

City PULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

February 15-21, 2017

FREE

POTTER PARK
ZOO ↑
HAWK ISLAND ←

TRAILS IN BLOOM

p. 9

"DIVINELY, DANGEROUSLY
DECADENT."

BEN BRANTLEY
The New York Times

CABARET

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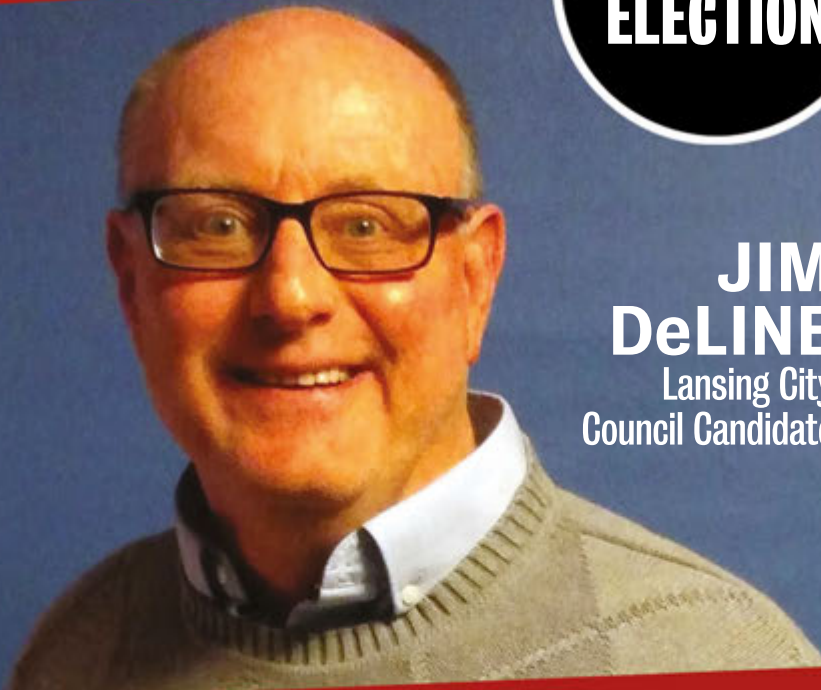
HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ

PETER SPADAFORE
Lansing City Council Candidate



THIS WEEK CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

JIM DeLINE
Lansing City Council Candidate



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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, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- Online at lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

CityPULSE

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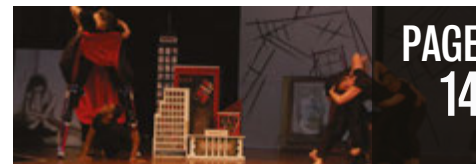
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Visiting journalist sees hope despite racial discord

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Ambitious dance project tackles heavy topics

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Gump's BBQ draws a crowd despite odd location

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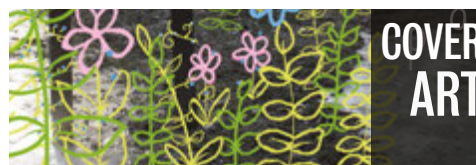


Photo by LAWRENCE COSENTINO, drawings by ALLISON HAMMERLY

COVER
ART

2017 TOP OF THE TOWN CONTEST IS COMING SOON!



VOTING STARTS MARCH 15

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: Aurelius and Delhi Consolidated 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 Paulette Hatchett, John Leonard, Cheryl Risner and Julie Powers (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Aurelius Township Hall, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason, Michigan, 48854** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated November 14, 2016, for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, providing structures, adding branches and a relief drain and/or relocating along a highway to the drain known and designated as the Aurelius and Delhi Consolidated Drain, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Aurelius Township and Delhi Charter Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and for the protection of the public health of said Aurelius Township and Delhi Charter Township, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to the Aurelius and Delhi Consolidated 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 711 (TTY) 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, Michigan 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. A landowner or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: January 30, 2017

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

CP#17-030




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If you say great things about me-- --I'm going to say great things about YOU!

Dearest Valentine, I had the biggest crowd in the history of inaugural speeches. But I didn't bring it up. You just brought it up.

To my beloved, We had a wonderful election, didn't we? I saw those numbers, and you like me, and I like you! That's the way it works!

Valentine, the ratings are in... ...and Arnold Schwarzenegger got "swamped" (or destroyed) by comparison to ratings machine P.J.T!

Donald Trump Valentine's Day Cards

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What's in a name?

Lansing is finding out in sanctuary city debate

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, Shakespeare wrote. And that may be the case in Lansing in the debate over whether the city should declare itself a sanctuary city.

"We don't believe it matters what term of art is used to describe a city's posture toward immigrants and refugees and we are not aware of any legally binding definition of a 'sanctuary city,'" said Randy Hannan, chief of staff for Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

"What matters is our policies and practices, and Mayor Bernero has been very clear that our police department does not and will not ask about immigration status in their encounters with Lansing residents, nor will we cooperate with state or federal authorities if they attempt to transform our police officers into immigration agents."

In addition to the very specific statements from the Bernero administration on what their policy positions are, the City Council adopted a resolution in February 2004 that encouraged LPD to resist federalization as immigration agents. It was part of a broader debate over the PATRIOT Act.

Whether officially labeling Lansing a sanctuary city — which the mayor and most of the City Council is resisting — matters in the current climate is one of the unknowns. An executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Jan. 25 allows the federal government to assign that label.

"The Secretary [of Homeland Security] has the authority to designate, in his discretion and to the extent consistent with law, a jurisdiction as a sanctuary jurisdiction," Trump's order reads.

Potentially at stake is \$6.5 million in federal funds, which the same executive order allows the government to withhold from "sanctuary jurisdictions." That money would come from social service programming offered by the city and harm the very people the city is trying to protect, argue Councilmembers who oppose calling the city a "sanctuary."

But some on the Council, like Kathie Dunbar, an at-large councilwoman, and Jessica Yorko, the city's Fourth Ward representative, argue adopting the moniker is about sending a message.

"The sooner we learn to stand up for ourselves, the sooner the bully goes away," argued Dunbar. "The threat to withhold funding from government units who refuse to comply with unconstitutional mandates is a bully tactic."

Advocates want the Council to adopt



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Matt Krol, from the Genesee County Volunteer Militia, came to Lansing Monday to "keep the peace," in the event a controversial resolution to declare the capital a sanctuary city resulted in civil unrest.

a resolution that would mandate specific policy actions.

But adopting those specific mandates could run into legal issues, opponents argue, bolstered by a legal opinion by the city attorney.

"There's a difference when you put pen to paper than a nonformalized practice or policy," said Councilwoman Carol Wood.

Yorko introduced a series of amend-

ments Monday night to a resolution that sanctuary city proponents called "weak." Those amendments would "require" Lansing officials, officers and employees to refuse to ask or record information related to a person's immigration status; not pursue, detain, question or arrest a person based solely on his or her immigration status; not assist immigration officers in pursuing, questioning or arresting a person based solely on immigration status; and refuse to provide access to court and jail records for the sole purpose of identifying undocumented immigrants.

That amendments failed, 4-3, with Tina Houghton joining Dunbar and Yorko in voting for them and with vacationing Councilwoman Jody Washington absent. The original "weak" resolution was tabled until officials from the City Attorney's Office could do more research, including participate in a Tuesday call with lawyers from the ACLU.

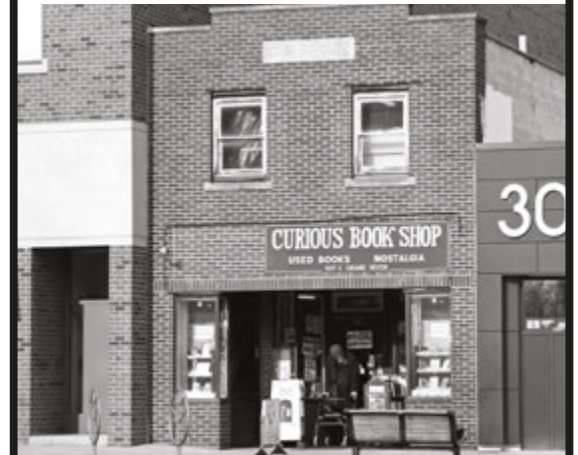
Yorko's amendments failed because of concerns that the word "require" would run afoul of city charter provisions creating a strict separation of powers between the city's legislative, judicial and executive branches. The "weak" resolution was tabled for further consideration on Feb. 27.

City Attorney James Smiertka has argued, both in public statements as well as in a written memo to the Council, that the Council is prohibited from creating any policy because that is in the sole purview of the executive branch. As for police policy, the charter authorizes the Police Commission to adopt those policies in consultation with the police chief.

All of this played out in front of one of the largest audiences the City Council has hosted in 20 years. Brian Jackson, the chief deputy city clerk, said at least 250 people attended the meeting, requiring the city to set up an overflow area in the lobby of City Hall. Those who could not fit in the chambers sat 10 floors below in the lobby, watching the proceedings live on the city's cable channel.

In addition to the overflow crowd, a contingent of the Genesee County Volunteer Militia, acting on "intelligence," were on hand to respond to "possible riots," in the event the city rejected a resolution. They were decked out in camo and body

See Sanctuary, Page 6



Property: 307 East Grand River Ave.
East Lansing

Architectural critics often divide their subjects into 'capital A' Architecture and 'small a' architecture. The former category includes famous museums, large monuments and examples of structural engineering gymnastics. The building above is of the latter variety: a charming example of a modest background building.

The front elevation is simple, composed with a slight change in height to emphasize the center of the main elevation. The copestone is matched in the window sills and a carved limestone plaque crowns the composition with the building's name. The building is elegant, achieving understated distinction while avoiding being overwhelmed by louder, more colorful and much, much taller buildings nearby.

Naturally, a building of this era would benefit from targeted, ongoing maintenance. And the curiously asymmetrical sign might be expanded — or at least centered — to fill the area intended by the building designer. However, as the surrounding streets and blocks develop and grow, this charming building remains a pleasant reminder of an earlier streetscape. Like the houses in the animated feature "Up" and the children's book "The Little House," the building (and the business within) continue to endure in a changing world of rapidly overturning redevelopment and commonplace online book purchases.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"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 or call Bert Schwartz at 999-5061.

Fourth Ward race

McClurken a 'pissy rich guy,' Yorko says on Facebook

"Pissy rich guy."

That's how Lansing City Councilwoman Jessica Yorko has described James McClurken, who has filed to run for her seat this year to represent the Fourth Ward.

Yorko posted this on Facebook Thursday:

"My time in local elected office may be coming to a close bc as you may know a pissy rich guy who did not get his way on continuing to burn coal and raise utility rates for seniors is planning to spend \$25k of his own money to unseat me."

McClurken has filed to run in the August primary election in the ward that Yorko has represented for nearly eight years. Yorko said Tuesday she plans to run again and is collecting signatures on a candidacy petition. The filing deadline is 4 p.m. April 25.

Yorko's "pissy rich guy" comment was an apparent reference, in part, to McClurken's status as the co-owner, with husband Sergei Kvitko, of the 15,000-square-foot Potter House, one of Lansing's most celebrated mansions, near the Country Club of Lansing.

McClurken said he may be "house poor" in his effort to maintain their home, which also houses his Native American consultancy business and his husband's company,

Blue Griffin Recording, including a studio. McClurken and Kvitko frequently open the house for fundraising events for a variety of nonprofit organizations and political candidates.

McClurken said his campaign will not be self-funded and that he will hold his first fundraiser in March. He said he actually hopes to raise \$30,000 and that if he cannot raise it, "it would not show very much community support."

He said Yorko's comment is part of a broader effort to "stereotype" him.

"She is portraying me as a rich white guy who is not going to be attuned to black issues or women's issues," he said.

The "pissy" part of Yorko's comment apparently refers to McClurken's participation in the failed effort to stop the Lansing Board of Water & Light's plan to build a power substation in Scott Park, home of the historic Scott Center house and a sunken garden. The Council approved the plan 7-1, with Yorko's support, as did the Lansing Planning Commission and the Lansing Park Board, on which McClurken serves. The park board voted 5-3 for the BWL plan, with McClurken in the minority.

The BWL said that Scott Park made the most sense as the home for the Central Substation, which will serve downtown.



Yorko

Once it is built, the coal-burning Eckert Power Station — Wynken, Blynken and Nod — can be closed, which is scheduled for 2020.

In a text message on Tuesday, Yorko defended her vote, although she backed off her description of McClurken, saying, "I'm sorry if anyone took offense to the way I characterized him. Maybe I should have just used the word 'indignant' instead."



McClurken

She said she was "miffed that someone publicly threatened to waste a ridiculous amount of money running against me because I didn't vote the way he wanted me to on a complicated issue.

"I could not justify continuing to harm public health by extending the life of a coal plant and raising utility rates astronomically in order to NOT MOVE an old garden," she added.

Yorko was referring to the Scott Sunken Garden, which the BWL intends to move elsewhere in Scott Park. Preservationists and members of the Lansing Garden Club, who have maintained the nearly 100-year-old garden, fought to save the Scott Center and prevent the garden from being moved. The BWL offered to move the house if a buyer could be found, which it could not, so the house is being prepared for demolition.

Asked to comment on Yorko's char-

acterization that McClurken wants to continue burning coal and advocates raising utility rates, McClurken responded, "That's nonsense."

"I'm running against her because I watched the way the process of putting a new plant on the sunken garden happened," he said. "It happened without public comment, and when public comment happened, the people who commented against it were belittled and ridiculed. It was clear that the plans were already set and this was just a formality and whatever people said in support of moving this power plant somewhere else was going to be shouted down. And it was.

"Next off," he added, "there were no numbers presented to substantiate any-

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a mortgage given by Harold Jay Leeman, Jr. to Diane K. Abbott, Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr., dated July 21, 2015, and recorded August 12, 2015, in Ingham County records at 2015-031073, is being foreclosed on by The Estate of Harold Jay Leeman, Sr. The property subject to this foreclosure is described as: Lots 358 and 359 Foster Farm, City of Lansing, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 39, Ingham County records. Commonly known as 529 North Francis Street, Lansing, MI, Parcel Number 33-01-01-14-126-351. There is currently due and owing on the mortgage \$25,310.40 exclusive of taxes, costs and attorney fees, bearing interest at a default interest rate of 6.0%. The period within which the premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale.

The foreclosure sale of this property will take place on March 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ingham County Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan.

In the event this property is sold at foreclosure sale, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damages sustained by the property during the redemption period.

Thomas E. Woods
Cummins Woods
421 West Ionia Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-0800
Dated: February 2, 2017
ICLN 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 2017
CP#17-033

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM to 12 NOON and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 15 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 15, 2017. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30 PM, March 16, 2017. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2017

INGHAM COUNTY

	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

EATON COUNTY

COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

CLINTON COUNTY

	RATIO	FACTOR
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:

Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

CP#17-015

Sanctuary

from page 5

armor and armed with AR-15s and side arms.

Diego Bonesatti, legal director at the immigrant rights advocacy group Michigan United, said Tuesday advocates may change their targeting and push the Lansing Police Commission to adopt the policy measures as formal police policy.

Dunbar said that to avoid the conflicts over separation of powers, she has begun conversations with the City Attorney's Office about drafting an ordinance or ordinances

that would specifically enshrine those policy ideas in law.

For Council President Patricia Spitzley the issue is being honest about the Council's powers. She said passing the resolution and Yorko amendments Monday night would "not be real," because the resolution would be unenforceable.

"It would be doing a disservice to the community and to advocates" if the Council passed anything like the Yorko amendments, she said Tuesday in an interview. "It would be paying lip service to the issue. And I won't do that."

— Todd Heywood



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

To assist in maintaining decorum at Council, audience members used cards while people testified Monday night regarding a controversial sanctuary city resolution. When audience members flashed the green side of the card at the Council, it meant they supported what was being said; when they flashed the red side it indicated opposition.



Finding hope

Journalist sees silver lining in America's racial discord

Back in 2014, journalist Jonathan Capehart wrote this headline for a Washington Post blog: "Black lives matter" to everyone – finally."

He was angry. Angry that the men responsible for the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, two young black men killed in separate police-involved deaths, would not stand trial before a jury.

Yet he began to feel hope rise in him.

"When I was looking for that picture to illustrate what I was getting at, I found the perfect one. A beautiful, young, white woman, with long dark hair and determined eyes filled with tears staring directly into the camera. Her mouth was covered with duct tape that read 'I CAN'T BREATHE,'" Capehart said.

What touched Capehart was the reaction he got. A silver lining did exist.

"The reaction to that piece by my white colleagues and readers moved me as much as they were touched by what I had written ... their tear-filled empathy showed me that we as a country had taken a big leap forward," Capehart said.

Capehart, a Post opinion writer and MSNBC contributor, relayed that story when he spoke last Thursday at Michigan State University as part of the "Slavery to Freedom" lecture series sponsored by College of Osteopathic Medicine for Black History Month.

Washington Post opinion writer Jonathan Capehart will be a guest on "City Pulse on the Air" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday on 89 FM The Impact. The show can also be heard at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

Capehart recalled the various videos of police-involved killing of African-Americans for the most "mundane things."

