month's topic is *WORLDBUILDING: It's Not Just for Fantasy Writers*, presented by award-winning, NYT-best-selling author Colleen Gleason.

Michigan Author Vic Foerster presents *Hidden in the Trees*

Thursday, Sept. 7 @ 7pm
Meridian Mall location



Meet Vic Foerster, author of the 2017 Great Lakes Reads Selection *Naked in the Stream: Isle Royale Stories*, as he presents his newest publication, *Hidden in the Trees: An Isle Royale Sojourn!*

Welcome Home: Adoption Anthology Panel Event

Tuesday, Sept. 12 @ 7pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

Join us for an author panel featuring contributors to *Welcome Home*, a new anthology featuring a diverse range of celebrated Young Adult authors. Featured authors will be Erica Chapman, Stephanie Scott, and Darcy Woods.

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SUITS AND THE CITY
invites everyone to join us

- ♦ Wednesday, September 6 ♦
- 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ♦ For Our Welcome Back Event ♦
- on the Mezzanine of
- ♦ Hopcat ♦
- 300 Grove, East Lansing
- ♦ www.suitsandthecity.org ♦

OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Eve at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, August 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. At 6 p.m. Donation welcome. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.
Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington, Lansing. (517) 420-5820

MUSIC

Doc Howard Operation at Allen Farmers Market. Come enjoy a performance from Doc Howard Operation. 5 - 5:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St Lansing.

Tavern House Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing.
The Great Matt King - Elvis Impersonator Extraordinaire! All your favorites from the Elvis songbook will be sung! 7-9 p.m. FREE/ Donations accepted. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 805 W. Park St. Saint Johns. (989) 224-2429.

THEATRE

Auditions: The Government Inspector. From 7 - 10 p.m. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market. 2:30 - 7 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.
Practice Your English. Practice in a comfortable setting. 7 - 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

ARTS

Conscience of the Human Spirit: The Life of Nelson Mandela. Quilted work from a variety of African-American artists. 12 - 2 p.m. FREE. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus, East Lansing.

Thursday, August 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

A Course in Miracles. Group on peace through forgiveness. 7 - 9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes, Lansing. (517) 371-3010.
Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All skill levels welcome. 6 - 8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale Lansing. crisisrfg.com.
Celebrate Recovery. For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Duncel Road, Lansing.
Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. At 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.
Lansing Reiki Share. Welcome all curious about Reiki. 6 - 8 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D., Lansing. 517-402-6727.
NAMI Class for Caregivers. 12-session structured class. 6:30 - 9 p.m. FREE. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

12-Step Meeting. From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing.
Call for Crafters. Seeking crafters for 4th annual Holiday Craft Show. Call ahead. 12 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517)

393-3035.

Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center. From 12 - 1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Party Bridge. Weekly events at the senior center. 1 - 4 p.m. \$1 Members/\$2 Public. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Spanish Conversation. Practice speaking in a friendly setting. 7 - 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

ARTS

Teen Movies. Watch movies intended for a teen audience. Popcorn while supplies last! 1 - 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Friday, September 01

MUSIC

Live Music. Calling Doctor Howard. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. FREE. Unicorn Lounge, 327 E Grand River Ave Lansing. (517) 485-9910. facebook.com/UnicornOldtown/.

Jan Eberle, oboe, and Ralph Votapek, piano. At 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 Seniors/FREE Students and 18 and under with ID. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive East Lansing.

Live Music w/ Rachel Curtis. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing.

EVENTS

Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8-15). Play with fellow Minecrafters. Call ahead. 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

Video Game Night (Ages 8-18). Tournament style video games. Call ahead x3. 5 - 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351.

Saturday, September 02

MUSIC

Live Music w/ The Big Boss Band. At 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing.

EVENTS

Spartan Young Astronomers Club. From 10 a.m. to noon \$3. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

Sunday, September 03

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. For kids ages 8-12 who love learning about astronomy. 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Charlotte.

Juggling. Learn a life-long skill from Mike, the juggler. Call/Text ahead. All skill levels welcome. 2 - 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. At 6 p.m. \$8 dance, \$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave. Lansing. (517) 321-0933.

Rocking & Mixing in the Park for BBBS. Face painting, yard games, and a Dunk tank and local bands like the Scratch Pilots performing. 12 - 10 p.m. FREE. Ferris Park, 323 N. Walnut St., Lansing.

