

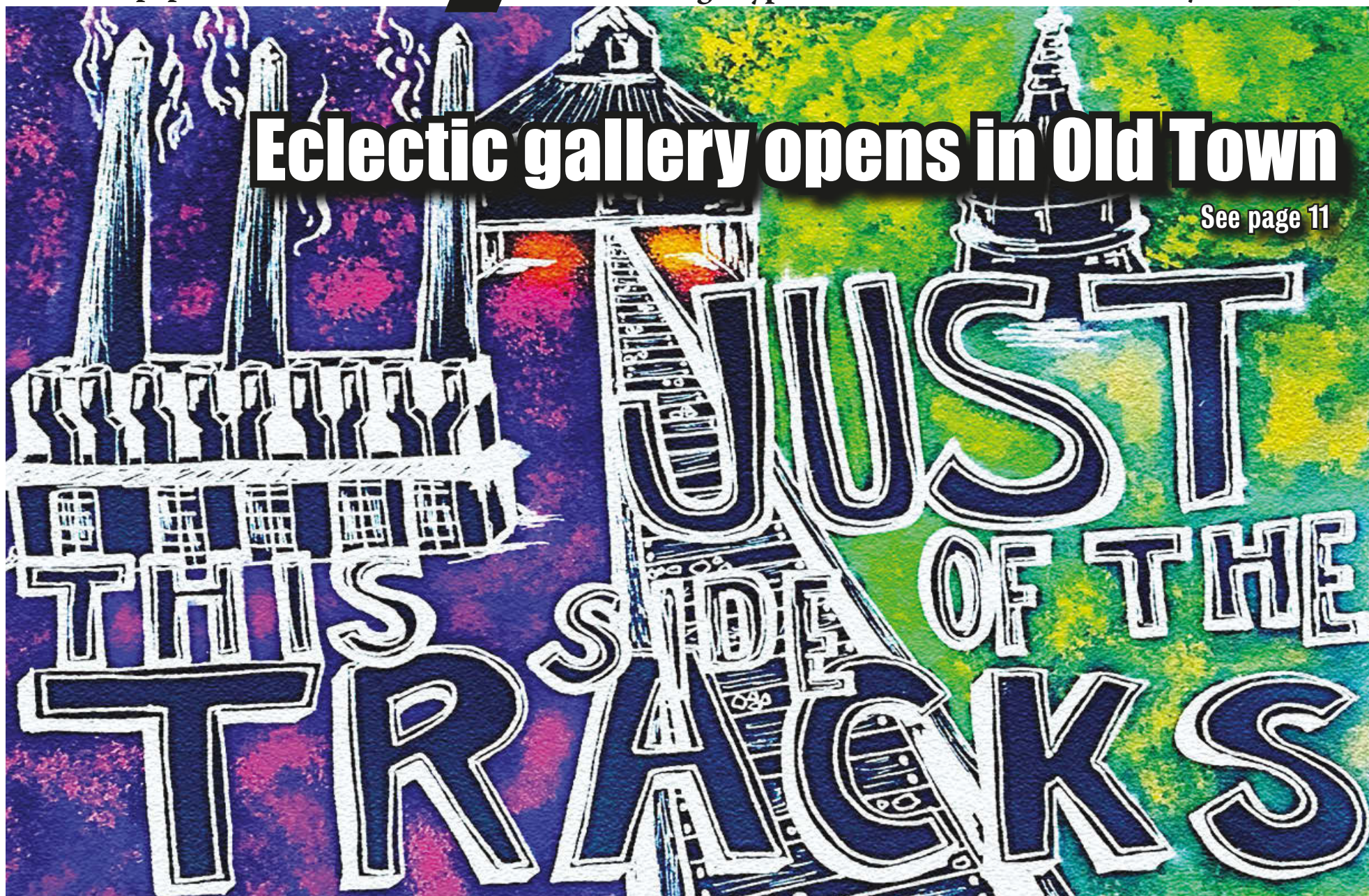
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# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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February 21 - 27, 2018