"We watched them killed because of a broken taillight, selling CDs outside of a convenience store, selling loose cigarettes, playing in a park with a toy gun, shopping in a Wal-Mart, driving a car with a missing license plate, worshipping in church, a routine traffic stop and as we all know and as we have all seen, a routine traffic stop when you're an African-American is never routine."

Capehart then recalled the title of fellow Washington Post contributor Stacey Patton's article "In America, black children don't get to be children," demonstrating, he said, that this is "nothing new" to African-Americans, and that they must live with a set of limitations unimaginable to most U.S. citizens.

And yet, Capehart asserted, "the country has rallied around African-Americans."

Capehart saw as positive the public's embrace of such films as "12 Years a Slave," which won the Academy Award for best movie in 2013, and this year's "I Am Not Your Negro," based on writ-

See Capehart, Page 8



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

MSNBC Contributor and Washington Post opinion writer Jonathan Capehart fields questions after his speech at The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing for the 17th annual Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series: Slavery to Freedom, sponsored by Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine during Black History Month.

Fourth Ward

from page 6

thing she said in that comment.

"Everybody knows we need power, and coal plants are deficient, but there was no demonstrated need to put that on top of the sunken garden, and if there was, there was no evidence presented by the proponents, and that motivated me" to run.

The BWL said it explored a half-dozen sites and concluded that Scott Park was the only one either available or affordable. The BWL held public forums on the design and also made presentations at the

park board, the planning commission and the Council.

Asked to comment on McClurken's remarks, York texted, "The decision was not rigged. I am miffed by the commens Jim has stated publicly about keeping a coal plant open and raising rates being a better alternative than moving a garden and that he planned to run for that reason.

Asked twice why she thought McClurken was going to pay for the campaign out of his own pocket, she did not respond.

— Berl Schwartz



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF EAST LANSING

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 7:00 pm, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The hearing will be for the purpose of accepting comment on a proposed Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant application from the Natural Resources Trust Fund to construct an extension of the Northern Tier Trail through White Park. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Contact Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts at (517) 319-6940, for additional information.

Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-029

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on February 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, for the Chesterfield Hills Neighborhood residential permit parking (RPP) program, per the submitted residential petitions and recommendation of the Transportation Commission.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-031

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 March 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1386, an ordinance to amend Section 50-40 of Chapter 50 - Zoning - of the Code of the City of East Lansing and to add Section 50-531 to Article VI – Business, Office and Industrial Districts – to prohibit land use restrictions in those districts.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1391, an ordinance to amend Section 50-9 of Article I – General – and Section 50-572 of Division 3 and Section 50-592 of Division 4 – of Article VI – Business, Office and Industrial Districts – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to define storage building and allow sheds and storage buildings as permitted accessory uses in the B2 and B3 districts.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-032

Capehart

from page 7

ings by James Baldwin, and last year's TV remake of "Roots."

"I'm not naive enough to think that everyone is more empathetic and understanding of their fellow American's history and what plagues them in present day, but I am hopeful," Capehart said.

Capehart marked the 2014 Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Mo., as a turning point in the narrative of police-

involved killings of unarmed African Americans across the country. The "potent symbol" that Brown's death became could not be diminished, he said. "Hands up, don't shoot" became a "rallying cry."

Capehart acknowledged that the facts don't support the chant, but he said, "What was in that DOJ report does not diminish the importance of the real issues unearthed in Ferguson by Brown's death. Nor did it discredit what became the larger Black Lives Matter movement."

As for Donald Trump, Capehart said he found hope in Puerto Rico, where he was vacationing during the inauguration.

"My jaundiced view of progressives was obliterated. Even in San Juan a march made its way to where our hotel was ... even in San Juan people were protesting against Donald Trump," said Capehart to applause.

Capehart encouraged the audience to pay attention to local news and remain vigilant to ensure that progress is maintained without lapses due to "Trump fatigue."

— Eve Kucharski



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 27, 2017**, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 1460.49 of the City of Lansing Codified Ordinances by adding the requirement that delinquent real property taxes be paid prior to issuance of a certificate of compliance for rental properties.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. 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., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#17-034

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **March 8, 2017** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1400 to amend Sections 50-814 of Chapter 50, Zoning, of the Code of the City of East Lansing to reduce the parking requirements for residential uses in the B-2 and B-3 districts and allow for further parking reductions when warranted.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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 E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-035

'Mitigating risks' Council approves new law regulating home pot growing

In an action that will have ramifications for home growers of medical marijuana, the Lansing City Council has approved an ordinance regulating odor and electrical use.

The ordinance, which was passed Monday, 7-0, requires operators of home businesses to register and submit their property for inspection if it is generating fumes or using more than 3,500 kilowatt hours of electricity a month, or both.

City officials said the proliferation of home-grow operations by patient caregivers has resulted in an increase in electrical-related safety concerns in neighborhoods.

City Attorney James Smiertka said Monday night that while the ordinance requires those using more than 3,500 kilowatt hours of electricity a month to register, he does not expect code and zoning officials to crack down on residential properties by accessing records maintained by the Lansing Board of Water & Light.

"Enforcement isn't going to be like anyone going to the Board getting usage," he said in an interview. Rather, it "is going to be complaint driven maybe because of odors or maybe because of lights."

The issue came up in part because of concerns expressed by neighbors about odors and heavy traffic coming to and from residences involved in growing medical marijuana. But Councilwoman Carol Wood said it was not about marijuana specifically.

"It's not whether you're going 72 plants or you're not going 72 plants or whether you're grooming 100 dogs or you are grooming two dogs," Wood said. "The issue is whether there is an issue that could result in something that could end up in a fire."

The ordinance covers "home occu-

pation" that "exceeds 3500 KWH per month, or where the home occupation emits gases, fumes, smoke, or odors outside of the building or structure and across the building or structure's property line, presents a danger of fire or explosion or otherwise creates a public nuisance."

Those subject to the ordinance would be required to submit to an annual inspection by code compliance officers and register the property as a business. The name of the person and the address of the property are the only information that would be made public under the ordinance. Officials said this was necessary to protect the privacy of small business owners. It would also prevent the city from running afoul of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act by creating a public list of patient caregivers.

Randy Hannan, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's chief of staff, said the administration supported the ordinance. He said the administration did not have information on how many residential properties in the city were exceeding the 3,500-kilowatt-hour threshold. He said the Lansing Fire Department could definitively connect two recent fires with electrical overuse in a residential property, and that was enough evidence.

"It's not about how many houses are using the power," he said, "it's about mitigating risks."

But Bernero made it clear in a press release Tuesday hailing the the measure that the ordinance was about regulating home marijuana growth in the city's residential areas.

"We know that it is legal under state law for medical marijuana patients and caregivers to grow marijuana in their home," the mayor said in the release, "but this activity must be done in a safe manner that does not create a nuisance or put their neighbors in harm's way."

— Todd Heywood



PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On February 8, 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
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

January 7, 2017 Regular Meeting
January 10, 2017 Regular Meeting
January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting
January 24, 2017 Special Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#17-036



It's shaping up to be a big year for Lansing-area trails, with multi-million dollar repair and expansion projects slated for hiking, running and biking trails throughout Ingham County, including the Lansing River Trail. Lawrence Cosentino looks at what's in the works this year and where the trails could take us in the future.

THE 'BIG FIX' IS IN

Millage will put Ingham County trails in trim in 2017

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

You can learn a lot from the recreational trails pavement report prepared for the Ingham County Parks Department in 2015. It's a grim pathology of horrors like "raveling," "flushing," "rutting," "alligator cracks" and the dreaded "longitudinal cracks," which run in the same direction as the trail.

"Your wheel runs into the crack, the bike stops and you keep on going," Lansing Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske explained.

But there is less cause for fear in 2017, unless you're a cartoon coyote. A fleet of steamrollers is on its way. This is the year of "The Big Fix" for Ingham County trails, including the wrinkled and raveled granddaddy of them all, Lansing's River Trail.

After two years of study, public input and planning, the trails millage approved by voters in 2014 is finally meeting the road. The millage draws about \$3.4 million a year. In March, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners committed \$5.5 million from the first two years of collected millage toward

repair or replacement of 13-plus miles of pavement and 21 bridges in Lansing, East Lansing and Meridian Township, along with two erosion control projects. Extensions and connections to the system will dominate the next phase. (See related story, "The Next Frontier," p. 10.)

Nearly \$800,000 will go to fix asphalt pavement, including "numerous sections" of the Lansing River Trail and almost everything north of Mt. Hope Road. Ingham County Parks Director Timothy Morgan said nearly all of the asphalt projects requested by Ingham County communities were granted. Most of the resurfacing should be done by the end of 2017, but some of it might stretch into 2018, Morgan said.

For a preview of coming attractions, and a possible encounter with deer, turkeys, herons and owls, go to Hawk Island Park, the first project to apply funding from the millage. Last fall, the popular 1.5-mile loop around Hawk Island was transformed into a state-of-the-art ribbon of asphalt, wider than before, shored up and leveled off with

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A frequently flooded section of the Lansing River Trail between Potter Park Zoo and Aurelius Road will get a major makeover later this year.



For Lansing River Trail construction and flooding updates, as well as information about the Trail Ambassador program, go to lansingtrails.org

root-resistant gravel. Here, as in other projects, the county stretched millage funds by leveraging state grants. Out of a total cost of \$200,000 to resurface the loop, \$120,000 came from the millage, \$45,000 from Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and \$35,000 from the county's Capital Improvement Fund.

The Hawk Island loop was 15 years old and needed attention, but it hadn't deteriorated nearly as much as several segments of the Lansing River Trail. Pavement has an expected life of 15 to 20 years, and much of the River Trail was laid down in the 1980s.

The sections of the Lansing River Trail marked for total rebuilding had an average rating of 3.286 on the industry standard PASER scale, which ranks pavement from 10 (excellent) to 1 (failing). Sections of trail in East Lansing and Meridian Township marked for fixing were rated at an average of 6.6.

The River Trail's greatest asset, the scenic Grand River, is also its greatest enemy. Erosion and flooding complicate maintenance along much of the trail.

"The joy of our system is it's on a river and it's beautiful," Kaschinske said. "The tough part is that the water moves."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A stretch of Lansing River Trail boardwalk along the Lansing Center downtown was repaired over the winter.

It moves like mad at one crumbling, flood-prone juncture between Aurelius Road and the Potter Park Zoo. The trouble spot is set for a \$1.8 million combined bridge extension and trail repair to be done toward the end of 2017. The bridge will extend further west, over the frequently flooded area.

The spot is worth the investment, Kaschinske said, because it's a key connection from east to west, as well as south to the



Courtesy of Ingham County Parks

Workers patch up a wooden section of the River Trail under Oakland Avenue. While complete replacement of this section will be needed eventually, light repairs should buy some time to address more pressing needs.

See Repairs, Page 10

THE NEXT FRONTIER

County weighs proposals for trail extensions

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The next time I roll from my home turf in North Lansing to talk about trails with Parks Department Director Timothy Morgan at the Ingham County seat in Mason, I may do it on two wheels. On the way back, maybe I'll take a detour through Michigan State University's campus to Lake Lansing.

All work and no play, you know.

With the "Big Fix" putting Ingham County's first two years of trails millage to work repairing the Lansing River Trail and existing Ingham County trails — see related story, "The 'Big Fix' is In," p.10 — extension and connectivity are the next big things.

This month and next, the county commission will sift through 18 proposals from eight communities for new miles of trail and other linkage projects that promise to connect more towns and attractions in Ingham County to one another.

The Spicer Group, an engineering firm based in St. Johns and Saginaw, is looking at the cost and viability of the projects and will make recommendations to the County Commission at its Feb. 27 meeting. The county has about \$3 million in millage money to spend this year and about \$10 million in requests. The commissioners plan to announce which projects will be funded at its March 28 meeting.

"They were all good projects, and I'm sure some of them will be brought back in future rounds if they're not funded," Morgan said.

Among the projects being considered is phase one of a three-phase trail extension from MSU to Lake Lansing, about a mile of trail with a bridge and boardwalks, along the Red Cedar in Meridian Township, which Morgan called a "critical connector."

The extension would go from Hagadorn

Road at Shaw Lane along the north side of the Red Cedar River, then along the north side of the CN railroad tracks, ending at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Park Lake Road.

It's a complicated mile, almost all on private property, but most of the nine owners have already offered letters of support, Morgan said.

Nancy Krupiarz, director of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, said the MSU-to-Lake Lansing stretch is one of 10 "priority trails" that came out of a multi-phased planning process over the past several years.

Regional trails planning involved Michigan's Department of Transportation, local officials, bicycle advocates and community members attending six public meetings held by the Ingham County Parks Commission.

"Some of those trails are going to start to take shape, and that's really exciting," Krupiarz said.

Another project likely to get approval is the first phase of an extension of Mason's Hayhoe Trail, running northeast nearly to I-127, a crucial step toward hooking Mason up with the Lansing system.

The extension would stretch to the northeastern corner of Mason, near the headquarters of Dart Container, in preparation for a connection with the Sycamore Trail that runs south from Lansing through Delhi Township, completed in 2015.

Another proposed project would move the northwest end of the Lansing River Trail westward to reach Grand Ledge. The trail now comes to a dead end at Dodge Park.

Also in the running is a "Ram extension" of the trail system from Holt High School to Burchfield Park.



Courtesy of Ingham County Parks

Phase 1 of a link from Mason's Hayhoe Trail to the Lansing River Trail system is among 18 proposed projects now being examined by the Ingham County Commissioners as trails millage spending shifts from repair to new trails.

The Lake Lansing, Mason and Ram projects run along routes singled out by the state's Department of Transportation as "regional priority corridors" that connect major population dots around the county. Following the corridors is a big plus for communities seeking county funding for trails, Morgan said.

Besides the Ingham County millage-based projects, the city of Lansing is planning a River Trail extension from Cavanaugh Road to Forest Road, known as the Bear Lake project, for 2018 or 2019. The trail

would run northward from Maguire Park, the trail system's unofficial southern hub, through an obscure, underused area along I-127 and Forest Akers golf course, ending at Mt. Hope Road near Spartan Village.

"It's a forested area with a lake on MSU property that's virtually unknown, Bear Lake," Lansing Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske said. The project will rely on federal grants and cooperative property owners, but Kaschinske said prospects are good for getting it done, in part because

See Extensions, Page 11



Courtesy of Ingham County Parks

The repaving of the Hawk Island loop last fall was the first of many fixes along Ingham trails, funded mainly by a trails millage approved by voters in 2014.

Repairs

from page 9

Hawk Island loop and farther.

Elsewhere, the city is trying to stretch older infrastructure as long as possible. After a year out of commission, the River Trail bridge/underpass under Oakland Avenue has been patched together with replacement boards, using millage funds, even though the 2015 report recommended total removal. Kaschinske said the choice was made to get a few more years out of it while more pressing problems were addressed.

Erosion is one of those problems. The Big Fix of 2017 also includes riverbank stabilization along a stretch of the trail near the Eckert Power Station and another section west of Frances Park. Those projects are budgeted

at \$215,000 for the Eckert stretch and even more for the Frances Park stretch, where the bank is steep and so is the price: \$368,000.

To hold the river off once and for all, the embankments will be metal seawall instead of the cheaper "Gabion baskets" (rocks wrapped in wire mesh) used up to now.

The human element in the 2017 trails renewal is a Trail Ambassador program launched by the Friends of Lansing Regional Trails, or FLRT. (Last year, the organization changed its name from Friends of the Lansing River Trail, while keeping the FLRT-y acronym, to reflect the regional scope and funding of Ingham County trails.) The Trail Ambassador program will be modeled after Northern Michigan's successful Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, or TART, organization.

Ingham County set aside \$17,000 of the trails millage to hire a part-time ambassador

coordinator. Volunteers for the program will handle trail grooming, cleanup and other ongoing maintenance needs.

Nancy Krupiarz, executive director of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, said TART "has been great for getting patrons and businesses involved in the trail system in Traverse City, and that's a major gap we need to fill in this area — to really get the public's arms around the trail system."

There is strong anecdotal evidence that trail use in the Lansing area is growing sharply, but it's been almost 10 years since there has been a comprehensive survey. At a statewide trail summit last week in Traverse City, Krupiarz and her colleagues got excited about a newly developed smartphone app that can extrapolate trail use over a year from about two weeks' worth of data. Krupiarz that will be one of the first jobs waiting for the first "class" of Trail Ambassadors.

CARESSING THE CURVES

Dirt trails along the Grand River open up a Lansing wilderness

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

At an obscure trailhead hidden behind a backyard in southwest Lansing, a laminated card is crudely duct taped to a fence pole: “No motorized vehicles or hunting in parks.” On a Saturday afternoon in late February, hundreds of deer tracks and a few raccoon prints were the only signs of life on the muddy, unimproved trail until my boots marked a few small steps for mankind.