Monday, September 04

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

A Course in Love. Weekly group dedicated to the study of the spiritual psychology. 1 - 2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

Support Group. For the recently divorced, widowed and separated. 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. Learn a new instrument or dust off an old one. 6 - 8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

EVENTS

Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot. Weekly events at the senior center. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Social Bridge. Meet new people, no partner needed. 1 - 4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing.

ARTS

Monday Night Life Drawing. 7 - 9 p.m. \$10 per session (\$5 for students) to cover the model and studio. O'Day Studios, Suite 115 1650 Kendale Blvd. East Lansing.

Tuesday, September 05

See Out on the Town Page 14

A hint of music and a touch of magic



Courtesy Photo

"Hoodoo Love's" "Deacon" Earl Darnell rehearses with co-star Camille Thomas.

September 2

A runaway, the Great Depression, blues music and a little bit of magic thrown in — Katori Hall's play "Hoodoo Love" has a little bit of everything. That's partly why Rico Bruce Wade, the play's director, was excited to put on the show with the Ixion Ensemble.

"The playwright made these characters face these difficult times unflinchingly," Wade said. "I was attracted to the language of the piece and the characters, and it's very authentic and it's very rich. It's a simple, direct elegance, very much like the blues."

And the blues of course, play a huge part in this production. Although it is a play, the story has a large musical component, centering around the main character, Toulou, played by Camille Thomas.

"'Hoodoo Love' is a story about a young woman finding her voice. In this case, because the blues play a part in the storytelling, she is literally finding her voice," Wade said. "She's making her way during a very difficult time. A difficult time personally for her, and also a difficult time in our cultural history. This play takes place during the '30s during the Great Depression in segregated Memphis."

Wade said that the setting of the play allowed for an examination of a major turning point in U.S. history, as well as for the use of a frequently unheard voice.

"This is a play that is about four

African-American characters in a very specific time in a very specific place," Wade said. "The playwright captures that voice spot-on."

But Wade makes clear that the "blues are not a superfluous element" in the storytelling. The genre's centrality is why actual blues musician "Deacon" Earl Darnell was cast in the role of Ace of Spades, the play's bluesman.

A first-time cast member, Darnell wasn't initially a part of the production, but after some well-intentioned prodding, decided to go for it.

"A lot of people referred me because I'm not actually an actor, I'm a bluesman who plays guitar and harmonica," Darnell said.

But Darnell too is excited about the subject matter and a chance to exercise his acting chops.

"I like the historical context of it. It touches on a few subjects that a lot of people don't touch on in the black community," Darnell said. "The tough thing is, it's different than memorizing a four-minute song, as opposed to two hours of notes, two hours of little, tiny lines. But I think I'll be fine."

— EVE KUCHARSKI

"Hoodoo Love"

Saturday, Sept. 2 -
 Sunday, Sept. 10

8 p.m.
 \$15

AA Creative Corridor
 1133 S. Washington
 Ave., Lansing
 (517) 775-4246

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Fri., Sept. 1st **TEJANO SOUND BAND**



Sat., Sept. 23rd **SILVER DOLLAR**



Thurs., Sept. 7th **TWIZTID**



TEJANO SOUND BAND AT THE LOFT

Friday, Sept. 1 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$20, \$15 adv., 9 p.m.

Tejano Sound Band's co-founders, Johnny Vasquez (accordion) and Richard Vasquez (guitar/banjo), have played Tejano music across Mid-Michigan for decades. The brothers' roots go back to their first band, Los Hermanos Vasquez, made up of their siblings. By 1994, after their older brothers retired from music, the pair formed the Tejano Sound Band. Known for its progressive Tejano tunes, the band incorporates hints of jazz, Norteño and Cumbia into what their bio calls a "Texas sound with a Midwestern twist." Friday, the six-piece outfit headlines The Loft – DJ E-NYCE shares the bill. Over the last 23 years, the Tejano Sound Band has released a series of albums, including "Ahora," "Yo Te Amare" and "Cierra Los Ojos." Today, after a few lineup changes, along with the Vasquez brothers, the group includes Bobby Gonzalez (drums), Lupe Moreno (lead vocals), AJ Garcia (bass) and keyboardist Rolando Revilla.