## Eclectic gallery opens in Old Town

See page 11

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# Feedback

## Show we don't stand or hate

On March 5th, Alt-Right poster boy, Richard Spencer, and his lawyer and MSU alumni, Kyle Bristow, are bussing in 300+ sympathizers from a private conference in Detroit to a speaking engagement at the MSU Pavilion. MSU initially said no to Spencer citing Charlottesville as an example of alt-right violence, but this was overturned in a court settlement. In another time, perhaps it would be socially acceptable to ignore Nazis recruiting in our backyard, but the political atmosphere of 2018 cannot afford this. Richard Spencer is a fool, but he's a tactical fool. His speaking tour is part of a strategic measuring of our region's openness to racist and fascist ideas. Ignoring Spencer now is a

complicit failure to tell future racist organizers that the Capitol Area, and Michigan in general, will not stand for hate. With the mass of MSU students gone for spring break, it falls on the shoulders of the Greater Lansing area to turn out to say no to ideologies of political and racial violence. After Charlottesville last summer, a handful of Nazis tried to organize in Boston and the city turned out en masse to shut them down. It is my hope for the Capital Area that we can meet these fascist recruiters with a critical mass of community resistance. If the courts give these Nazi outsiders a platform, then it's up to us to take that platform away. See you March 5th at the MSU Pavilion!

**Brandon Lee**  
Lansing

## Solution for BWL: Conservation

Great coverage of an important issue ("The new BWL plant: Is gas the way to go?") by City Pulse's Larry Cosentino this week. And kudos to the folks who are courageous enough to push back and ask tough questions of LBWL decision makers. The technology is indeed changing fast. An often overlooked or under-considered element in investment choices is the acceptable payback time. If one expects a five year payback time before investing it reduces the narrow financial options over even adding two more years to the payback schedule. But the carbon dioxide savings could be huge.

One should also remember, with any fossil fuel based systems, you have to keep mining and paying for the fuel year after year and generally those costs rise. Renewable energy, especially wind and solar have high initial capital costs, but are fuel free in the future, even if you don't care about carbon release BUT WE MUST!!!

What I have seen consistently overlooked is the simplest and cheapest approach - CONSERVATION. Simple stuff that has huge impacts when multiplied by hundreds, thou-

sands, millions of users. When we started the campus sustainability office at MSU almost two decades ago we recognized that tens of thousands of computers plugged into campus increased demand from the power plant. Studies showed that huge percentages of computers were left on all the time when not in use. Turning them off, when not in use, could literally save millions of watts on campus. Similarly for example, lowering thermostats one degree in the winter or raising one degree in the summer offer significant savings of money and CO2.

Decreasing energy demand means our energy production can be smaller, more flexible, and more adaptable to challenges and opportunities than huge centralized systems. Policies that incentivize energy waste reduction and improve efficiency will make renewable energy options financially easier, especially for those who lack the urgent concern for the accelerating climate destabilization that is headed our way. Come on LBWL, you can do better.

**Terry Link**  
**Laingsburg**  
(Terry Link is the founding director of the MSU Office of Sustainability.)

# CityPULSE

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Be sure you 'Let the right one in'



Welcome spring with Irish music



GSA questions answered at Allen Street Farmers Market event

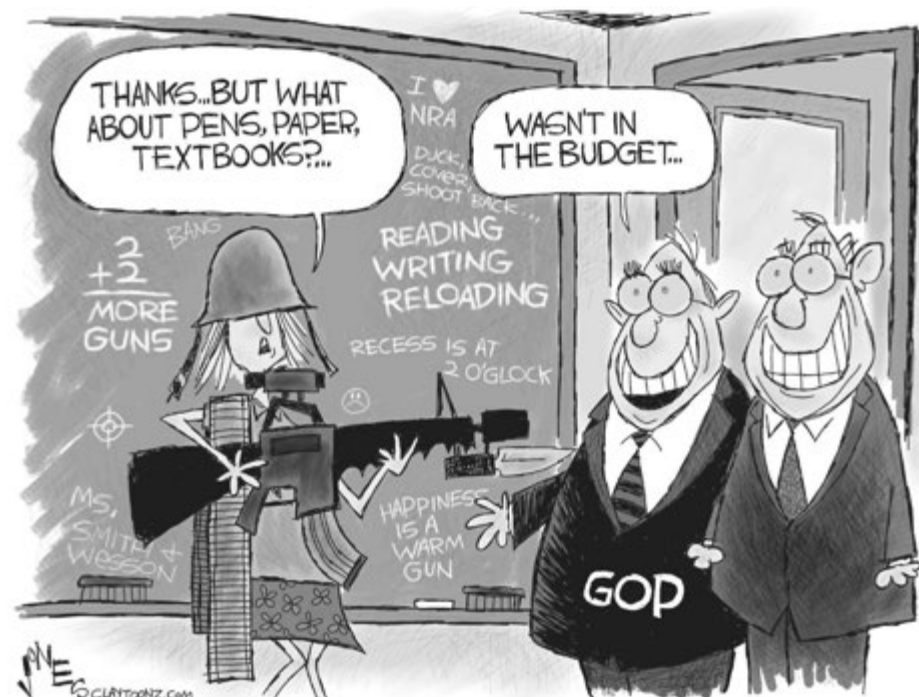


By Allie Dunn

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**SALUTATIONS SENTIENTS! OUR TOP STORY THIS NANOSECOND--YET ANOTHER PARTICLE BLASTER MAS-SACRE AT AN INSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR RECENT HATCHLINGS!**