Granted, they didn’t spare the duct tape, but this is not a pricey project. Fine Park is one of three deceptively humble gateways to Lansing’s newest hidden park treasure: six miles of riverfront mountain biking and walking trails that hug a gorgeous bend of the Grand River west of Waverly Road.

You can get to trails from Fulton and Hunter’s Ridge parks to the north, but none of the trailheads announce the prize: a near-wilderness ramble through woods, high bluffs and river lowlands that feels more like the rugged Au Sable in northern Michigan than flat old Lansing.

At a community meeting earlier this month, Lansing Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske announced a plan to connect all the trails and add a bridge across the Grand River that would hook up to six more trails in Anderson Park and the glories of the Woldumar Nature Center.

“It’s beautiful, it’s waterfront, it’s in an urban area. It’s huge,” Kaschinske said.

Add Fine Park’s 36 acres to Fulton’s 26 and 28 acres in Hunter’s Ridge, and you get nearly 100 acres of contiguous parkland.

Kaschinske described the dirt trail system as “a sort of squiggly figure eight with four miles on the bottom and two miles on top.”

A short connection between the two halves of the Figure Eight is planned for this year, pending review by the state’s Department of Environmental Quality.

The city has also applied to the state’s Department of Natural Resources to buy a crucial nine riverfront acres, now owned by the Lansing Boat Club but not in use, that would

help hook everything together.

The grant is a shoo-in because it’s ranked No. 1 in this year’s DNR evaluation, Kaschinske said.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

With the help of state grants and volunteer trailblazers, Lansing is piecing together a six-mile mountain bike and walking trail that winds through 100 acres along the Grand River on the city’s southwest side.

For years, local residents have been taking walks, and mountain bikers have been rolling up and down these bluffs. The Mid-Michigan Mountain Biking Association agreed to blaze and maintain the trails, which it’s already been doing.

The trail system is a model exercise in the modern civic art of making bricks without straw, or, more to the point, parks without city funds. In 2009, the city bought the 28-acre Hunter’s Ridge at the north end of the riverside strip of parkland, using a \$750,000

grant from the DNR. The property was valued at about a million. The sellers donated the city’s \$250,000 share.

Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar said the acquisition was a coup in an era when Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has backed a series of plans to sell off parkland.

The trail system would add a new statewide attraction to an underserved recreation field: mountain biking.

“We don’t have mountain biking in Lansing,” Kaschinske said. “You have to go to Burchfield Park in Holt or Anderson Park in Delta Township.”

Anderson Park is already a big mountain bike attraction. You can go to YouTube and vicariously ride all of the park’s loops via smartphone cameras. And it’s very close to the Fulton-Fine-Hunter’s Ridge system. The prospect of hooking it all up has a lot of people excited.

“Talk about connectivity — we can put a little bridge over the river, connect these two, and now you’re out to Old Lansing Road through Anderson Park, near Woldumar Nature Center,” Kaschinske said. Another DNR grant application, for the bridge, is in the works.

Kaschinske compared the trail’s lopsided coolness-to-obscure ratio to that of Crego Park, on the city’s east side. The 200-acre park with a lake was dormant for 28 years until it was brought back to life after an environmental cleanup and improvements were completed in 2014. The Crego project also relied mainly on state DNR funds.

“Everyone is going to say, ‘I never knew this was back here,’” Kaschinske said. “I’m already hearing that.”

Nancy Krupiarz, director of the Michigan Trails and Greenways alliance, said the connected trail “would definitely put us on the map for mountain biking.”

“It’s also great for walking and wildlife viewing,” she said.

Kaschinske sees no reason hikers and mountain bikers can’t share the system.

“Delta Township and Ingham County have proven success that bikes and pedestrians can share the same pathway,” he said.

Dunbar loves the three-story observation deck on the bluff at Fulton Park.

“You can see fish jumping, geese, ducks — you would never know you’re in the city,” she said.

Extensions

from page 10

there are only three owners to deal with: MSU, the Lansing School District and Consumers Energy.

And it gets better.

In coming years, the Ingham County network is likely to connect with the 41-mile Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail that runs from Ionia to Owosso and spread its tentacles along other regional corridors.

“We’re going to connect north into Clin-

ton County, west into Eaton County and eventually south to Jackson,” Morgan said.

Is there an end in sight? Yes — the Great Lakes, where you’ll have to load your bike on the ferry to get any farther. If non-motorized momentum and millage money keep rolling, Ingham trails will plug like Tinkertoys into ambitious state-wide networks stretching from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan and from Detroit to the Upper Peninsula.

In future rounds, regional planners hope the Ingham trail system will evolve into a “heart of Michigan” trail that would extend in two directions: east along the Red Cedar River past Williamston to Webberville and

south from Mason along a rail corridor to Leslie and from there to the Lakelands Trail State Park, an existing 26-mile trail.

The Lakelands Trail happens to be a crucial link in the evolution of a Great Lake-to-Lake Trail running from Port Huron to South Haven, a 240-mile distance of which 132 miles of trail are already in place, beginning in the west with the 37-mile Kal-Haven trail from South Haven to Kalamazoo.

If that’s not ambitious enough, the Lakelands segment of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail is also part of the Iron Belle Trail, the showcase trail initiated by Gov. Rick Snyder

in 2013 as an engine for economic growth and tourism. The trail would connect Ironwood in the far northwest corner of the Upper Peninsula with the growing trail system in Detroit.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize what we could have through that (Lakelands) connection,” Krupiarz said. Krupiarz said the Department of Transportation has been favorably disposed toward adding a bike lane or an extra wide shoulder on M-52 to make the link possible.

Morgan lit up at the prospect.

“You can get on your bike and ride as far as you want,” he said.



Lansing's LGBT Connection!

Lansing Association for Human Rights

The LGBT News

Michigan's oldest community based organization

February 2017: Published Monthly

Queer and In Love: A Story

By Emily Dievendorf

Fits and starts. Mixed signals and at times an unspoken agreement to ignore signals being clearly sent. Like many romances, that is how Amanda and Zoe fell. Clumsily, with great hesitation, and then with everything they had.

Zoe remembers the first time she saw Amanda, and the second, and the third, but it wasn't because it was love at first sight. Amanda leaves an impression, and nobody can dispute that. You may not know precisely what Amanda is bringing into a room on any given day but you can certainly feel it. It adds weight or lifts the air around them. Those first few times Zoe met Amanda they were carrying the heaviness of anger and sadness — in no small part because the relationship Amanda was in at the time was unhealthy and destructive.

Zoe is also unforgettable. She is frustrated with the state of the world and impassioned to make positive change happen, but somehow brings into the room a distinctive giggle. Amanda didn't notice Zoe those first few times — not because she wasn't a bright spot in the room, but because Amanda was in a black hole and light didn't register. The night Amanda really noticed Zoe was at a Michigan State University academic mixer. The room was just pretentious enough to make genuine articles easy to spot, if only through the awkwardness of those who weren't able to fake it. Amanda saw Zoe across the room and recognized Zoe as their partner's employee and as somebody else at the gathering who wasn't interested or even capable of putting on a show to impress or to fit in.

Zoe, similarly, wasn't in the most positive place. She had only been out as trans for about a year, had just graduated from undergrad, was recovering from a bad breakup, and most of her friends had moved away. Zoe was feeling isolated in that room and in general. They were both islands in a sea of people. Zoe was Amanda's relief. The bright spot, finally detectable.

Amanda sought her out.

They both can tell you, exactly, all the things they talked about that night. Identity, the intersections of trans identity and deafness, the book "Far From the Tree," horizontal identity and vertical identity... When



Amanda and Zoe

they left the event the conversations didn't end. Amanda started Facebook messaging Zoe often. Zoe wasn't accustomed to anyone expressing such a strong interest in getting to know her. When Amanda asks Zoe today if they were too aggressive Zoe laughs and says she was happy about it and that she needed somebody to come on that strong. Which is great, because strong is the only way Amanda comes on. After much more talking, a dinner that they now can see was really a first date because they closed down the restaurant with their talking (Zoe says they "time traveled"), a bad breakup-relapse-breakup for Amanda, and one deliciously torturous night of hanging out that turned into getting iced in for days together without power and with romance not yet on the table...We find them here, three years later, living together in a small two-bedroom apartment, co-parenting a child, trying to find work they believe in that will also pay the bills, fighting together for LGBTQ social justice, and debating who is truly responsible for the clean laundry regularly getting mixed into the dirty laundry over the course of the week. In the last three years Zoe has received

her master's in social work and is now looking for a full-time job doing what she does best: helping people. And Amanda has taken all the risks necessary to live their life on their own terms, juggling teaching yoga, sign language interpreting, and doing LGBTQ cultural competency trainings with Zoe. They are busy, together and on their own.

Amanda and Zoe are also planning a wedding. I asked them how they arrived at that place. Marriage was not on Amanda's list and for a time they felt the battle for marriage equality was imposed on them. I have always considered Zoe the romantic in the pair. It turns out Zoe and Amanda are, for the most part, on the same page with this one. They value radical honesty and don't make promises they think might be impossible to keep, they don't see the logic of the law dictating the legitimacy of their relationship. But for each other they were game changers. They couldn't see a future that didn't include the other. They also know that until LGBTQ people are seen as fully human and treated as equal under the law and in every respect, single or otherwise, getting

See Love Story, Page 13

A Love Letter to My Queer Community

by Lydia Weiss

To all of my brave ones — who live boldly as yourselves, despite, and sometimes in spite of, the people who try to dim your radiant light. To those who, as Janelle Monae says, "defy every label." To all my brave ones — who live quietly and remind us that being queer is a journey in self-love and is taken in our own time. To those who remind us that we all must assess our safety and acceptance every day.

To all of my young ones — who teach us the wisdom of youth and provide endless lessons in endurance and resistance. To my transgender youth who don't give a f*ck about social gender norms and know who they are better than many of us adults know ourselves.

To my rainbow family. My beloved queer community.

I love you. I love us.

I love that we continue to string together letters that are meaningless without the context of

identity, even though we know full-well that none of us can be contained by a single letter. I love that we can make the alphabet bend to our many needs and yet still come up short on adequate characters.

I love you, queer community, even though we have shortcomings. I love you, because I believe in you. I believe that we can continue to fight on behalf of our young ones who I want to inherit a more equal community than the one I came up in. I believe that while evil forces threaten the existence of all identities that intersect our queerness, we will each go to our excessively colorful closets and take our battle gear off the hanger. I believe that just because our "I do's" are currently sacred, we know the struggle is not actually over.

My dearest queer community, I love you. I will fight with you. I will celebrate with you. I will resist with you. I will hold you in my heart especially close over the next four years.

To all of us. Together. In love.

Loving Queer

By Michael Carlson

Queer. I love that word for so many reasons.

It's useful. We're at our best when we're inclusive. Presently we're the LGBTQAI community. That's quite a mouthful and pretty unwieldy as a word. There's always a fuss about the order of the letters (as there should be) and there may be even more additions I missed. I remember as each letter, each identity, was added and how enlightened and progressive we felt, but our journey toward inclusion is not over.

No matter how many letters we add, identities are constantly shifting and evolving. Instead of trying to add infinite letters, I feel queer is a single, monosyllabic word that quite nicely covers all we are and all we can be.

It's political. Queer is a loud, defiant, in-your-face kind of word at a time when we need to be louder, more defiant, and in faces. It takes no prisoners and refuses to back down from what it believes in.

It's empowering. It's been used against us, and it's time we reclaimed it for our own. There is something exhilarating about taking back a word that has been

used to demoralize and threaten us. I love the confused looks of haters after they've shouted some stinging attack and we just look at them, shrug, and say "Yeah, what was your first clue? The words on my button/t-shirt/tattoo? Nice effort but you need to try harder."

It's transgressive. Queer stands against the normal, the typical, the average, and the common. I'd be willing to be normal if "normal" meant embracing an educated, empathetic understanding of one another. Right now, "normal" feels racist, sexist, hegemonically imperialistic, and greedy. Queerness, therefore, is something I aspire to.

And finally, it's more about love and identity than sex. So many of our labels — homosexual, bisexual, even asexual — include the word sex. But even though many of our identities have been sexualized, we can and do keep our sexual relationships behind closed doors. This allows us to feign normalcy and carry on as typical members of our communities — however uptight they may be. Love's another story. It's harder to keep hidden and demands acknowledgment. It reveals itself in the way we look at our partners, how hands linger, and how we speak of those we care about. And that's what I love about the word queer: It shows that our community isn't about who we sleep with, but who we love and who we are, and it wants everyone to know about it.

Queer love? Hell yeah.

Love Story

from page 12


married is as much protection as we might be able to get for our partners and families. Marriage attaches a legitimacy to the relationship that, of course, doesn't actually come from any government sanctioning the union but is treated as such. For Amanda, who is genderqueer, and Zoe, who is a trans woman, and who are both read by the world as feminine, as much protection as possible must be secured.

If you ask Zoe and Amanda what love is they will agree with Zoe's assessment that "love is an emotion and an action, an affection and genuine caring about another person." Amanda contends that "Love is something that you make inside yourself." Zoe suggests that the way they both define and put love into action has allowed her to grow and give saying to Amanda, "The love that I have received from my family and from you has helped me love myself. Knowing what it feels like to be loved has helped make it clearer to me that I deserve that kind of love and has made it easier for me to love myself which in turn makes it easier for me to love others. One of the things that is so weird about love is that it can create more of itself."

When asked what is different about what

they found together, between these two forces of nature who often work in such very different ways, that made them want to commit to choosing each other every day until and unless something makes that impossible, Zoe, who I contend is the romantic, responds, "I've had friends and lovers who became my chosen family but Amanda and Jo became not just my family but also my home where I felt like I always belonged and wanted to be. I wanted my home base to always be with them."

In response Amanda smiles at Zoe, tearing up, and whispers uncharacteristically shyly, "Shut up."



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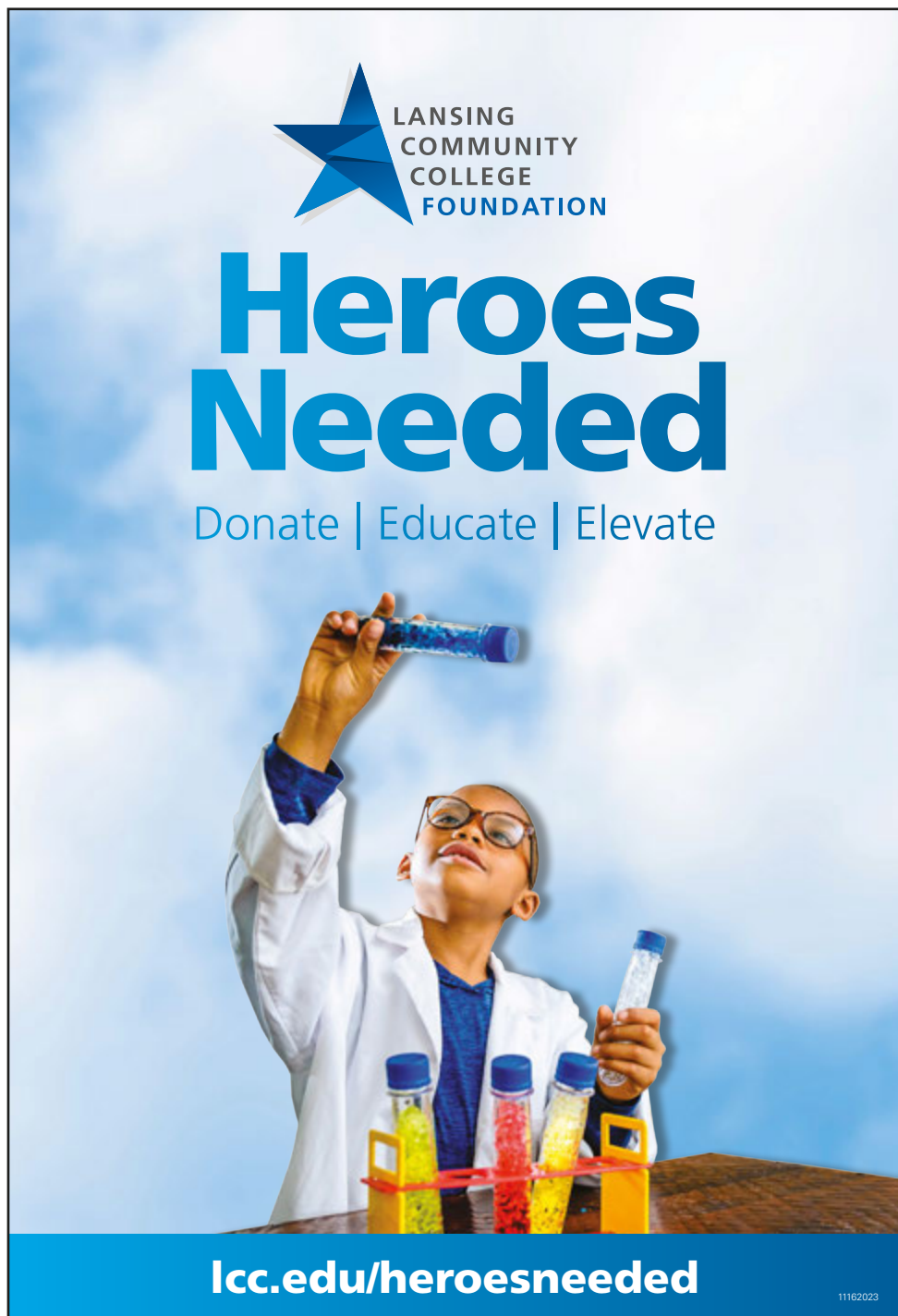



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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

By **TY FORQUER**

Human trafficking, prostitution, heroin addiction — these are not typical topics for a dance performance. But “Among the Darkest Shadows,” a cross-country multi-partner collaboration that opens at the Wharton Center tomorrow, is anything but a typical dance show.