SILVER DOLLAR SALOON TRIBUTE EVENT

Saturday, Sept. 23 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

From 1975 to 1995, Rick Becker owned and operated the now-demolished Silver Dollar Saloon, 3411 E. Michigan Ave. Hovering on the border of Lansing and East Lansing, the beer-soaked night club and concert venue was a haunt for both college students and music fans. On Sept. 23, Becker launches the first ever Silver Dollar Saloon Tribute Event. The nostalgic shindig will be hosted at Tequila Cowboy in the Lansing Mall. While during its heyday, big names played the Silver Dollar – such as Kansas, REO Speedwagon, Tommy James & the Shondells, Rush, Del Shannon, Patti Smith, Alice in Chains and Blue Oyster Cult – this night is all about the venue's past house bands. Performing hours of local, live music are Northwind, Rich Kidz, Full House, Brat, Carrera, Showdown and Raggidy Ann. Tickets are available at lansingsilverdollarsaloontribute.eventbrite.com.

TWIZTID AT THE LOFT

Thursday, Sept. 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$30, \$27 adv., 7 p.m.

Since the mid-'90s, Twiztid has been a fixture in Detroit's notorious horrorcore-rap scene. The duo has released 11 full-length albums and 10 EPs — many released via the Insane Clown Posse's Psychopathic Records imprint and their own label, Majik Ninja Entertainment. Twiztid, which comprises Jamie Madrox and Monoxide, debuted in 1997 with its "Mostasteless" LP on Psychopathic. Two years later, when ICP signed to Island Records, Twiztid was also roped into a major-label deal, and the record was re-issued on Island and hit the Billboard charts. Since then, Twiztid has amassed a cult following and continues to tour. The pair's latest LP, "The Continuous Evulution of Life's ?'s," hit stores in January. Twiztid headlines Friday at the Loft; openers are Blaze Ya Dead Homie, Whitney Payton, My Brothers Keeper, Smokehouse Junkiez, Michigan Misfits, Knowledge Da MC and Prozak.

UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	'90s Karaoke	Love Lansing Party	Dead Hour Noise and Hordes
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd	Steve Cowles, 6:30 p.m.	Greg Smith, 6:30 p.m.	Daryn Larner, 6:30 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Rush Clement, 9 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Travis Faber, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walle" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Alistair Beerens, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Bryan Schaffer, 6 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	The Rotations, 9:30 p.m.	The Blue Haired Bettys, 9:30
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Hump Night Blues Jam		Karaoke Kraze !!!	
Harpers, 131 Albert Ave.	Alistair Beerens, 6 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.	
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Mike Cooley, 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Tempest, 7 p.m.	Tejano Sound Band	Chess: Black X White Party
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		The Dirtball, 7 p.m.	The Rocket Boosters, 8 p.m.	Vincie D & The Sensations
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Further Adventures of Fat Boy & Jive Turkey, 9 p.m.		
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	Jacob Ford, 6 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 6 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Mike Cooley, 6 p.m.	Daryn Larner, 6 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	Shaun Garth Walker, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Mark Weeks, 6 p.m.	Tom & Sean, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford - Duo, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.		Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.		
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.				Hoodoo Love, 8 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Sarah Brunner, 7 p.m.	Mike Cooley, 7 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr	Open Mic. Night	Alex Mendenall, 6 p.m.	Henderseth	