**HERE TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT IS A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL CASTE WHO HAS RECEIVED MANY SHINY STONES FROM THE PARTICLE BLASTER INDUSTRY!**

**THAT'S IT, THAT'S ALL I HAVE FOR YOU.**

**ER--HAVE YOU CONSIDERED AMENDING THE TABLETS OF SOCIETAL REGULATION?**

**THAT'S JUST HOW THE TABLETS OF SOCIETAL REGULATION WORK!**

**BESIDES, THE RAMPAGING SENTIENT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE DIS-CORPORATED THOSE HATCHLINGS BY THROWING THEM INTO A LAVA PIT, OR ATTACKING THEM WITH SHARPENED MINERAL FORMATIONS!**

**THE PROBLEM ISN'T PARTICLE BLASTERS! THE PROBLEM IS POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT! AND LOOSE MORALS! AND OTHER THINGS THAT ARE NOT PARTICLE BLASTERS.**

**I SEE! BUT ISN'T THE EASY AVAILABILITY OF BLASTERS A FACTOR?**

**HAVE YOU NO DECENCY? IT'S MUCH TOO SOON TO POLITICIZE THIS TERRIBLE INCIDENT!**

**YES--AND THEREFORE IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO POLITICIZE THEM!**

**BUT--THESE TRAGEDIES OCCUR CON-STANTLY!**

**COMING UP NEXT--WHY ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE DONE, DUE TO THE SACRED INVIOABILITY OF AN AMBIGUOUSLY-WORDED SECTION OF THE ANCIENT FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS OF OUR LAND MASS!**

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# Izzo fully informed

**New documents detail MSU Appling/Payne housing irregularities**

In response to the sexual assault allegations against two standout freshman Michigan State University basketball players in 2010, the university ignored its own sexual assault protocols in moving Keith Appling and Adreian Payne out of Wonders Hall, newly obtained documents show.

Additionally, the documents show MSU Basketball Coach Tom Izzo was not only informed about the case against his players, but that he quickly met with Associate Athletic Director Alan Haller, a former

MSU Police officer, and Assistant Coach Mike Garland as well as the players hours after a search warrant was executed on their dorm room.

The new documents include letters from federal investigators from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, the university's responses and dozens of pages of emails created in the wake of the 2010 sexual assault allegations.

The emails show that Appling and Payne were moved without a hearing, vio-

See Izzo, Page 6



Appling



Payne

# New owners act Demolitions and rehab at Lansing mobile home park

Many of the mobile homes in Riverview Estates, 3407 Mt. Hope Ave., are empty. The streets inside the small manufactured home park are crumbling and so are the homes, occupied or empty. Windows are covered with plywood; doors swing open.

On Thursday, one of the mobile homes was being demolished by a small excavator as another construction vehicle moved a dumpster into place for the rubble. The activity is just the beginning of a major facelift, says Mark Wolfe, the property manager.

The manufactured home park was sold on Dec. 15 on land contract to Riverview Estates MHC LLC, a California company, by South Lyon-based Riverview 110 Estates LLC. The sale price does not appear in city property tax records. There are approximately 157 lots on the 10-acre site. Most of the units are singlewide. Wolfe was unsure of the number of residents in the park because of the transitions.

The new owners are demolishing as many as 23 mobile homes in the park, repaving the road and bringing in brand new manufactured homes worth \$32,000 to \$36,000 each, he said. And Wolfe added that homes remaining on the property after the demolition will be rehabbed.

"It's going to be really nice," he said by phone. "It needed it. It was really bad."

The rehabilitation of the park could take as long as two years, Wolfe said. Demolitions began in January and rehabilitation of cer-

tain homes will begin March 1, he said.

Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood said she has been fielding complaints against the property since at least 2007. The problems have included sewer issues and structural issues. But state law was a barrier for municipalities like Lansing that sought to inspect mobile home communities and enforce the local building codes.

That changed with a 2015 law, pushed by then State Rep. Andy Schor. The new law gives local communities the power to enforce their building codes in manufactured home communities. Nonetheless, the city has continued to struggle to institute a final enforcement program under the revised law, said Wood.

"It is now being reviewed by the law



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

State law and local code enforcement are catching up with longstanding problems like Riverview Estates on Mt. Hope, now undergoing a major facelift.

department," Wood said of enforcement capacity for the city. "It's been a series of miscommunications and delays, but I am told it is being looked and should be cleared soon."