The evening-length piece, co-commissioned by the Wharton Center and Des Moines Performing Arts, straddles the line between theater and dance. While the choreography was developed by Cleveland’s Inlet Dance Theatre, the storyline was written by Los Angeles-based playwright José Cruz González, who specializes in magical realism.

“There’s no dialogue; it’s all voiceover,” said director Bert Goldstein. “José was intrigued by the idea of writing without language.”

“Among the Darkest Shadows” follows two characters, a young woman named Pinta and a young man named Lodi, who are lured into the world of human trafficking — Pinta into sex trafficking and Lodi into labor trafficking. According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, there were over 7,500 cases of human trafficking reported in the U.S. in 2016, of which at least 5,550 were cases of sex trafficking and 1,050 were cases of labor trafficking. Michigan placed seventh-highest in the nation for reported human trafficking cases in 2016 with 246 cases.

“This whole issue is so close to everybody, but most people aren’t aware of how close,” Goldstein said. “It’s frightening.”

Bill Wade, founder and executive/artistic director of Inlet Dance Theatre, sees this production as a way to build necessary awareness around the issue of human trafficking.

“Awareness is 90 percent of the problem. If you can bring true awareness to what you’re grappling with, that’s enormous,” he said. “Once people are aware, they can’t not

be aware anymore, and then they have to make decisions. Am I going to passively observe? Am I going to ignore it? Or am I going to choose to do something about it?”

And while the piece centers on the issue of human trafficking, the story also touches on difficult subjects like domestic abuse, prostitution and drug addiction. Dancer Michelle Sipes, who plays Pinta, hopes that the work will help audience members see the warning signs in their friends and family or even their own lives.

“Among the Darkest Shadows”

Inlet Dance Theatre
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16;
1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19
Tickets start at \$19.50/\$18
students
Pasant Theatre
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East
Lansing
(517) 432-2000,
whartoncenter.com

RISK AND REWARD

AMBITIOUS DANCE WORK
TAKES ON
HUMAN TRAFFICKING,
ADDICTION
AND ABUSE



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

“Among the Darkest Shadows,” featuring Inlet Dance Theatre, tells the story of two young people caught in the world of human trafficking. In this scene, a pimp lavishes women with money and gifts to earn their trust and dependence.

“The piece is a door-opener for hard conversations,” she said. “It’s hopefully going to allow people, wherever they’re at in life — they may not be where the characters are at in the story, but they might be in a situation that has common ground, and they might feel more comfortable being able to address those topics or being able to go to somebody for help.”

In addition to public performances in East Lansing and Des Moines, “Among the Darkest Shadows” will offer educational performances for local schools.

“Between Lansing and Iowa, 3,000 middle school and high school students will see the piece,” Goldstein said. “We expose the consequences of risky behavior. We have a no-holds-barred depiction of drug addiction, and it’s all told through dance. It’s not someone telling you, ‘This is what happens when you use heroin.’ We show it through dance, and it’s very effective.”

While Inlet Dance Theatre often address-

es social issues in its work, this piece, which features a cast of seven dancers, presents some unique challenges.

“We’ve tackled things in smaller projects. This is a very large project,” Sipes said. “Having a social agenda within the choreography is not new to us. But on this scale, it’s definitely a leap. And the overall timeline within the piece is a bigger scale than what we’re used to. The journey of the characters is far longer than what we’re used to tackling on stage.”

For many of the dancers, “Among the Darkest Shadows” is the first evening-long piece they’ve done. “A lot of our repertoire is five minutes to 15 minutes, and we do multiple pieces in a concert,” dancer Dominic Moore-Dunson, who plays Lodi, said. “The difficult but rewarding thing is building these characters over the span of an evening, as opposed to a 15-minute moment with those characters.”

Goldstein, director of the MSU Federal

Credit Union Institute for Arts and Creativity at the Wharton Center, has overseen theatrical productions that deal with heavy topics like PTSD and racism, but he’s never directed a serious dance work.

“When (Wharton Center Executive Director) Mike Brand and I started Wharton Center theater productions, we wanted to think outside the box. We don’t do a lot of conventional stuff,” he said. “I’ve had shows with choreography, where you tell the choreographer what you want, and he or she goes to work on it, but I haven’t done something like this. Putting this together was fascinating.”

For Goldstein, Inlet Dance Theatre was a natural choice for this genre-straddling work.

“When I saw and met Inlet Dance several years ago, their work lent itself to characterization,” he said. “They were playing characters in these smaller pieces, and I could see it translating into a play. That’s one of the many things that attracted me to this company.”

Goldstein traveled to Cleveland regularly over the past year, working with Wade to shape the story.

“I spent two days this summer just talking about acting values. We didn’t even work much on choreography,” Goldstein said. “Ultimately, they’re interpreting a play. We broke it down the way I would with any play I direct, having conversations, asking them to do homework.”

Wade also worked closely with González, sending videos via Internet as the choreography developed.

“Jose created a narrative, an architecture,” Wade said. When they started working, González left the physical layout of each scene to Wade and adjusted his writing accordingly. “Some things make sense when you read them, but when you physicalize them in the space, you realize you don’t need it or you need something else,” Wade said. “It feels like a true collaboration.”

Wade tries to bring a spirit of cooperation to all of his work at Inlet Dance Theatre.

“In our company, ultimately I’m the choreographer, but I build all of my work collaboratively with the talent that’s in the room at the time,” he said. “You get a richer result when you open source the concept.”

While this new work touches on dark subjects, it carries the hopeful message that the cycle of abuse and exploitation can be broken. Wade drew this message directly from survivors of human trafficking that he talked with over a year ago, before beginning work on the piece.

“Every single one of the women we talked to said, ‘You have to make sure hope is evident in the piece,’” Wade said. “And it is.”

Alternative to candy and tabloids

Local mom asks Meijer for healthy checkout aisles

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Local photographer and artist Jane Kramer started a petition on change.org after she couldn't get past Meijer's customer service desk last fall. The petition, which asks the Michigan-based megastore chain to rethink the shelves of candy, sugary drinks and tabloid magazines found at the store's checkout lanes, has gathered nearly 1,400 signatures. But the origin of Kramer's campaign stretches back even further.

"I asked for a family-friendly aisle five years ago," Kramer said. "Then back in September, I contacted customer service again and tried to get somebody in corporate, but they told me that wasn't something that they did. That told me that I'm not going to get this message across to anybody if I'm just leaving it as kind of a suggestion box idea."

Kramer is asking for at least one

"healthy checkout aisle" in every Meijer store, filled with healthy treats and child-appropriate reading material.

"Why don't we model better eating habits and eating choices to our kids?" she asked. "Why do we have to be continuously navigating around these harmful choices, when we could be surrounding ourselves with healthy food?"

Kramer's son was the inspiration for this petition. After she began shopping with her son, Kramer said, shopping trips became far longer than before. By the end of her grocery run, she and her child were both exhausted and hungry but found no healthy options at checkout.

"I wanted to buy him something healthy in the checkout aisle, and there was nothing available like carrots," Kramer said, adding that tabloid magazines, which often feature headlines about sex and drugs, made the situation worse.

"He asked me about some inappropriate things (he saw on tabloids), which I would prefer not to have to discuss in a family grocery store," she said.

Kramer's struggle caught the attention of others, and ABC's "Good Morning America" featured her petition. Though the appearance garnered support for the petition, it also fueled some critics. The show's Twitter page exploded with tweets accusing Kramer of being unable to parent her son.

"I never had any problem saying no to him," Kramer said. "I think on social media, people just feed off of each other, and that negativity just grows and grows."

Kramer said that she understands that Meijer is a business that ultimately seeks to make a profit, but she argues that just one checkout lane would give parents a

better option and wouldn't make a huge impact in sales.

When asked about Kramer's petition, Meijer's senior director of communications, Frank Guglielmi, offered this statement:

"Millions of customers come to Meijer each week and our goal is to ensure our offerings appeal to the needs of a very broad and diverse customer base. We are proud of the healthy choices we offer throughout our stores, as well as the fact that our customers can count on us for all of their shopping needs, whatever their buying preference."

Patricia Huddleston, a professor of retailing in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at Michigan State University, seconds that opinion.

"If you think of a store like Meijer and the proportion of their total consumable merchandise, food and beverages that are represented at the checkout is a really, re-

ally small percentage," Huddleston said. "I don't think that a decision to change up some of the merchandise at the point of point of purchase is going to have a big impact on their bottom line."

Huddleston also points out that when a customer is looking to purchase their groceries, the products found in the checkout aisle are usually the least of their worries.

"I think most people, when they're selecting a checkout line, select it on the length of the line and how long they anticipate they're going to have to wait," she said. "So unless a checkout was labeled as a healthy options checkout, I'm not sure that people would pay attention before they actually got into the line."

As it turns out, the idea isn't a new one. Supermarket chains like Aldi and Raley's have already introduced healthy checkout stands.

See Checkout, Page 16



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

Local artist Jane Kramer has started an online petition to ask Meijer to offer healthy checkout lanes that aren't filled with candy, sugary drinks and tabloids.

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Deadly confrontation

New book looks at events leading to Kent State shootings

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“Four dead in Ohio.”

Those four words, from Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young’s hastily recorded protest

Life and Death at Kent State: 1960’s Student Dissent as a Working Class Movement

With Thomas M. Grace
12:15-1:30 p.m. Thursday,
Feb. 23
FREE
MSU Museum Auditorium
409 W. Circle Drive, East
Lansing
(517) 355-2370, museum.
msu.edu

song “Ohio,” were haunting in their simplicity. Written by Neil Young and released just weeks after the Kent State University shootings, the song conveyed the angst felt across the country when on May 4, 1970, an estimated 29 Ohio National Guard members shot into

a crowd of demonstrators, killing four and wounding nine others.

Young was inspired to write the song after seeing the disturbing photographs of dead and wounded students in the May 15 issue of Life magazine. The most famous photo, taken by a student journalist, shows a young woman screaming while kneeling over one of the victims, Kent State student Jeffrey Glenn Miller. For several generations of Americans, that iconic image is an indelible memory.

The tragedy became the catalyst for massive, nationwide demonstrations and student strikes at more than 130 college campuses, including Michigan State University, where

Miller had been a student before transferring to Kent State. By midweek, more than 6,000 students had gathered around Beaumont Tower to protest, and on May 14, several thousands of students, faculty and community members trekked the four miles to the State Capitol to protest the shootings and the Cambodian incursion, which precipitated the shootings.

Last week, the Kent State shootings were once again in the news when Michigan Republican official Dan Adamini, the secretary of the Marquette County Republican Party, resigned after posting on Facebook and Twitter that it is time for “another Kent State” in response to student demonstrations. “One bullet stops a lot of thuggery,” he wrote in a tweet that has since been deleted.

One of the victims of the shootings, Thomas M. Grace, 66, has written a new book on the tragedy, “Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties.” Grace was wounded in the foot and was riding in the ambulance with another victim, Sandra Lee Scheuer, when she died.

Grace is quick to point out that the book is not a memoir but rather a look back at the long and winding road that led up to the May 4 incident.

The author asserts in the book that Kent State’s activist history before 1970 “has largely been overlooked.” Grace examines that premise with the eye of a historian, which he became after working for years as a union leader and social worker. When he started the project as a doctoral thesis, he never expected it to become a book.

“I was there, but I did not know how it all started or the factors that made it happen here,” he said in a phone interview from his home in Buffalo, where he teaches history, mostly Civil War-era, at Erie Community College.

His 384-page book details the people and the events that lead up to the shooting. One

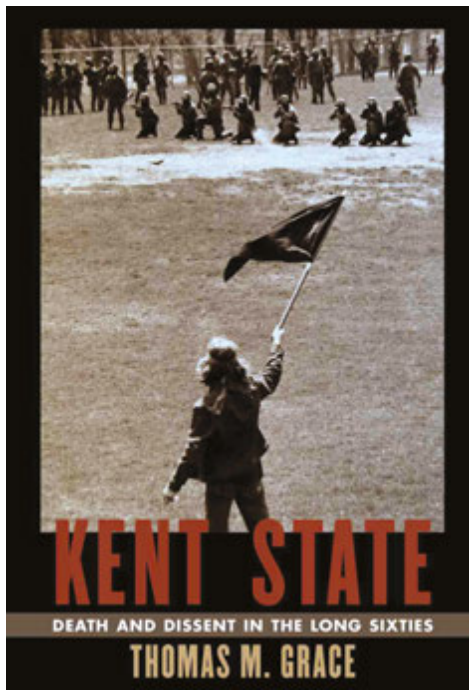
of the factors that Grace points to for the level of activism on the Kent State campus is that a large number of students came from working class homes, many of them from homes with activist union members.

“Working class students gave character to the movement,” Grace said.

Grace points to his roommate, Alan Canfora, for example, who is often seen in photographs waving a black flag in front of a group of National Guard members who had dropped into firing position. Canfora was shot in the wrist.

“His father was a UAW vice president,” Grace said.

Close ties to the union movement also



Courtesy Photo

Kent State shooting victim Thomas M. Grace recently published “Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties,” a historical look at the events leading up to the tragedy.

help explain some of the techniques students used, including picketing, sit-downs and strikes.

Along the way, Grace covers individuals like Carl Oglesby, a Kent State student in the early 1950s who would become the national president of the activist group Students for a Democratic Society. Grace also identifies how important civil rights activists like Kent State freedom rider Danny Thompson were in forging the movement at Kent State.

At one point, Grace said, he was afraid the shooting would “identify for me the rest of my life.” When people learned about him being at Kent State, conversations would inevitably turn to the shootings. He said that people ask if the shootings still haunt him.

“People always ask me that first,” he said. “The shootings never bothered me in the least. I’ve always been successful in compartmentalizing.”

Grace said there have been two failed attempts to make a movie about the Kent State shootings, which spurred him on to write his book.

“The book got written — the movie was never made,” he said.

Grace said that in researching the details for the book, he conducted more than 40 interviews and completed extensive archival research. He said it was important to tell the story without “recycling conventional myths,” such as the National Guard soldiers being young and inexperienced.

“In reality, 25 was the average age, and Governor Rhodes had mobilized the Guard 32 times,” Grace said.

Grace’s book seems likely to become one of the most reliable looks at an event that set off a firestorm of activism.

“The killings at Kent State, meant to contain the explosion of protest over the Cambodian invasion, instead spread embers of dissension to every corner of the country,” he writes.

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Why is Andrew Spencer smiling?

Lansing Symphony, Sharon Isbin serve up smashing night of Latin music

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Andrew Spencer was smiling so much it must have hurt his face Saturday night. Don’t think we didn’t notice.

Spencer, the timpani man at the back of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, put the thunder under a spectacular concert of Spanish and Latin-American music.

From the freshness of the music to the precision and power of the orchestra to the soulful guitar artistry of guest soloist Sharon Isbin, Saturday’s tour de force ranks among the most memorable nights in music director Timothy Muffitt’s tenure.

I can’t recall a concert where the orches-

tra sounded more luscious and huge, more locked in to one another and more engaged with the audience.

The unusual choice of music was key. A mingled tangle of discovery and familiarity, comfort and shock, ran through the entire evening, as the orchestra rampaged through several works by Spanish and Latin composers.

The immediate cause of Spencer’s grin was the pummeling he and the brass section administered to the audience in the third part of “Estancia,” a rollicking cowboy ballet by Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera.

The suite began with a relentless four-note whacking, as if somebody tied Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony to a horse and sent it galloping through the dust until there was nothing left of Ludwig but a bloody skeleton of rhythm.

Ginastera’s ballet, set on a ranch, sounded at times like an Andes inversion of Aaron Copland, but there were surprises along the

See Symphony, Page 17

Checkout

from page 15

“We know impulsive choices happen at the check stand. We are proud to take a brave next step by making it easier for shoppers to choose healthy, more nutritious options,” said Raley’s COO Keith Knopf in a 2016 article for groceryheadquarters.com.

Kramer said she would like to make clear that she is not attacking Meijer. She is a loyal customer, and she appreciates the company’s contributions to cardiovascular health through the Meijer Heart Center. Her goal is to promote children’s health first and feels that the company could only benefit from her suggestion.