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

August 31 - September 7

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems," said businessman Lee Iacocca. You are currently wrestling with an example of this phenomenon, Aries. The camouflage is well-rendered. To expose the opportunity hidden beneath the apparent dilemma, you may have to be more strategic and less straightforward than you usually are -- cagier and not as blunt. Can you manage that? I think so. Once you crack the riddle, taking advantage of the opportunity should be interesting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Close your eyes and imagine this: You and a beloved ally get lost in an enchanted forest, discover a mysterious treasure, and find your way back to civilization just before dark. Now visualize this: You give a dear companion a photo of your face taken on every one of your birthdays, and the two of you spend hours talking about your evolution. Picture this: You and an exciting accomplice luxuriate in a sun-lit sanctuary surrounded by gourmet snacks as you listen to ecstatic music and bestow compliments on each other. These are examples of the kinds of experiments I invite you to try in the coming weeks. Dream up some more! Here's a keynote to inspire you: **sacred fun**.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): On its album "Jefferson's Tree of Liberty," Jefferson Starship plays a song I co-wrote, "In a Crisis." On its album "Deeper Space/Virgin Sky," the band covers another tune I co-wrote, "Dark Ages." Have I received a share of the record sales? Not a penny. Am I upset? Not at all. I'm glad the songs are being heard and enjoyed. I'm gratified that a world-famous, multi-platinum band chose to record them. I'm pleased my musical creations are appreciated. Now here's my question for you, Gemini: Has some good thing of yours been "borrowed"? Have you wielded a benevolent influence that hasn't been fully acknowledged? I suggest you consider adopting an approach like mine. It's prime time to adjust your thinking about how your gifts and talents have been used, applied, or translated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Author Roger von Oech tells us that creativity often involves "the ability to take something out of one context and put it into another so that it takes on new meanings." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, this strategy could and should be your specialty in the coming weeks. "The first person to look at an oyster and think food had this ability," says von Oech. "So did the first person to look at sheep intestines and think guitar strings. And so did the first person to look at a perfume vaporizer and think gasoline carburetor." Be on the lookout, Cancerian, for inventive substitutions and ingenious replacements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When famous socialite Nan Kempner was young, her mother took her shopping at Yves Saint Laurent's salon. Nan got fixated on a certain white satin suit, but her mean old mother refused to buy it for her. "You've already spent too much of your monthly allowance," mom said. But the resourceful girl came up with a successful gambit. She broke into sobs, and continued to cry nonstop until the store's clerks lowered the price to an amount she could afford. You know me, Leo: I don't usually recommend resorting to such extreme measures to get what you want. But now is one time when I am giving you a go-ahead to do just that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee invented the miraculous communication system that we know as the World Wide Web. When asked if he had any regrets about his pioneering work, he named just one. There was no need for him to have inserted the double slash -- "/" -- after the "http:" in web addresses. He's sorry that Internet users have had to type those irrelevant extra characters so many billions of times. Let this serve as a teaching story for you, Virgo. As you create innovations in the coming weeks, be mindful of how you shape the basic features. The details you include in the beginning may endure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The sadness you feel might be the most fertile sadness you have felt in a long time. At least potentially, it has tremendous motivating power. You could respond to it by mobilizing changes that would dramatically diminish the sadness you feel in the coming years, and also make it less likely that sadness-provoking events will come your way. So I invite you to express gratitude for your current sadness. That's the crucial first step if you want to harness it to work wonders.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Don't hoot with the howls at night if you want to crow with the rooster in the morning," advised Miss Georgia during the Miss Teen USA Pageant. Although that's usually good counsel, it may not apply to you in the coming weeks. Why? Because your capacity for revelry will be at an all-time high, as will your ability to be energized rather than drained by your revelry. It seems you have a special temporary superpower that enables you both to have maximum fun and get a lot of work done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): During this phase of your astrological cycle, it makes sense to express more leadership. If you're already a pretty good guide or role model, you will have the power to boost your benevolent influence to an even higher level. For inspiration, listen to educator Peter Drucker: "Leadership is not magnetic personality. That can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not 'making friends and influencing people.' That is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, raising a person's performance to a higher standard, building a personality beyond its normal limitations."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "One should always be a little improbable," said Oscar Wilde. That's advice I wouldn't normally give a Capricorn. You thrive on being grounded and straightforward. But I'm making an exception now. The astrological omens compel me. So what does it mean, exactly? How might you be "improbable"? Here are suggestions to get you started. 1. Be on the lookout for inspiring ways to surprise yourself. 2. Elude any warped expectations that people have of you. 3. Be willing to change your mind. Open yourself up to evidence that contradicts your theories and beliefs. 4. Use telepathy to contact Oscar Wilde in your dreams, and ask him to help you stir up some benevolent mischief or compassionate trouble.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A modern Israeli woman named Shoshana Hadad got into trouble because of an event that occurred long before she was born. In 580 B.C., one of her male ancestors married a divorced woman, which at that time was regarded as a sin. Religious authorities decreed that as punishment, none of his descendants could ever wed a member of the Cohen tribe. But Hadad did just that, which prompted rabbis to declare her union with Masoud Cohen illegal. I bring this tale to your attention as a way to illustrate the possibility that you, too, may soon have to deal with the consequences of past events. But now that I have forewarned you, I expect you will act wisely, not rashly. You will pass a tricky test and resolve the old matter for good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Want to live to be 100? Then be as boring as possible. That's the conclusion of longevity researchers, as reported by the "Weekly World News." To ensure a maximum life span, you should do nothing that excites you. You should cultivate a neutral, blah personality, and never travel far from home. JUST KIDDING! I lied. The "Weekly World News" is in fact a famous purveyor of fake news. The truth, according to my analysis of the astrological omens, is that you should be less boring in the next seven weeks than you have ever been in your life. To do so will be superb for your health, your wealth, and your future.