“I’m so surprised that Meijer hasn’t done this already, that is just crazy to me,” Kramer said. “It just seemed to fit so well with the ideology of the whole company and what they’re promoting.”

CURTAIN CALL

Fatally funny

Peppermint Creek's 'Heathers' delivers laughs with dark humor

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Let's get one thing out of the way. "Heathers: The Musical" is a dark — more like black — satire. If you haven't seen the '80s cult film on which it's based, you've now been warned. That said, if you loved "Heathers" the movie, or if you just love dark humor, you will love "Heathers: The Musical." Peppermint Creek Theatre Company's current production is wicked fun.

Like its source material, "Heathers: The Musical" is a bleak, politically incorrect, snarkfest set in an upscale Ohio high school. At the top of the student caste system are the infamous Heathers (played by Emma

Kron-Deacon, Kylie Densmore and Taylor Rupp), a trio of beautiful but malicious seniors who act as judge and jury over anyone they deem unworthy — which is basically everyone else. After Veronica Sawyer (Elle Weise) is exiled from the Heathers after brief membership in the clique, she seeks justice with the help of her new friend, J.D. (Adam Woolsey). Veronica slowly discovers that J.D. has a more deadly plan for fixing the school's bullying problems.

"Heathers" is definitely a period piece, and the production elements work best when planted in that decade. Thankfully, the script is not a carbon copy of the film. The music, lyrics and book by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy allow space for songs while still retaining most of the film's best lines, like "Bulimia is so '87." The eye-popping costumes, designed by Morgan and Shannon Bowen, perfectly captured the color and style of the decade while clearly denoting the characters and their place in the social pecking order. And

the best songs — sharply directed by John Dale Smith and choreographed by Karyn Perry — sound like pop music from the '80s. Like any good period piece, the decade appropriate nods help the story and characters feel authentic without seeming dated. Other production elements, including the set and lighting design by Nick Eaton, are simple yet effective.

The cast, directed with "low budget" innovation and professional polish by Blake Bowen, is superb, with finely tuned character details that make the audience love

"Heathers — The Musical"

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16-Saturday, Feb. 18; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19

\$20/\$17 students and seniors
Miller Performing Arts Center
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
(517) 927-3016,
peppermintcreek.org

even the most despicable villains. Kron-Deacon, Densmore and Rupp are deliciously daft and malicious as the Heathers. Zach Riley and Brian Farnham, as Ram Sweeney and Kurt Kelly, respectively, are the funniest jocks/bullies/miscreants you will ever see on stage. With a level of gleeful stupidity that is downright infectious, this "Beavis and Butthead"-style pair make every scene their own. "Blue," their song about reliev-

ing their sexual tension, is a first act highlight, as is their slow motion fight with J.D. (choreographed by Curran Jacobs). Fortunately, the script allows the characters life even after their physical deaths, providing some of the best moments for Riley, Farnham and Kron-Deacon.

Weise is strongest as an actress, powered by Wynona Ryder-level spunk. Her chemistry with J.D. lights the stage. Woolsey might not pass as a high-schooler as easily as Weise, but his strong face and dark eyebrows are the perfect tools to convey J.D.'s nihilistic "fight fire with fire" attitude. Weise is not as experienced a singer as Woolsey, and she consistently struggled with her high notes, but her character is pitch perfect.

Featured actors Teriah Flemming as Martha "Dump Truck" Dunnstock, Laura Croff as Mrs. Flemming and Joe Quick as Ram's father each get solo songs and do not disappoint. Croff delivers her Act II showstopper, "Shine a Light," resplendent in a sparkly vest, and Quick shines in his musical eulogy, "My Dead Gay Son". But Flemming's melancholy "Kindergarten Boyfriend" beautifully sums up the show's theme: Some people get really mean when they grow up. Fortunately for audiences, watching that meanness is a joy.

Symphony

from page 16

trail. The second dance began with a dainty flute and piano duet suggesting that the gauchos had stopped in a gulch for cocktails, with a candelabra balanced on a boulder. The third dance is a juggernaut fanfare for timpani and brass that turned genial-looking Spencer into the prince of darkness for five glorious minutes. It was over much too soon, but the consolation was an even more energetic finale, with three or four rhythms pounding along the plains at once. The sheer verve of the music brought out Muffitt's inner Leonard Bernstein, which isn't that far from the surface anyway. A rare mid-concert standing ovation did little to dim Spencer's smile.

Two even more extroverted rousers bracketed the evening. Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona's "Malagueña" skirted the shoals of schmaltz at maximum volume to open the night. "Dánzon No. 2," by Mexican-born, L.A.-based composer Arturo Márquez, dropped the curtain with a movie-ish dose of post-modern razzle-dazzle.

But the meat of the evening was in the middle.

"Sinfonía India," by Mexican composer Carlos Chávez, opened with a bustling outburst of tropical colors, enriched by a battery of four percussionists and piccolo trills from the high branches. A folksy, hymn-like middle section, with a plainspoken grandeur and ambling pace, drew itself up into a stern, urgent statement from the strings — a progression straight from the playbook

of Copland, a close friend of the composer.

The evening wasn't all thunder and flash. "Fuentes" ("Fountains") by Alfonso Tenreiro quietly diffused into the hall like a sunrise. The music's fragile mood depended on the fine-grained consistency of long tones in the string section, drifting like layers of orange haze in the pre-dawn light. A melancholy dialogue between principal trumpeter Rich Illman and principal oboist Jan Eberle threaded through the subtle orchestral washes. Illman nailed several key moments Saturday night — Latin music is perfectly suited to his extroverted, big sound.

For a bonus, the Venezuelan-born composer flew to Lansing from Utah to hear the concert. It was fun to see Tenreiro looking so happy after the performance, applauding from his seat with hands held high.

The centerpiece of the night was the famous Concierto de Aranjuez by Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo, with no less a soloist than Sharon Isbin, arguably the world's foremost classical guitarist.

The pairing produced one of the orchestra's most spellbinding concerto performances in recent memory. Sonic balance, a tricky matter with a classical guitar, was never an issue.

The performance started with technical mastery and quickly rose to the level of a spiritual experience. The music was charged with a feeling of tension that ran deeper than the expected give-and-take between guitar and orchestra. The dark duality of Isbin's isolation, especially in the heart-rending slow movement, and her deep communion with the sounds around her took on an existential undertow. For all its exotic atmosphere,

the music is animated by subterranean, throbbing pulsations carried in turn by the orchestra and guitar, seamlessly transferred between Isbin and the orchestra to shattering effect under the surface play of melody and color.

After Isbin played her sorrow to the limit in the dissonant pangs of the slow movement's solo cadenza, the full orchestra slammed out the famous theme like a coffin closing, leaving all forces to deal with mortality as best they could. This being Spain, the consolation took the form of a spirited dance, with plenty of nimble give and take between soloist

and orchestra.

Isbin stuck around to play a spellbinding solo encore, Francisco Tárrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra." The orchestra sat quietly. Muffitt went to the back of the stage and chilled out in a chair, next to a gong. The hall fell into a hush as Isbin sent jittery, mandolin-like ripples over a drifting bass line, releasing a languid melody into the air to circle over it all like a homesick bird. Seems to me it would have been an easier job for three people, but Isbin has a surgeon's concentration, a rocket scientist's skills and a troubadour's heart.

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History in black and white

Film screening revisits local nationalist group

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Five years before starring in the iconic “Casablanca,” Humphrey Bogart played the lead role in a darker, lesser-known Warner Bros. film, “Black Legion,” which also explored the relationship between the United States and European émigrés.

“Casablanca” allowed Bogart to metaphorically redeem himself from his dark role in “Black Legion,” where he played a nativist and white supremacist who rails against immigration. The film noir-inspired techniques of Hal B. Wallis, the producer and creative force behind “Casablanca” and “Black Le-

gion,” are pervasive in both films.

In “Black Legion,” Frank Taylor (Bogart) joins the Black Legion, a Ku Klux Klan-like group, after losing a promotion to an Eastern European immigrant. He then is implicated in a murder and becomes the key witness for the prosecution.

“Black Legion”

5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, FREE

Dart Auditorium
500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
(517) 282-0671,
lansinghistory.org

The movie was nominated for an Academy Award for best screenplay (where it lost to “A Star is Born”) and was named by the National Board of

Review as the best film the year.

The film is based on actual events that occurred in Detroit in 1935, when members of the Black Legion, a white supremacist group that targeted Jews, blacks, Catholics, Communists and Eastern Europeans, were charged with crimes ranging from murder to arson. Ultimately, 48 members were convicted of crimes, including 11 for murder.

Newspapers and newsreels across the country covered the trial, garnering the attention of Warner Bros., which became known for its anti-fascist movies. When the movie opened at Lansing’s Capitol Theatre in January 1937, dark, garish movie posters depicted a black-hooded man holding a whip with the headline below it, “Death to squealers.”

The Black Legion had arisen out of the Ku Klux Klan, switching out white robes and hoods for black outfits that included pirate-like hats and black robes. The group, which was estimated to have a membership of more than 10,000, had members in Detroit, Pontiac and several other Michigan cities, including Lansing. It was rumored that the Black



Courtesy Photo

A movie poster for the 1937 film “Black Legion” features a menacing figure in black robes. The film was inspired by the real-life Black Legion, a white supremacist group that had strong ties to Michigan in the 1930s.

Legion was responsible for the death of Earl Little, the father of Malcolm X, who was killed in a 1931 streetcar accident in Lansing.

Michigan State University English Professor Ann Larabee, who has written extensively about radical groups, said there is always potential for a nativist movement.

“The thread is always there,” she said. “It usually relates to some kind of cultural upheaval, with followers believing the nation is in some kind of chaos — that is not necessarily verifiable — that needs fixing.”

Larabee said she sees some of the same precursors in today’s political climate.

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“There is conspiracy thinking on both sides, and it is a plague on political discourse,” she said.

Early in “Black Legion,” Bogart’s character is seen listening to a firebrand radio host who warns against threat of foreigners. It is believed that the scene is based on the rantings of Father Charles Coughlin, a noted anti-Semite and fascist apologist who hosted a weekly radio show from his parish in Royal Oak in the 1930s until he was forced off the air in 1939. It is estimated he had 30 million listeners.

A Feb. 23 of viewing “Black Legion” is part of a year-long look at the events and people of the year 1937 sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and a Commemoration Committee of several area historians and union members. Following the free screening, Lansing Community College history Professor David Siwik will facilitate a discussion on the themes of the movie.

The year 1937 also saw spectacular events at the international level, including the Hindenburg disaster, the ongoing Spanish Civil War and the rise of Hitler. These, as well as local happenings like the REO Motor Car Co. sit-down strike and numerous architectural, religious and political occurrences, will be highlighted in a series of events, including historical lectures and an exhibit on 1937 opening at Lansing City Hall in May.

The inspiration for the in-depth look at 1937 was inspired by Lansing’s June 7, 1937, “Labor Holiday” which saw thousands of union members stream into the streets, parking vehicles across major streets, virtually shutting the city down for a day.

“The Lansing Labor Holiday was overshadowed by the Flint sit-down strike and the Battle of the Overpass,” said John Beck, chairman of the Commemoration Committee. “We want to bring this significant labor event out of the historical shadows.”

The catalyst for the Labor Holiday was the arrest of several union members for picketing the Capitol City Wrecking Company. The Historical Society will recreate the Labor Holiday as part of the June 3 Be a Tourist in Your Own Town event.

“Community-wide general strikes of this nature are rare in the 20th century,” Beck said. “It is time for the holiday to get the recognition it deserves.”

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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 Allison at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, February 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Conservation at Capital City Bird Sanctuary. Presentation on bird habitat preservation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596, wildoneslansing.org.

Need Market Research? Ask a Business Librarian. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/MdtH306I2IB.

Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic. Demos and talk on contemporary shamanism. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

Beyond Stretching Class. Learn slow movements to reduce muscle tension. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. beyondstretching.weebly.com.

Immigration Law Clinic Free Information Session. Attorneys share information after recent executive orders. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. St. Vincent Catholic Charities, 2800 W. Willow St., Lansing. stvcc.org.

EVENTS

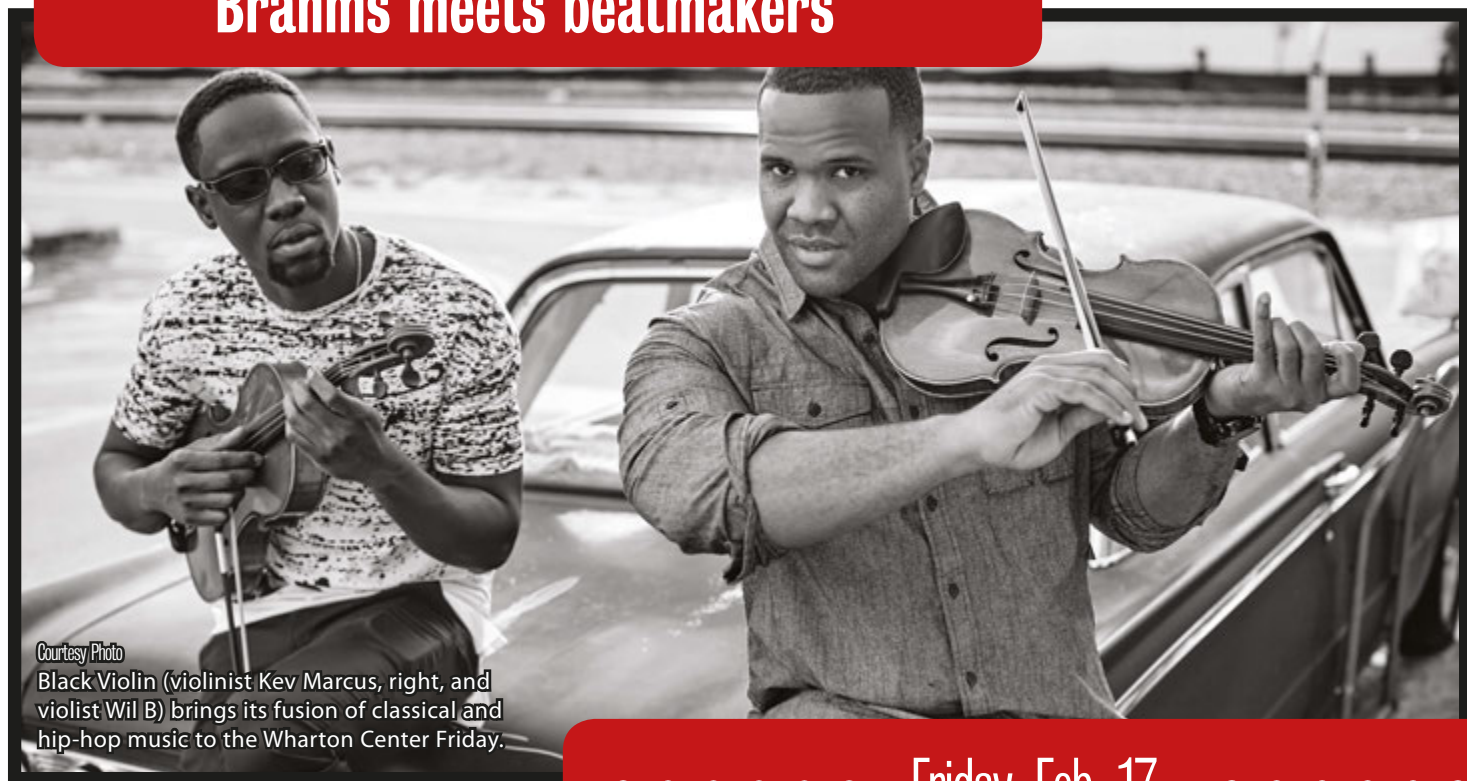
MSU Creative Writing Center Group. All types of creative writers welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Southeast Lansing Community Roundtable. Discussion for members of the 2nd Ward community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. ow.ly/WC1HY.

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St.,

See Out on the Town, Page 24

Brahms meets beatmakers



Courtesy Photo

Black Violin (violinist Kev Marcus, right, and violist Wil B) brings its fusion of classical and hip-hop music to the Wharton Center Friday.

Friday, Feb. 17

Kevin Sylvester, aka Kev Marcus, plays hundreds of shows each year with his classical/hip hop fusion duo Black Violin. But a career in music was far from a sure thing for Sylvester, who wasn't raised in a musical family.

"My mom pushed me into it when I was in fifth grade, trying to get me to make some new friends and get me out of my neighborhood a little bit," Sylvester said. "So she signed me up for a music class. Once I was put in the right situation, I flourished."

Sylvester and his Black Violin duo partner, violist Wilner Baptiste, aka Wil B, bring their genre-straddling show to the Wharton Center Friday. The two performers, both 35, met at a performing arts high school in Florida. After college, the duo planned on a career in music but expected to work behind the scenes.

"We wanted to be beatmakers," Sylvester said. "We wanted to be the guys who make those hot hip-hop beats."

Sylvester and Baptiste discovered their potent blend of hip hop and classical music "by accident," Sylvester said, as they layered violin and viola over the tracks they were producing.

"There were times when we would blend it together, and people would lose their minds," he said. "It was really people's reaction to it, when we would do something that felt easy and effortless to us, that we thought maybe we have something here."

Sylvester said his influences range from classical greats like Brahms and

Debussy to hip-hop artists like Jay-Z and Mos Def to jazz legends like Miles Davis.

"We put it in the pot and stir it together, and that's Black Violin," he said. "People seemed to like the blend of popular music with classical music. And we can do it in a way that's very organic. We don't lose the classical purists, and we don't lose the hip-hoppers."

City Pulse spoke with Sylvester the day before President Trump's inauguration, the last day of Barack Obama's presidency.

"Four years ago, we were performing at his inauguration," Sylvester said. "It's crazy how fast things can change. He definitely will be missed."

"I have three daughters, and this is the only president they've ever known. That's the impact he's had on me, the role model that he is for me and my children," he added. "He's a great leader and an effective communicator — exactly what I want my kids to be."

For Sylvester, getting more African American youth interested in classical music is an important thing.

"Diversity seems to make everything better," he said. "Once you start including everyone in what you're doing, women and people of all colors, it takes on its truest form. Once it becomes inclusive, it becomes bigger, better, stronger."

This diversity, he said, is critical to the future of classical music.

"The audiences are dying, and classical music isn't educating young

people the way it should be," he said. "We're trying to be part of the solution. We perform for hundreds of thousands of kids each year, showing a different side of classical music."

Black Violin is calling its latest tour the Unity Tour, a title that tries to capture the duo's social message.

"Too often we live in our own bubbles — these are the people we deal with and these are the thoughts we agree with," he said. "If you look around at our shows, you see all kinds of people. We don't have a demographic. Last night we were in Phoenix for a free outdoor concert, and there were 3,000 people of all colors, shapes and sizes."

Sylvester hopes that Black Violin's bridging of genres can help facilitate a bridging of cultures.

"We have this platform, and we have this diverse audience, so we feel like we need to say something, to use this platform to unite people who normally wouldn't be," he said. "It gives that 10-year-old kid who listens to nothing but Drake all day and the 70-year-old lady who has season tickets to the opera, it gives them something in common, something to speak about."

— TY FORQUER

Black Violin
8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17
Tickets start at \$14
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane,
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Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

YOUNG PIONEER AT MAC'S BAR



SAT. FEB. 18TH

Young Pioneer
Photo by B.M. Wells

Saturday, Feb. 18 @ Mac's Bar, 2600 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12/\$10 adv., 7 p.m.

Young Pioneer, formed in 2012, is technically a Brighton-based indie rock band, but last summer it grew some Lansing roots when local musicians Jason Marr and Austin Howard joined the band. Marr is known for fronting Elliot Street Lunatic, and he also played alongside Howard in another local alt-rock band, Lights and Caves. Saturday, Young Pioneer headlines Mac's Bar; warming up the stage are Rival Summers, Ellis and Earth and Sea. "We are working on a new album," Marr said. "There's no release date set yet, but we have all put countless hours into this record and cannot wait to share it with everyone." Marr said the band will be playing a few of the new songs at the Mac's Bar show. Fans of Anberlin or Copeland might want to check out this show.

DYNOHUNTER, DJ JOE HERTLER AT THE AVENUE CAFE



FRI. FEB. 17TH

Dynohunter

Friday, Feb. 17 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$10, 8 p.m.

The Avenue Café hosts a night of electronic dance music Friday, featuring a performance from Dynohunter, a Boulder-based duo. The pair are known for their high-energy house and techno beats combined with organic, live instrumentation, including saxophone, bass and drums. The duo has opened for some of the biggest names in "livetronica," including Conspirator, Eoto and Opiuo. Dynohunter's tunes range from exotic rhythms and hard hitting dance beats to uplifting melodies and soulful improvisations. Opening the show is emerging Michigan-based indie-folk songwriter Joe Hertler, who also moonlights as a DJ. Hertler's DJ sets range from disco and electro-house to chill, house and funk. He also dabbles in dubstep, trance and glitch hop. Also spinning tracks at the Avenue Café are Chasé, Skully and Grundy.

A NIGHT UNDER COVERS AT THE LOFT



SAT. FEB. 18TH

Heartsick

Saturday, Feb. 18 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15/\$10 adv., 6:30 p.m.

The ongoing A Night Under Covers concert series features local bands playing all-cover tribute sets to their favorite big-name bands. Saturday, the all-ages tribute event returns to the Loft with Freak on a Leash (as Korn) at 11 p.m., Heartsick (as Deftones) at 10 p.m., Beyond the Fallout (as Limp Bizkit) at 9:15 p.m., Dagon (as Black Sabbath) at 8:30 p.m., Nagazi (as Pantera) at 7:45 p.m. and Born (as Failure) at 7 p.m. As for Heartsick (formerly known as Know Lyfe), the Lansing-based metal band has played over 1,500 shows since it formed 17 years ago. The group, which released a self-titled disc in late 2015, comprises vocalist Alfonso Civile, guitarist Jerred Pruneau, drummer Nico Killips and bassist Waylon Fox. For advanced tickets to A Night Under Covers, visit theloftlansing.com.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Monthly Open Mic w/ Mimi Fisher, 8 p.m.	Dynohunter w/ Joe Hertler (DJ set), 9 p.m.	Night of the Keytar!, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Rob K., 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Sarah Brunner, 9 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			John Persico, 9 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Jeremy Kratky, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd			Retro Joe, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Darrin Lerner, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.	Artist Reception, 5 p.m.	We Three Strings, 7:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.	The Hot Mess, 9 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Rachel Curtis, 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,	Astronomy on Tap, 6:30 p.m.		Q106 Homegrown Throwdown - Finals, 6:30 p.m.	Freak On A Leash, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Jono Zalay, 8 p.m.	Twin Peaks (sold out), 8 p.m.	Elevation Of The Underground, 8 p.m.	Young Pioneer, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Spoonful, 9 p.m.		
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road		Kathy Ford, 7 p.m.		
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.		Life Support, 7 p.m.	Life Support, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St		Mark Sala, 6 p.m.	Wise Guys, 8 p.m.	Wise Guys, 8 p.m.
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Tweed & Dixie, 4 p.m.	Tweed & Dixie, 4 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Rotations, 9 p.m.	Rotations, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Rush Clement, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Alex Mendenall, 8 p.m.		

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezсны

Feb. 17

ARIES (March 21-April 19): By my estimates, 72 percent of you Aries are in unusually good moods. The world seems friendlier, more cooperative. Fifty-six percent of you feel more in love with life than you have in a long time. You may even imagine that the birds and trees and stars are flirting with you. I'm also guessing that 14 percent of you are weaving in and out of being absurdly, delightfully happy, sometimes without any apparent explanation. As a result of your generosity of spirit, you may be the recipient of seemingly impossible rewards like free money or toasted ice cream or unconditional tenderness. And I bet that at least ten percent of you are experiencing all of the above.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I am launching a campaign to undo obsolete stereotypes about you Bulls. There are still backwards astrologers out there who perpetrate the lie that many of you are stingy, stolid, stubborn slowpokes. As an antidote, I plan to heighten everyone's awareness of your sensual, soulful sweetness, and your tastefully pragmatic sensitivity, and your diligent, dynamic productivity. That should be easy in the coming weeks, since you'll be at the height of your ability to express those superpowers. Luckily, people will also have an enhanced capacity to appreciate you for who you really are. It will be a favorable time to clarify and strengthen your reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Will Giovanni surreptitiously replace Allesandra's birth control pills with placebos? Will Camille take a hidden crowbar to her rendezvous with the blackmailer? Will Josie steal Jose's diary and sell it on eBay? Given the current astrological omens, you may have an unconscious attraction to soap opera-type events like those. The glamour of melodrama is tempting you. But I'm hoping and predicting that you will express the cosmic currents in less toxic ways. Maybe you'll hear a searing but healing confession after midnight in the pouring rain, for instance. Perhaps you'll break an outworn taboo with ingenious grace, or forge a fertile link with a reformed rascal, or recover a lost memory in a dusty basement.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): All naturally-occurring matter on earth is composed of 92 basic elements arranged in various combinations. Since some of these appear in trace amounts, they took a long time for humans to discover. In the 18th and 19th centuries, chemists were exuberant when they tracked down seven of the 92 in a single location: an underground mine on the Swedish island of Ytterby. That small place was a mother lode. I'm predicting a metaphorically similar experience for you, Cancerian: new access to a concentrated source that will yield much illumination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The next four weeks will be an excellent time to upgrade your understanding of the important characters in your life. In fact, I suspect you will generate good fortune and meaningful synchronicities whenever you seek greater insight into anyone who affects you. Get to know people better, Leo! If there are intriguing acquaintances who pique your curiosity, find out more about them. Study the oddballs you're allergic to with the intention to discern their hidden workings. In general, practice being objective as you improve your skill at reading human nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1787, English captain Arthur Phillip led an eight-month naval expedition to the southeastern part of the continent now known as Australia. Upon arrival, he claimed the land for England, despite the fact that 250,000 Aboriginal people were living there, just as their ancestors had for 2,000 generations. Two hundred years later, an Aboriginal activist named Burnum Burnum planted the Aboriginal flag on the White Cliffs of Dover, claiming England for his people. I encourage you to make a comparably artful or symbolic act like Burnum's sometime soon, Virgo — a ritual or gesture to assert your sovereignty or evoke a well-deserved reversal or express your unconquerable

spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The ancient Roman rhetorician Quintilian authored a twelve-volume textbook on the art of oratory. As ample as it was, it could have been longer. "Erasure is as important as writing," he said. According to my reading of the astrological omens, that counsel should be a rewarding and even exciting theme for you in the coming weeks. For the long-term health of your labor of love or your masterpiece, you should focus for a while on what to edit out of it. How could you improve it by making it shorter and more concise?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do you know about the long-running kids' show Sesame Street? Are you familiar with Big Bird, the talking eight-foot-tall yellow canary who's one of the main characters? I hope so, because your horoscope is built around them. In the Sesame Street episode called Don't Eat the Pictures, Big Bird solves a riddle that frees a 4,000-year-old Egyptian prince from an ancient curse. I think this vignette can serve as a model for your own liberation. How? You can finally outwit and outmaneuver a very old problem with the help of some playful, even child-like energy. Don't assume that you've got to be relentlessly serious and dour in order to shed the ancient burden. In fact, just the opposite is true. Trust blithe and rowdy spirits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your lessons in communication are reaching a climax. Here are five tips to help you do well on your "final exam." 1. Focus more on listening for what you need to know rather than on expressing what you already know. 2. Keep white lies and convenient deceptions to a bare minimum. 3. Tell the truth as strong and free as you dare, but always — if possible — with shrewd kindness. 4. You are more likely to help your cause if you spread bright, shiny gossip instead of the grubby kind. 5. Experiment with being unpredictable; try to infuse your transmissions with unexpected information and turns of phrase.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The meaning of the Latin phrase *crambe repetita* is "cabbage reheated, twice-cooked." I urge you to avoid partaking of such a dish in the coming weeks, both literally and figuratively. If you're truly hungry for cooked cabbage, eat it fresh. Likewise, if you have a ravenous appetite for stories, revelations, entertainment, and information — which I suspect you will — don't accept the warmed-over, recycled variety. Insist on the brisk, crisp stuff that excites your curiosity and appeals to your sense of wonder.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Here's your mantra for the next three weeks: "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Say this out loud 11 times right after you wake up each morning, and 11 more times before lunch, and 11 more times at bedtime. "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Whenever you do this little chant, summon an upflow of smiling confidence — a serene certainty that no matter how long the magic might take, it will ultimately work. "I know what I want, and I know how to glide it into my life." Don't let any little voice in your head undermine your link to this simple truth. Lift your heart to the highest source of vitality you can imagine.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "We cannot simply sit and stare at our wounds forever," writes Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami. "We must stand up and move on to the next action." That's your slightly scolding but ultimately inspirational advice, Pisces. According to my astrological analysis, you have done heroic work to identify and investigate your suffering. You have summoned a tremendous amount of intelligence in order to understand it and further the healing. But right now it's time to turn your focus to other matters. Like what? How about rebirth?

FEB. 16-19, 23-26 >> 'SUPERIOR DONUTS' AT RIVERWALK THEATRE

Riverwalk Theatre's latest production is a tale of friendship, cultural change and donuts. "Superior Donuts" tells the story of Arthur Przybyszewski, an owner of a rundown donut shop in Chicago who is reluctant to accept change. Franco, Arthur's lively and problematic assistant, sees the donut shop struggling and tries to revamp the business. The comedy/drama explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 7 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Friday-Sunday tickets: \$15/\$12 seniors, students and military; Thursday tickets: \$10/\$8 students, seniors and military. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Out on the town

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Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

ICAGS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

ARTS

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for all ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

**Thursday, February 16
CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 5:15 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

A Course in Miracles. Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

Celebrate Recovery. For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing, (517) 492-1866.

Mason Codependents Anonymous. Support group. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

Spanish Conversation Group. Practice speaking and listening. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

NAMI Class for Caregivers. Class to help caregivers support individuals with mental illness. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3404, namilansing.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time: What are Friends For? Nature activities and story. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

Family Storytime. Stories, songs and activities to build early literacy skills. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. cadl.org.

Family Storytime. Stories, songs and activities to build early literacy skills. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

THEATER

Heathers: The Musical. Cult classic onstage. 8 p.m. \$20/\$17 students and seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$25/\$23 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 7-9 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Inlet Dance Theatre: Among the Darkest Shadows. Dance-based theatrical work about two victims of human trafficking. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$19.50. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East

See Out on the Town, Page 22

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW

Divorce
Custody • Visitation
Child Support
Alimony
Property
Distribution
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Agreements / Separation

40 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE
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Out on the town

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Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

EVENTS

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.
After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Ingham Co. Genealogical Society. "Ingham Co. Women Who Have Made Their Mark." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 719-4737, igcsweb.org.

MSU Film Collective screening: Stalker. Dystopian sci-fi film. 7 p.m. B122 Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. (989) 980-5686, ow.ly/ekd030909yY.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

Crafting for a Cause. Knitters and crafters make items for the food bank. 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Hot Chocolate Bar. Grades 7-12 enjoy hot

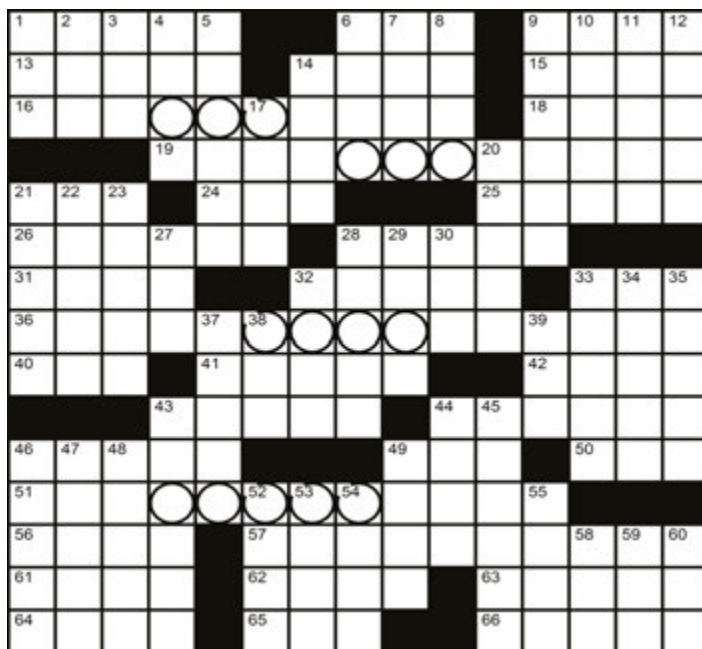
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Hide Your Kids" — they're in there somewhere.
 Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Baker's buy
- 6 Group of periods
- 9 Pet sounds?
- 13 Threepio's mate
- 14 McDonald's Corporation mogul Ray
- 15 "Dog Barking at the Moon" painter Joan
- 16 Maintain the same speed as
- 18 Tree of Knowledge garden
- 19 Converse with the locals in Rome, e.g.
- 21 NBC show since '75



- 24 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- 25 Undersized
- 26 Size in a portrait package
- 28 It keeps going during the Olympics
- 31 "You're not ____, are you?"
- 32 Guy with a lot of food issues?
- 33 "Chandelier" singer
- 36 What regular exercise helps maintain
- 40 Layer of lawn
- 41 Mid-sized jazz combo
- 42 Blue material
- 43 Clunky footwear
- 44 Home of Titian's "Venus of Urbino"
- 46 Muhammad Ali's boxing daughter
- 49 Soundless communication syst.
- 50 U.K. tabloid, with "The"
- 51 "Hmmm ... I'm thinking ..."
- 56 Contends
- 57 What each of the entries with circles reveals
- 61 To be in France
- 62 Lago contents
- 63 Country divided since 1948
- 64 Hair band of the 1980s
- 65 He played Clubber Lang in "Rocky III"
- 66 Gift on the seventh day of Christmas
- 2001
- 10 Chamillionaire hit that doesn't actually have "Dirty" in the title
- 11 Lose one's mind
- 12 Cher's partner
- 14 "The Bridge on the River ____"
- 17 Hit with a barrage
- 20 Concede
- 21 Exchanges
- 22 Cheesy chip flavor
- 23 Bridges of film
- 27 "Stacks of wax"
- 28 Cabinet contents
- 29 Departed
- 30 "Entourage" agent Gold
- 32 Werewolf's tooth
- 33 Long haulers
- 34 Overtime Trooper and Rodeo maker
- 35 John who was Gomez Addams
- 37 Acquired relative
- 38 Dove noise
- 39 Abbr. stamped on a bad check
- 43 Place for supplies, sometimes
- 44 "Back in the ____" (Beatles song)
- 45 The gold in Goldschlager, e.g.
- 46 What "-phile" means
- 47 Curly-tailed canine
- 48 Like xenon, as gases go
- 49 On the ocean
- 52 "Taken" star Neeson
- 53 Caltech grad, perhaps
- 54 Letter-shaped bolt link
- 55 Site with the tagline "Discover the expert in you"
- 58 Glass on the radio
- 59 "Steal My Sunshine" band
- 60 "____ Boot" (1981 war film)

FEB. 17-18, 24-25 >> 'HATE MAIL' AT GENERATIONS COMMUNITY THEATER

Inspired by A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters," "Hate Mail" explores one-sided love and romance gone awry. Set in the 1980s, "Hate Mail" tells the story of two people who are thrown together through a series of bizarre circumstances. The production, directed by Janet Colson and Nicole Clyne, stars Michael Boxleitner and Hannah Feuka. 8 p.m. \$8. Urbanbeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 331-8440, urbanbeatevents.com.