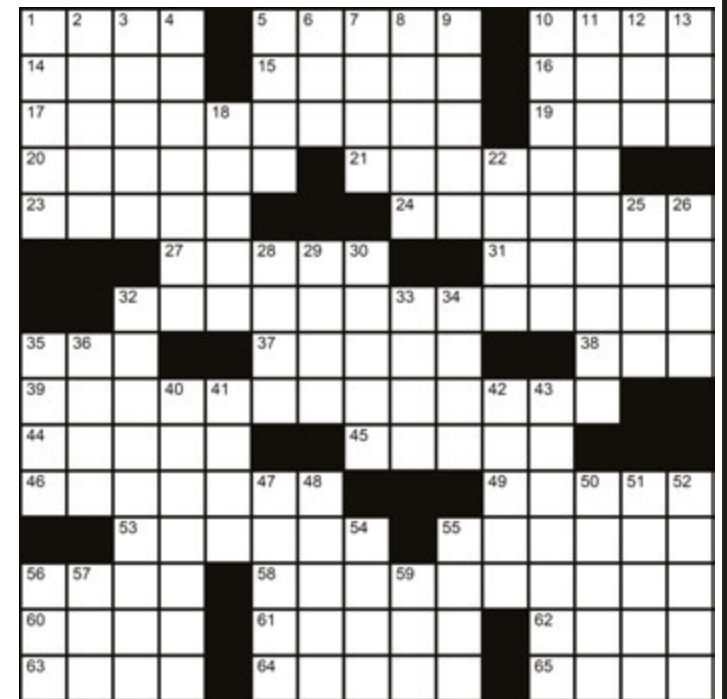
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"See?"--gotta keep on the ball.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Beefeater and Bombay, e.g.
- 5 Twilight, poetically
- 10 Skiers' lift
- 14 Garbage boat
- 15 Colorado or Missouri
- 16 Greek letter before kappa
- 17 "How well do you know cartoon sailors" test?
- 19 It's not a true story
- 20 Ants ___ (snack with raisins)
- 21 Felipe Alou's outfielder son
- 23 Estonia's second-largest city and home to their largest university
- 24 Small market increases
- 27 Physicist Mach
- 31 Like boats yet to be found, in Battleship
- 32 Comment on the weather to a Supreme Court Justice?
- 35 "Pull ___ chair!"
- 37 Jessie ___ ("Saved by the Bell" role)
- 38 Plug-___ (program extensions)
- 39 Person who goes around making steaks laugh?
- 44 Playing form
- 45 2000s teen drama set in Newport Beach
- 46 Creator of Eeyore
- 49 Belly button type
- 53 Stretch out
- 55 "___ Necessarily So"
- 56 Dissenter's position
- 58 Quick sprint for "Late Night" host Seth?
- 60 "___ White People" (2017 Netflix original series)
- 61 Destroy, as a recording
- 62 Cookie that somehow did a Swedish Fish



- version
- 63 "Legend of the Guardians" birds
- 64 The gauche half of an etiquette list
- 65 "Crud!"

Down

- 1 Zone named for Dr. Grafenberg
- 2 "I Love It" duo ___ Pop
- 3 Like stock without face value
- 4 Be in need of AC
- 5 Actor Kinnear of "Brigsby Bear"
- 6 Kind of bar lic.
- 7 Egg, in biology class
- 8 Group that sometimes includes Y
- 9 Old postal mascot who promoted new five-digit codes
- 10 Co. that owns Life, Look, and Money
- 11 The most famous one is based in Vienna
- 12 Courtroom fig.
- 13 "Go team!" cheer
- 18 "___ the Worst" (show on FX)
- 22 "The Simpsons" disco guy et al.
- 25 Ceramics oven
- 26 Health clinic pamphlet subjects
- 28 "The Big Board," for short
- 29 Back-to-school mo.
- 30 Innate quality
- 32 Hybrid J-Pop group that debuted "Gimme Chocolate!!" in the U.S. in 2016
- 33 Yardstick fraction
- 34 "One ___ Over the Line"
- 35 Major constellation?
- 36 Bread that gets filled
- 40 Cure-alls
- 41 Home to some one-