FEB. 17-19, 21-26 >> 'THEATRE2FILM3' AT MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

MSU Department of Theatre's experimental "Theatre2Film" project returns for a third year this weekend. This year's project, "Stay With Me," begins as a family drama but quickly descends into a psychological thriller. Written by MSU theater Professor Mark Colson and MSU Department of Theatre alum CJ Valle, "Stay With Me" is directed by Williamston Theatre executive director John Lepard. Sunday's performance offers a pre-show discussion with the director at 1:15 p.m., and the Feb. 23 performance features a post-show discussion. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday (no matinee Feb. 18); 2 p.m. Sunday. \$17/\$15 seniors and faculty/\$12 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

FEB. 17-18, 24-26 >> 'THE SNOW QUEEN' AT LCC THEATRE PROGRAM

Based on fairy tale by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, LCC Theatre Program's production of "The Snow Queen" tells the story of a young girl named Gerda and her epic quest to save her friend Kay from the evil Snow Queen. "There is something magical about children's theater done well," said director Paige Tufford. "What I love about this script is that the adapters didn't forget the most important element in children's theater — the audience." This Saturday's performance offers a free post-show cocoa party with hot cocoa and sweet treats. 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (no Sunday show Feb. 19). \$15/\$10 seniors, staff and alumni/\$5 children and students. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

chocolate. 3-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiesilverblades.com.

PFLAG Greater Lansing Meeting. Safe space for LGBTQ community, family and friends. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 925-1125.

Project Feeder Watch. Learn about and watch birds to gather useful data. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org/programs.

The Great American Eclipse: Getting Ready for August 2017. Learn about upcoming Solar Eclipse. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672, abramsplanetarium.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

StoryTime. Ages 2-5 enjoy songs, stories and activities. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

THEATER

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$30/\$28 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Hate Mail. Romantic comedy set in the early '80s from Generations Community Theater. 7-10 p.m. \$8. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com/events.

The Maltese Falcon. Radio version of "The Maltese Falcon" live on stage with live music and sound effects. 7-8:30 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. audioairforce.com.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 8 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

The Snow Queen. Based on classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. 7 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC

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staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Heathers: The Musical. Cult classic onstage. 8 p.m. \$20/\$17 students and seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

EVENTS

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Ice Worlds. Examination of icy ecosystems and ice on other planets. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. ow.ly/S30L307wkTS.

Minecraft Game Night on a Library

Computer. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

MSU Community Club February Meeting. "Emerging Infectious Diseases: Global Threat and Global Response," by Dr. Francis P. Downes. 1-3 p.m. MSUFCU, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing.

Project Feeder Watch: Make and Take Project. Naturalists aged 5-10 decorate binoculars or make bird feeder. Noon-1 p.m. \$3. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org/programs.

Spartan Stampede Rodeo. With the MSU Rodeo Club. 8 p.m. \$12-\$20. MSU Pavillion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. msurodeoclub.com.

Saturday, February 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Reiki Level One Class. Course on energy healing techniques. Call or register online. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$55. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop. Learn to make a mini-greenhouse for saplings. 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$20/\$15 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Maker Date Night. Hands-on creative projects for couples including jewelry, glass etching and soldering. Register online. 3-6 a.m. \$165 per couple. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. ow.ly/qT76308Pr47.

Hearing the Voice for Love. All-day event to help find inner spiritual voice of love. Lunch included. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. unitylansing.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books and Bagels Book Club. "Saint Louis Armstrong Beach" by Brenda Woods. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Evergreen Haiku Study Group. All writers are welcome. 10 a.m.-noon. Room C301, Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

MUSIC

The DJClarinet Combo at Roma's Back Door. Light jazz for your dining pleasure. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Romas Back Door, 200 Comstock St., Owosso. (989) 725-5767, romaspizza.com.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17 >> 'THE MALTESE FALCON' AT AUDIO AIR FORCE

Audio Air Force once again dips into the golden age of radio with its latest production, "The Maltese Falcon." Friday's live reading of the 1946 radio script, based on the 1929 novel by Dashiell Hammett, is accompanied by live music and sound effects. The 1941 film version of the popular detective drama, starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor, won three Academy Awards. 7 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 881-9746, audioairforce.com.

Black Violin. Genre-defying violin duo. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$14. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

EVENTS

Raw Foods Potluck & Living Word Gathering. Promoting healthy eating habits with food demonstrations. Register online. 2-4 p.m. FREE. St. Stephens Church, 1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing. goo.gl/j94b5v.

Spartan Stampede Rodeo. With the MSU Rodeo Club. 2 and 8 p.m. \$12-\$20. MSU Pavillion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. msurodeoclub.com.

Mobile Food Pantry. Free non-perishable food items for those in need. Bring state ID or driver's license. FREE. 9-11 a.m., or until food runs out. Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4477.

Winter Warrior. Food, beer, ice sculptures, live music and more. 1-6 p.m. \$10. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St. Lansing. (517) 371-2600, ow.ly/40Br3090aBQ.

THEATER

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 8 p.m. \$27/\$25 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Superior Donuts. Comedy about embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 8 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

The Snow Queen. Based on classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Heathers: The Musical. Cult classic onstage. 8 p.m. \$20/\$17 students and seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Hate Mail. Romantic comedy set in the early '80s from Generations Community Theater. 7-10 p.m. \$8. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com/events.

Sunday, February 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteyoga.net.

End Partisan Gerrymandering in Michigan. With speakers Judy Karandjeff and Walt Sorg. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School Union, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing.

Broad Wellness: Creative Self-Care.

Therapeutic pilates and somatic dance. Register online. 11 a.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

C Division Advanced Speakers Toastmasters. "Better to Have Loved and Lost, Then to Have Never Loved At All." 9:30-11:45 a.m. FREE. Dart Bank, 1020 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 896-4091, 5799.toastmastersclubs.org.

Kendo Martial Art Class. Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

THEATER

A Painted Window. Play about family, regret and love. 2-3:30 p.m. \$27/\$25 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

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The Snow Queen. Based on classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, LCC, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Inlet Dance Theatre: Among the Darkest Shadows. Dance-based theatrical work about two victims of human trafficking. 1 p.m. Tickets from \$19.50. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. 6 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

One World One Sky. Big Bird and Elmo take imaginary trip to the moon. 2-3:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

Spartan Stampede Rodeo. With the MSU Rodeo Club. 2 p.m. \$12-\$20. MSU Pavillion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. msurodeoclub.com.

Atheists & Humanists Meeting. Dr. Mark Reimers: How Big Data & Big Brother Quickly Change Our Lives. 5-8:30 p.m. \$11 buffet. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 914-2278 atheists.meetup.com/453.

Monday, February 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

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 St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

Oracle Card Intuition Workshop. Learn to use oracle intuition cards with own or borrowed deck. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$20. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

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

Painting Basics, Session 2: Acrylic II. For ages 14 and up. 6:45 p.m. \$40. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Culturally Speaking. Discussion on food between cultures and generations. 7-9 p.m. Room C301, Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

Online GoodReads YA Book Group. "Everybody Sees the Ants" by A.S. King. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. Learn to play

See Out on the Town, Page 24

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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

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 24

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an instrument or dust off an old one. 9-11 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, oms.msu.edu.

EVENTS

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Game Night. Board games and happy hour. 4-10 p.m. FREE. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, ow.ly/O2Dg308TydT.

Peace and Justice Planning Meeting. Meet to plan actions for peace and justice. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 803-7813.

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.

Tuesday, February 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Bach Stress Relief Q&A. Learn how to deal with stress using flower essences. 6:30-8 p.m. \$5-10 suggested donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (810) 938-2410, willowstickceremonies.com.

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. See website for schedule and locations. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, 639.toastmastersclubs.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph

TUESDAY, FEB. 21 >> COMEDY COVEN AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

Comedy Coven, Lansing's self-described "comedy witches," celebrates its second anniversary with an all-female, all-LGBTQ February show. The trio's latest show, "Fake and Gay," explores themes of artifice, queer intimacy and overthinking. The evening features standup comedy from guest performers Rachel Gleason, Meagan Witt and Catye Palomino, as well as sketches written and performed by Comedy Coven co-founders Tricia Chamberlain, Stephanie Onderchanin and Emily Syrja. 8 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. comedycoven.com.

FEB. 21-26 >> 'CABARET' AT THE WHARTON CENTER

Roundabout Theatre Co. brings Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall's Tony-winning revival of "Cabaret," to the Wharton Center stage next week. Set in a cabaret club in Berlin around 1931, the story follows Clifford, an American writer who develops a relationship with cabaret performer Sally Bowles. Drama unfolds within the Kit Kat Club, set against a backdrop of rising authoritarianism. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at \$41/\$28 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

St., Lansing. tops.org.

Writing a Business Plan: Your Roadmap to Success. Workshop on marketing, finance, legal and more. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/muai306GC9J.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Speaking and leadership skills. See web for details. 7-8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. yawnpatrol.com

Secret Keys to the Kingdom. 7-week class to improve health, career, relationships, finance and spirituality. 1-3 p.m. Donations welcome. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. unitylansing.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

ToddlerTime. Storytime to build prereading skills. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

EVENTS

Comedy Coven XXIV: Fake and Gay. Comedy shorts, stand up and more. 8 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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5	8	6	1	7	9	4	2	3

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 7:30 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Wednesday, February 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Open Ballroom Dance Practice. For ages 17 and up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. \$7.50. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

Beyond Stretching Class. Learn slow movements to reduce muscle tension. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. beyondstretching.weebly.com.

EVENTS

National Walking The Dog Day. Dog treats and Soldan's coupons. 8:41 a.m.-8 p.m. All Soldan's locations. soldanspet.com/events.

Teen Advisory Board. Teens share input on books, programs and events. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions.

All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

THEATER

Cabaret. 50th anniversary of acclaimed musical. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Theatre2Film. A family haunted by the past tries to move on. First shown onstage, then on film. 7:30 p.m. \$17/\$12 MSU students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

ARTS

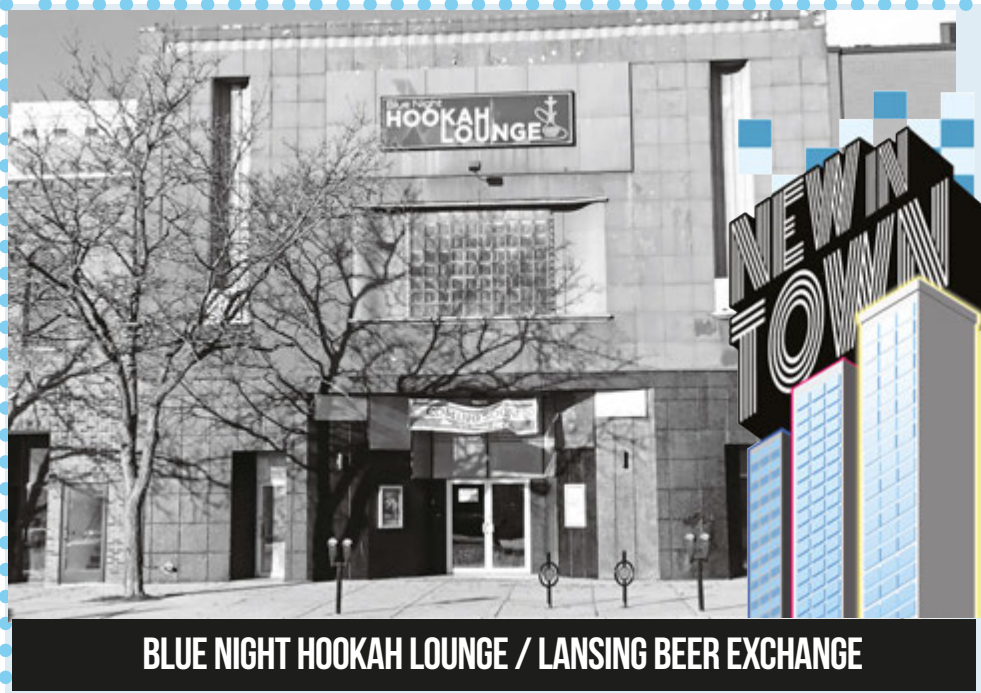
Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for all ages. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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BLUE NIGHT HOOKAH LOUNGE / LANSING BEER EXCHANGE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Blue Night Hookah Lounge is set to open Wednesday in downtown Lansing. It will feature hookah pipes, a non-alcoholic bar and a stage that the owner intends to use to showcase live performances.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

After sitting vacant for nearly a year and a half, a prime downtown Lansing nightclub location will reopen next week as a hookah lounge. On Wednesday, owner/operator Adam Murshed will host a grand opening event for his new business, **Blue Night Hookah Lounge**.

"There's nothing else like this downtown, and we hope to attract a nice mix of people who might be looking to try something new," Murshed said. "This is going to be a relaxing atmosphere where people can enjoy a hookah after work or just hang out and watch the game. And I think people are going to be curious to see the new set-up."

Murshed said that when visitors arrive at Blue Night, they'll be able to choose from an assortment of traditional hookah water pipes and flavored hookah tobacco. Murshed said Blue Night will feature three of the top-selling brands — Starbuzz (with 12 flavors to choose from), Fumari (three flavors) and Al Fakher (12 flavors).

"You can mix and match flavors, combining two if you want to try something new and exotic," Murshed said. "One of the best ones I've found is Starbuzz's gummi bear flavor. It really tastes like you're eating a bag of gummi bears."

Hookah smokers will be given disposable hose tips to suck from. Because the smoke is filtered through water and sucked through a long hose, hookah users don't typically inhale much — hookah smoking is done mostly for flavor. Despite being facilities where tobacco is smoked, hookah lounges skirt the state smoke-free law because they count as specialty retail stores. What smoke is inhaled is usually said to create a mild buzz that induces a peaceful feeling.

"I'm from Metro Detroit, and hookah

lounges are very popular down there," Murshed said. "I don't see any reason why they can't take off in Lansing, too. There's definitely a market for good hookah, and we're only going to carry the best products."

Blue Night will take over the spot most recently home to Secrets Nightclub, a dance club and concert venue that closed last year. Before that it was X-Cel, a gay club that the building's owner, Tom Donnell, opened in 2003. Donnell will lease the building to Murshed and his brother and business partner, Nas Murshed. The brothers spent several months renovating the interior to create a more "homelike" feeling.

"When I first walked in, all I could say is 'Wow,'" Murshed said. "It has these huge ceilings and that incredible three-tier stage, but it didn't feel like a hookah lounge. It felt like a nightclub, so we went to work."

Murshed and his brother retilled the restrooms to give them a retro vibe and transformed the bar area into a non-alcohol refreshment commissary. The business will have no liquor license, but will sell canned sodas, juices and coffee drinks. The Mursheds also installed new plush, 10-person sofas and new tables, added "artistic" LED lighting throughout the building and split off areas into new private rooms.

"The space is really big, so we wanted to make it feel a little more intimate," Murshed said. "We don't want a big, noisy place where you have to shout to be heard. We really want to bring people back downtown again." Following a boom in the late 2000s and early '10s, Washington Square has undergone an entertainment recession in recent years. The closing of former 200 block watering holes **Black Rose** and **House of Eden Rock** last year marked the end of an era. Eclectic res-

taurants have fared no better, as two 2015 newcomers — **Henry's on the Square** and the **Crafty Palate** — failed to connect with diners and closed last year. But there are still glimmers of (night) life on Washington Square: **Midtown Brewing Co.** is holding steady down on the 400 block, **Kelly's Downtown** continues to draw regulars and French-themed restaurant **EnVie** is slated to open by spring. Blue Night Hookah Lounge may be in the right place at the right time to bear witness to a downtown re-renaissance.

"I've always loved hookah lounges, because they create an environment of relaxation," Murshed said. "You never see people arguing or getting into fights at hookah lounges. You look around, and you just see people with their friends having conversations and smiling. That's why I chose this to be my first business. I wanted to make a place where people would feel at ease." Blue Night Hookah Lounge is not related to Blue Midnight Hookah Lounge, the similarly named East Lansing establishment that closed last year. Murshed said he picked the name because of the use of blue LEDs in the business' interior lighting design. Currently there are two other hookah lounges in the area: **Six Lounge**, 400 Albert Ave. in downtown East Lansing, and **Mikho's Hookah Lounge & Middle Eastern Cuisine**, 3824 S. Cedar St. in south Lansing.

"I learned in business school that if you want to make something out of yourself, you have to give yourself a shot," Murshed said. "This is my shot. I took some time off from (my day job) to focus on this, and if this works, I can say goodbye to working for other people. I consider (opening Blue Night) a first step."

Market crash

Nick Eyde, principal at the Eyde Co., confirmed that a deal with Jim Flora to bring a version of his popular Kalamazoo Beer Exchange to downtown Lansing is dead. Flora planned to take over the second floor and rooftop of the Hurd Building, located at the intersection of Washington Square and Washtenaw Street, across the street from the Knapp Centre. The contract, signed in November, had a 60-day contingency plan; those contingencies weren't met, effectively killing the deal. Flora could not be reached for comment. Eyde is hoping to find another restaurant or bar concept to move into the space.

Blue Night Hookah Lounge (opening Wednesday, Feb. 22)
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
2 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday-Thursday; 2 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday
(517) 708-7016

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

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website.

Bon appétit!

TOP 5 THAI

#1 BANGKOK HOUSE

City Pulse readers love its spiced-to-order Thai favorites
 420 E. Saginaw St., Suite 112, Lansing
 (517) 487-6900
bangkokhouselansing.com
 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 5-9 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday

#2 NO THAI!

Michigan-based chain that, despite the confusing name, serves up quality Thai food
 403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
 (517) 336-5555
nothai.com
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 THAI PRINCESS

City Pulse readers love Thai Princess' contemporary take on Thai cuisine
 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos
 (517) 381-1558
thaiprincessmi.com
 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday

#4 TASTE OF THAI

Known for its drunken noodles and curry dishes
 1105 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
 (517) 324-0225
tasteofthaieastlansing.com
 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 1-10 p.m. Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 THAI VILLAGE

Washington Square restaurant that serves both Thai and Chinese fare
 400 S. Washington Square, Lansing
 (517) 371-1000
 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; Noon-9 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday





HE ATE

SHE ATE



Gump's BBQ draws a crowd despite odd location

Down-home charm

By MARK NIXON

I'm an unabashed fan of the underdog — or in the case of Gump's BBQ, the under-hog.

It's as if the place were never meant to be. Yet there it sits, down a forlorn dead-end street, behind a car wash and flanked by buildings whose commerce is God-knows-what. Look for the flaming "BBQ" banner fluttering at the corner of River and Elm Streets, then gaze southward to the lowest of several low-slung concrete buildings, and you've found Gump's BBQ.

The dead giveaway is a massive, black cylinder parked near the front door, looking like a one-man submarine on wheels. This would be Craig "Gump" Garmyn's smoker, birthplace of tasty ribs and brisket.

Step inside, and the sweet smell of wood smoke hit your nose. But watch your step! The floor is uneven, and there's a sign that tells you so.

The seating is sparse, the menu limited, the interior style what I might call garage-nouveau. It has the feel of an old, down-home rib joint, a feeling reinforced by photos and prints of old, down-home rib joints.

The folks are friendly. You're greeted like a neighbor. On one visit, I was encouraged more than once to join the Super Bowl pool for \$5 a square.

Let's start with ribs. The king of the barbecue rib hill, in my mind, remains Saddleback BBQ in nearby REO Town. I award Gump's baby back ribs (\$12.99 for a half-rack) a red ribbon. The ribs were tender and crispy all at once, wreathed in a smoke ring that denotes authenticity. The sauce I chose for the ribs had strong vinegar notes, like the kind I've tasted in North Carolina. It was perfect. Note: Ribs are only sold on Wednesdays and Fridays. Fair enough. Smoking ribs properly takes time.

Judy chose the pulled pork wrap (\$8.99). Again, the smoke shone through, enveloping every bite of the shredded pork. The wrap also came with a homemade slaw that had some zip.

The smoke-centric menu includes brisket and chicken wings. We tried a smoked brisket sandwich (\$10.99). It had the requisite smokiness, and the beef brisket slices were juicy and tender. I give it a solid B.

The biggest disappointment, food-wise, were Gump's Nachos (\$8.99). They had the right ingredients — smoked pork, diced onions, cheese and homemade sauce — but the resulting concoction was a mess. Too many flavors conflicted with, not complemented, each other. Suggestion: Ditch the store-bought chips. Make your own by frying corn tortillas just before serving.

The sandwiches are well-priced, because they come with a choice of two generous side dishes. Diners can choose from cheesy potatoes, mac & cheese, smoked baked beans and coleslaw. We tried all four and thought the cheesy, oniony po-

See He Ate, Page 27

Hefty sandwiches, killer sides

By GABRIELLE JOHNSON LAWRENCE

There is something special about living in the Lansing area. Our "rush hour" consists of a heady 15 minutes, you are never more than a few miles away from a delicious Quality Dairy doughnut and the cost of living can't be beat. People think that we suffer from a lack of good restaurants, which may be true, depending on what you define as a good restaurant. If you like sushi or shawarma, you've come to the right place. And lately, if you like barbecue, Lansing's got more than a few delicious options to satisfy you. Tucked away behind the good car wash on at Cedar and Elm streets is Gump's BBQ, the latest rib-slinging joint to catch my attention.

The hours at Gump's are weird. It's only open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. A weekend option would be wonderful.

After our recent Honeymoon to Australia, where Mr. She Ate and I fed our faces with lots of muesli, fresh fruit and seafood, we needed to fatten ourselves up. We dove head-first into the small but sufficient menu at Gump's, and the first lunch we had left us excited for a return trip.

My Cubano sandwich (\$8.99) was served on a ciabatta roll, which is the bread

used in every sandwich we tried. I like this bread. It isn't so crusty that it rips the top of your mouth, and the bread is thick enough that it won't disintegrate in your hand. The flavor is mild and doesn't overpower the fillings. The Cubano was piled high with thick-cut pickles, juicy pulled pork, Swiss cheese and ham, and it was slathered with yellow mustard. The two inch-thick layer of ham was a bit much for me, but I can appreciate bang for my buck. This Cuban sandwich was a bit lighter than other Cuban sandwiches I've had, which I attribute to the bread not being so dense.

Mr. She Ate chose the pulled pork sandwich (\$9.99), one of his go-to sandwiches. Recently he informed me that a pulled pork sandwich should always feature a coleslaw topping, and this one was no disappointment on that front. The pork was thickly shredded and a bit sweeter than we are used to, a flavor that was nicely balanced by the slaw but might have been overwhelming on its own.

Gump's offers four sides, including the slaw, which features sliced Brussels sprouts (be still my vegetable-loving heart), kale and tangy red cabbage tossed in a light and piquant vinaigrette. On that first visit we greedily gobbled up the slaw and were eager for more. The baked beans were also a standout, with more than one variety of bean sim-

mered in a flavor-bomb of a sauce. The cheesy potatoes were hot and cheesy and would have been a hit on the potluck table at my family Christmas party, where we always seem to have six dishes of cheesy potatoes.

But my heart belonged to the macaroni and cheese. Since I started making my own macaroni and cheese, starting from a roux and featuring five cheeses and crispy bread crumbs, I've been searching for a restaurant version that's better than mine. Everything I've tried has fallen short. Gump's came as close as I can

See She Ate, Page 27

Gump's BBQ

7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed Saturday-Sunday
1105 River St., Lansing
(517) 708-0470,
gumpsbbq.com



Left: Most of Gump's BBQ's lunch options come with two sides. The smoked jumbo chicken wings seen here are accompanied by baked beans and house-made coleslaw. Right: Breakfast options at Gump's BBQ include breakfast burritos (left) and egg sandwiches.



Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence/City Pulse

He Ate

from page 26

tatoes were excellent. The slaw is made with, among other things, kale. Instead of traditional mayo, the binding sauce is homemade, more like a spicy remoulade. Nice touch.

On the downside, the mac & cheese was barely warm, and the beans were stone cold. A word about baked beans: This is a regular side dish in barbecue joints around town, and frankly, they don't do beans very well. Uninspired is the most tactful word that comes to mind.

Permit me an antidote to boring beans. Over the years, I've worked on a baked beans recipe passed down from my grandmother. People seem to like them, because at family reunions people ask if I brought my baked beans. You can check out my recipe at lansingcitypulse.com/marksbakedbeans.

She Ate

from page 26

find. The cheese sauce isn't gloopy, and it has depth of flavor.

For our next lunch, I went for jumbo chicken wings (\$8.99 for six wings), while Mr. She Ate eagerly tore into the slaw. The chicken wings were completely milquetoast and were positively swimming in the Thai chili sauce that I chose as my flavor option. The slaw was also having a case of the Mondays, and it tasted as if someone forgot to add the sauce completely. We ate it anyway, but he grumbled over the fact that I was making him eat vegetables when I promised an unhealthy lunch.

An unexpected opportunity arose for us to share a weekday breakfast, and we picked up an egg sandwich (\$5.99) and a breakfast burrito (\$6.99) to take home and enjoy with

Now, a few words about cleanliness. On our first visit, Gump's floor was littered with bits of food and paper. It needed a good sweeping and mopping. Our server said they had been slammed with dozens of customers, so I'll give them the benefit of the doubt. Maybe they just hadn't had time to clean. But I did notice a little pile of dirt and some cobwebs on the front window pane. On a return visit more than a week later, the dirt and cobwebs remained.

Sanitation challenges aside, it's obvious Gump's has a steady fan base. During our visits we observed a steady stream of customers popping in for takeout lunches, some driving utility trucks and others driving police cars.

Greater Lansing seems overrun by restaurants and food trucks specializing in barbecued meat. I'm a betting man, and I will say flat-out that I would not bet money against Gump's. There's room for improvement, but Gump's has the heart — and the hog — to be a winner.

a French press full of Strange Matter coffee and a certain Weimaraner who wouldn't stop with the puppy-dog eyes. The breakfast burrito was stuffed with cubed potatoes, cheddar cheese, bacon, scrambled eggs and "a magic sauce," according to my burrito-loving husband. The sauce gave the burrito an unexpected and utterly delicious tanginess, and I promised myself five miles on the treadmill as I nibbled through my half burrito.

The egg sandwich, on the above-mentioned ciabatta roll, was my favorite. A thick and slightly spicy sausage patty topped scrambled eggs and a thick layer of melted cheese. I couldn't have improved upon the egg sandwich if I'd been paid to.

A final word about Gump's: The prices are spot-on. Anywhere that I can shell out \$20 or less for a casual lunch for the two of us is a place that I like. It is an appropriate price point for our area, and one that I'm sure will result in satisfied return eaters.

The Sammy — Midtown Brewing Co.

We're about a month and a half into 2017, and so far, it's been a mixed bag. While I've had plenty to be happy about in my personal life, I could do without the steady stream of constitutional crises and international incidents caused by our Sweet Potato-in-Chief.

One bright spot in 2017, however, is Midtown Brewing Co.'s new Sunday brunch. Lansing has precious few quality brunch spots, and some of our best restaurants aren't even open on Sunday (he writes, glaring in the direction of Soup Spoon Café). Midtown's brunch, served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays, is a welcome addition to Lansing's weekend dining options.

The limited but potent brunch menu includes standard breakfast items, as well as foodie-friendly fare like buckwheat pancakes and avocado toast. There's even an unlimited oatmeal and polenta bar with a variety of sweet and savory toppings.

Midtown Brewing Co.

11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday
402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 977-1349,
midtownbrewingco.com



But my favorite option so far is the Sammy. This breakfast sandwich features fried chicken, avocado, bacon, sprouts, arugula and a poached egg, all topped with ranch and sriracha aioli and served on ciabatta bread. There's a lot going on here, but it all works together nicely.

So I raise my blood orange mimosa — also on the menu, also fantastic — and wish you all a year of many more brunches and far fewer presidential predicaments.

— TY FORQUER





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Ingham County is seeking bids for the purchase and delivery of one-hundred and twenty-eight (128) new portable horse stalls. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link, Pkt 51-17

Ingham County is seeking proposals for the purchase of regular unleaded gasoline and other types of fuel on an as-needed basis for County-owned and operated vehicles and equipment. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link, Pkt 52-1

ROUGH GEMSTONES FOR SALE

Sapphire Emeralds Ruby/Garnets
Fluorite Rose Quartz Citrine Quartz Crystals
and more.
Contact Metaphysical Gemstones 404-297-3508

B/17/066 DCP PROJECTOR 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, at 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on **FEB. 23, 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, or slr@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info for content and purpose of this bid.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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6070 Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing
(517) 618-9544
Hours- Sun-Thu 9am - 10pm
Fri-Sat 9am- midnight

Great Buds, Great Music, THC, CBD Edibles and more.
Weed Love to see you.



Capital Dank

1202 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
(517) 657-7885
Hours- 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

Lansing's #1 Premium Medical Provisioning Center. Capital Dank is a medical marijuana dispensary with an enormous selection of high quality strains, concentrates, and infused products. We offer safe, well-appointed environments in which certified patients can get quality medical marijuana.



Cannaisseur

3200 N. East St., Lansing
(517) 580-6702
Hours-
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sun: 10am-6pm

Our mission at Cannaisseur is to provide MMMP patients with a safe, secure location to obtain high quality cannabis and cannabis products at a fair price from a compassionate, professional, knowledgeable staff. We strive to make your experience great! Stop by today. All new patients receive a free strain specific preroll!



Nature's Alternative

2521 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 253-7290
Hours-
Mon-Sat: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sun: Noon-5 p.m.

Our mission at Nature's Alternative is to provide access to high quality, medical marijuana in a safe and professional environment. We are committed to helping patients find the most effective relief for their qualifying ailments. A wide variety of lab tested medical marijuana flowers, edibles and extracts are always available.



Kola

1106 N. Larch St., Lansing
(517) 999-0994
Hours- Mon - Sat Noon-7pm
Sun Noon-5pm

Here at Kola, we have the highest quality, lab tested meds obtainable. We strive to continually raise the bar, bettering the industry and community through excellent quality control, great service and education. You can expect an open, safe facility with professional, knowledgeable and friendly staff - stop by and let us show you what we have to offer.



Cedar Street MMMP

3205 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 708-0577
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Our mission is to ensure the highest standards of client relations, make sure each patient feels comfortable, and informed. Come meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff for recommendations on our wide variety of flower, edibles, CBD products, concentrates, and more! Still need to get certified? Stop in and we'll help!



The Emerald City

2200 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 253-0397
Hours-
Mon-Sat: 10 AM-11 PM
Sun: Noon-7 PM

Emerald City is one of Lansing's oldest and fastest growing provision centers! We Strive to provide the most comfortable, professional and cleanest atmosphere to access medical marijuana in the state of Michigan. Our meds are the highest quality at the best possible prices we can provide. "City Pulse" to (313) 349-4700.



StarBuds

2012 N. Larch St., Lansing
starbuds-mi.com
(517) 977-1085
Hours- Mon-Fri: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat:
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun: Noon- 5 p.m.

StarBuds combines years of experience serving the Lansing area with an educated staff to bring you an unparalleled selection of quality products and accurate marijuana information. Our mission is to give you high-quality tested medicine with an emphasis on patient education. StarBuds is here to help!



Got Meds

3405 S. Cedar St, Lansing
(517) 253-7468
Hours- Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.-midnight
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-2 a.m.
Sun: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Got Meds is a donation-based organization committed to meeting its customers' needs. As a result, a high percentage of our business is from repeat customers and referrals. Our budtenders are knowledgeable and experienced, allowing us to deliver you the best services and products in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.



Superior Genetics

1522 Turner St., Lansing
Hours-
Mon-Sat 10am-8pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

Conveniently Located in the Old Town District in North Lansing, Just minutes from I496 and I69. We Offer ONLY Top Quality Medical Marijuana Strains, Medibles, and Alternative Medicines that are ALWAYS Lab tested. Check us out on the WEEDMAPS app, or stop in today! "Superior Genetics, A Natural Healing Collective."