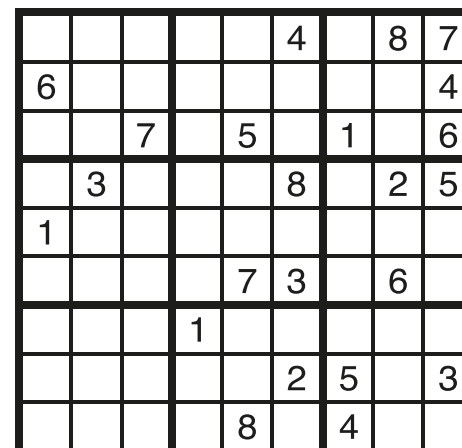
- star reviews
- 42 Pillages
- 43 Galapagos owner
- 47 Having a handle?
- 48 First month of el Año nuevo
- 50 Crown with jewels
- 51 Atlas closeup map
- 52 Cultural value system
- 54 Actress Cannon of "Heaven Can Wait"
- 55 States of wrath
- 56 It often follows "further"
- 57 Not preowned
- 59 Fig. that's in the neighborhood

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Answers Page 14

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE



TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 14

Out on the town

from page 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn leadership and speaking skills. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

Duplicate Bridge. Weekly events at the senior center. 1 - 4 p.m. \$2 members, \$3 non members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Game Night at UrbanBeat. Bring your own or play the games provided. 5 - 8 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

Take off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Parish, 102 West Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 487-3749.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Learn leadership skills and public speaking. 7 - 8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing.

French Class Level B (intermédiaire) (18+) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

French Class Travel Bugs III (10-12 years) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

French Class Explorers II (18 mos. -3 years) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

French Class Explorers I (6-18 mos.) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 5 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

THEATRE

Auditions for The Canterville Ghost. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145.

EVENTS

Advanced ESOL Book Discussion Group (Adults). Non-native speakers welcome to discuss books in English. 1 - 2:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre. Weekly events at the senior center. 1 - 4:30 p.m. Cost Varies. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Compassionate Friends of Lansing. Support group for parents who have lost a child. 7:30 - 9 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army (South) Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing.

LCC West Toastmasters. Learn leadership and speaking skills. 5 - 6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone

Drive, Lansing.
Mid-day Movies (Adults). Today's movie: The Circle (PG-13) 2 to 3:50 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road., Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

Reflexology. Reflex improvement sessions. Call for appointments. 10:20 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Wednesday, September 06

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oracle Intuitive Reading Class. Learn to read your oracle cards. Fun evening activity! 6 - 8 p.m. \$25. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D Lansing.

French Class Level A (débutant) (18+) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

French Class Travel Bugs II (7-9 years) French class for First Annual French Culture Appreciation week. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/E6Db30eLFK6

MUSIC

Art Cameron at Allen Farmers Market. From 5 - 6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

THEATRE

Auditions for The Canterville Ghost. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road Okemos. 5173392145.

EVENTS

Apps That Make Your Life Better (Adults). From 6 - 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Baby Storytime (Ages up to 2). 3 - 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6). From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

Kids Reading to Dogs (Age 6 and up). 4 - 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Robot Zone (Ages 8-15). Play and learn with our iPad-controlled robots. Call ahead, x3. 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. (517) 694.9351.

Suits and The City. Networking event. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. FREE. HopCat - East Lansing, 300 Grove St., East Lansing East Lansing. (517) 816-4300.

Wine Night. Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, conversation and more. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$15. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing. v



KINGSTON KITCHEN

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Kingston Kitchen, a scratch Jamaican cuisine restaurant, is set to open in Okemos late next month. Owner/operator Shawn Fearon studied culinary arts in Jamaica, but spent most of his professional career in Michigan.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Growing up in Kingston, Jamaica, Shawn Fearon said he learned at an early age that there was just one way to avoid a life of abject poverty.

"In Jamaica, the only way to survive is by working," he said. "Luckily, I found something I was good at very quickly, and I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to grow into it. But cooking isn't just a job for me. It's a way of life."

After spending much of his life studying culinary arts and working under other chefs, next month Fearon will launch his first solo venture: **Kingston Kitchen**, a Jamaican-themed restaurant featuring dishes that are practically ingrained in his DNA. He acknowledges he faces a distinct challenge of going all-in on ethnic cuisine.

"Jamaican food is extremely spicy, and I've found that customers aren't always prepared for all those flavors," Fearon said. "Of course I'll have authentic dishes with full jerk seasoning, but I'll also feature milder versions so people can get slowly acquainted."

After he displayed an early knack for the business working as a food runner at a Kingston hospital, Fearon was nudged into a culinary arts vocational school by one of his mentors. This led to a work exchange program on Mackinac Island, which turned into a regular seasonal gig. He eventually got certified as a sous chef from the HEART College of Hospitality Services, a government-funded institution in Jamaica designed to pump out culinary arts professionals.

"And I was lucky enough to keep finding work in Michigan," Fearon said. "I'm obviously from a tropical country where it's hot year-round, but I discovered I love winter. If I won the lottery, I'd probably move to the U.P."

Before he can be a Yooper, however, Fearon will try to build Kingston Kitchen into a local hotspot. He plans to source as much of his menu as he can locally, keeping in line with the humming, farm-to-table movement. Of course, Caribbean cuisine

isn't new to the area — local diners can already opt for **Jose's Cuban Sandwich & Deli** near downtown Lansing, **Lil' BBQ Shack** on the city's south side and the **Caribbean BBQ** food truck at the corner of MLK Boulevard and Mt. Hope Avenue. But those places are more grab-and-go; Fearon hopes Kingston Kitchen will become a destination location that will draw diners from around the area.

"I'm going to try to be as local as possible," Fearon said. "I'll constantly tweak the menu based on feedback I get. Some of the dishes I'll be starting with are things I see on local menus, but of course I'll add a Jamaican twist."

Those original creations will include dishes that combine jerk chicken with classic American staples such as macaroni and cheese, pasta alfredo and nachos. Fearon's working this week to perfect a lobster hot dog, which may be a hit just based on the curiosity factor. The menu will also be loaded with Jamaican favorites such as fried plantains, ackee and codfish — a customary fruit and fish dish, braised oxtail and goat curry.

"These are all dishes I've been working on for years," Fearon said. "I'm happy that I finally have an opportunity to share them with the public. When it comes to trying new kinds of food, I've found that Michigan people are slowly adventurous, but once they're on board, they're on board. I can't wait to see what they think of my food."

Kingston Kitchen (opens in late September)
4749 Central Park Drive, Okemos
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday;
closed Sunday
(517) 708-8322,
thekingstonkitchen.com

Do you know of a new Greater Lansing business that should be featured in New in Town? Send an email to allan@lansingcitypulse.com.

SEPTEMBER 7-17 >>> MOON OVER BUFFALO — OVER THE LEDGE THEATRE CO.

Interested in a little situational comedy? Why not try the 1953 classic "Moon Over Buffalo"? The comedic play, by Ken Ludwig, was made especially famous when Carol Burnett was part of the cast. The show centers around two former Broadway stars who take their touring company to Buffalo, New York. When the two get there, troubles unfold with an act of infidelity, a drinking binge and a talent scout. The highly physical play involves everything from a wrestling match, a round of fencing and a variety of other, onstage antics. Viewers can also expect a little bit of slapstick and screwball comedy to round off their evening in "Moon Over Buffalo." The show is directed by Mary Job, who won this year's Pulsar Award for Best Director for "Taking Shakespeare."

The Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 230-9593. Overtheledge.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 13

G	I	N	S		G	L	O	A	M		T	B	A	R
S	C	O	W		R	I	V	E	R		I	O	T	A
P	O	P	E	Y	E	Q	U	I	Z		M	Y	T	H
O	N	A	L	O	G		M	O	I	S	E	S		
T	A	R	T	U			U	P	T	I	C	K	S	
					E	R	N	S	T		U	N	H	I
	B	R	E	Y	E	R	I	T	S	C	O	L	D	
U	P	A			S	P	A	N	O		I	N	S	
R	I	B	E	Y	E	T	I	C	K	L	E	R		
S	T	Y	L	E		T	H	E	O	C				
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A	N	T	I		M	E	Y	E	R	S	D	A	S	H
D	E	A	R		E	R	A	S	E		O	R	E	O
O	W	L	S		D	O	N	T	S		R	A	T	S

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 13

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

The Redhead's Black Bean Burger — Midtown Brewing Co.

Midtown Brewing Co.'s "Redhead's Black Bean Burger" embraced the idea that more of a good thing is better — lots more. The place is known for its craft beers, but it crafted a bean burger unlike any I've had in town — a highly welcome deviation. It came with two spicy patties, spicy cheese and spicy peppers.

The patties were made from organic Michigan beans, oats, carrots, corn and chickpeas. All this was seasoned with cumin and chili powder and then served with them peppery feta cheese and sliced jalapeño peppers.

Midtown Brewing Co.

Mon. – Weds., 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Thurs. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 1 a.m.
Sun., 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
402 S. Washington, Lansing.
midtownbrewingco.com
(517) 977-1349

The tangy combination was mellowed somewhat with sliced tomatoes, a pile of fresh greens and sliced pickles. The extra-thick, soft brioche bun

added flavor and did well to limit the hotness. My tongue complained and applauded each taste of the amalgamation.

Its \$13.95 price seemed justified by costly ingredients, double patties and a size that required two hands. A side was included and I picked coleslaw. It was chunky and delicious — and to my amusement — quite peppery.

With eggs in the bun and cheese in the mix, the Midtown Brewing Co.'s "Redhead's Black Bean Burger" wasn't truly vegan, but I didn't mind. Despite some difficulty managing the rather messy sandwich, it was truly enjoyable.

—DAVID WINKELSTERN



Local somm makes national splash

DeWitt sommelier brings positive national attention to local wine scene

By EVE KUCHARSKI

It's a normal thing to have a little bit of hometown pride, but on occasion, an outside source can confirm that it's well-founded. That's exactly the case with Justin King, 37, the resident sommelier at Bridge Street Social in DeWitt. For his exceptional work at the local dinner spot and wine bar, King was highlighted in Wine & Spirits Magazine among six up-and-coming sommeliers from California to Texas as one of the "Best New Sommeliers of 2017." Hometown pride indeed.

We caught up with Justin to ask him about being chosen, how he keeps the 150-bottle wine list strong at Bridge Street Social and about some tasty Michigan wines.

How did you hear the news?

Josh from Wine & Spirits wrote me at the end of July and asked me about some certification stuff about a project that he was working on. And I said, "That sounds pretty interesting." So I called him.

I was walking my son around the neighborhood in a stroller and he's asking me about my job background, what I had been doing. So, I walked him through a couple of jobs and what I did. He's like, "O.K. great. So just want to let you know that you're eligible to be in our best new sommeliers issue and we're going to put you in it!"

What makes someone eligible to be put on the list?

The best new sommeliers thing is only voted on by people who have had a role of being a buyer for basically a restaurant. It's not really something that's been open to the public. If you've been a buyer for a restaurant, then Wine & Spirits Magazine will send you an email with a code to be able to vote for this. I got one and I voted for some people that I know in Michigan, some people who I know who are doing some really good things. And have worked in the industry less than four years as a sommelier.

It's not meant for somebody who's been working in restaurants for 20 years. I've been in sales for basically a decade, but I've only been on the restaurant side for roughly 3 years at this point.

What's the secret to the wine list's success at Bridge Street Social?

Planning a wine list is both moderately easy and insanely difficult, and there's a balance to putting it together that will make your guests happy and save you some headaches. I think it starts by talking about logistics.

There are 20 different companies right now that could sell me wine and those companies want to make money by selling me wine, but they don't want to waste their time by selling me two wines, sending a truck out there and wasting gas money for really tiny orders, so there's a balance and essentially an agreement that one goes through as a buyer, as a sommelier.

You want to work with companies that will help you solve headaches when the products are out of stock, or they send the wrong things. Besides the business side of this job is more interesting than just working the floor and shaking hands and saying hi to people and pouring wine.

It's so much fun to be able to pour a table a Xinomavro from Greece and then they say, "Well I really dig like-bodied wines like that from the states. Do you have anything like that?" and then you can pour four different Pinot Noirs, two from California, one from Oregon and one from Michigan. It's stuff like that, that we can put together and makes it worth it. Because the amount of enjoyment from regulars and first-timers is the reason I got into the business.

With this national recognition, do you have any plans to expand your current location?

All I can say at this point is that things are moving. We are certainly looking at options and as things evolve, we are excited to try different concepts.

We could open a business outside of Michigan — that's possible. But I love being here. I love the people, I love my family. Do I have interest in other cities? Absolutely I do. But my home is here and that's not going to change.

What are some wines you'd recommend for Michiganders?



Courtesy Photo

Justin King was one of six sommeliers nationwide to be featured in Wine & Spirits Magazine.

If you don't want to spend a ton of money but you really want a bang for your buck, there's a fair amount of wine coming from Shady Lane Cellars on Leelanau Peninsula that has dynamite stuff. Their semi-dry Riesling is outstanding, their Pinot Noir Rosé is outstanding.

I'm a huge fan of Two Lads Winery on Old Mission peninsula. I think overall their whole lineup is amazing.

One of my favorite wines in Michigan is the Cabernet Franc from Brys Estate. It's on Old Mission Peninsula and it's a little bit more expensive for what you get from Shady Lane Cellars, but the Cabernet Franc from Brys Estate rivals some of the better Cabernet Francs I've had from the Loire Valley in France which is where Cabernet Franc is from. It's really exciting to see that sort of profile being made in Michigan.

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B/18/018 WET WELL REHAB as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, and 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on September 22, 2017 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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