In Lansing, inspections of mobile home parks, or manufactured home communities,

See Mobile home, Page 6



## Mobile home

from page 5

has been an issue for years. It boiled over in 2015 when the Ingham County Health Department, citing failed sanitary sewers and other issues, condemned the former Life O'Riley mobile home park, 6726 S. Washington Ave. In 2017, Ingham County Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III issued an order allowing the city to demolish the 80 units on the 14-acre site and charge the costs to the property.

The actions resulted in scores of people being left homeless and the city's Human Relations Department scrambling to find emergency housing for many low-income residents.

The property is owned by Whalen Holdings of New York. Billing records from the Ingham County Treasurer's Office show the company owes \$99,704 for 2015 taxes. If that's not paid by March 1, the county will seize the property in a tax foreclosure, said Eric Schertzing, the county treasurer.

Ingham County also has struggled with the inspection and enforcement of mobile home safety, Wood and Schertzing said.

"It's certainly not unique to the city. There

are barriers to addressing these things," said Schertzing.

State officials stressed that local municipalities now have right and obligation to inspect and enforce local codes under state law.

"It states that this act shall not be construed to prohibit a municipality from enforcing its local ordinances or from take any other appropriate action to protect the public health, safety, or welfare as authorized by law or its charter," said Jeannie Vogel, public information officer for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

Of keen interest, Wolfe said, are newer standards for manufactured homes that increase their safety, such as new technology to anchor homes to the ground. Those, he said, have changed dramatically over the years and the newer systems are required by insurance companies in order to cover a unit. Riverview Estates' new owners have been putting those foundations and moorings in place, he said.

Wolfe said such enforcement of local codes would be most welcome by Riverview Estates.

"As long as everybody is fair," he said. "It's really about everybody being safe."

— TODD HEYWOOD



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

One of several inhabited mobile homes in Riverview Estates mobile home park on Mt. Hope. Many of the mobile homes in the park were empty on Thursday, with windows and doors open or broken, as well as metal siding torn off. Workers were also destroying and removing a mobile home.

## Izzo

from page 5

lating the standing protocols of the university. Nothing in the documents explains why an exception was made.

"In most cases, we would remove the alleged perpetrators out of the hall only after an investigation and a contract hearing," Paul Rinella, complex director of Wonders Hall, wrote to Eduardo Olivo, assistant director of residence life, on Sept. 2, 2010, several days after the alleged assault. A contract hearing is a reference to a stipulation in the student housing contract all on-campus students sign.

The statement was in response to a directive from Olivo to follow the sexual assault protocol "to the letter."

"Nothing about this case has been 'to the letter,'" Rinella wrote.

Neither Rinella nor Olivo would comment for this report. They directed questions to a university spokesman instead. Kent Cassella, associate vice president for communications and senior PR strategist for MSU, declined to answer specific questions about the documents or the emails.

The new documents detail the MSU's Athletic Department's involvement with the explosive Appling/Payne charges and how fully informed Izzo was about the matter.

Both players continued to dress in the Spartan uniform and participate in games. This is despite Izzo's being fully briefed on the allegations and the investigation

on Aug. 31, just hours after MSU police served a search warrant on the dorm room Appling and Payne shared in Wonders Hall. Payne agreed to go with investigators and gave a videotaped statement to detectives about the alleged assault.

A response from MSU's deputy general counsel, Kristine Zayko, just named acting chief counsel upon the retirement of Robert Noto announced Tuesday, to an inquiry by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights shows MSU Police Chief Jim Dunlap called Mark Hollis, then athletic director, on Aug. 31, 2010. The assault allegedly occurred on Aug. 29 and was reported to law enforcement on Aug. 30.

Hollis directed Haller to meet with Izzo and others about the allegations. Haller was an MSU football player who became an officer for Michigan State University Police Department commanding the uniform division. That division would often handle the first contact with sexual assault victims filing criminal complaints.

"Mr. Haller met with Coach Izzo, the two male students and Assistant Basketball Coach (Mike) Garland to explain what the potential charges were, and how the criminal justice process worked, and to instruct the students to refrain from attending any social gatherings and to have no contact with complainant," Zayko wrote.

The Office of Civil Rights investigation ultimately determined that while MSU's delay in instituting a Title IX investigation into the sexual assault allegation had contributed to a sexually hostile environment, the university handled the case appropriately, including the reassignment of the

players to the apartment.

Zayko's response indicates Rinella met with Olivo and Paul Goldblatt, then director of residence life, on Sept. 1, two days after the university was informed of the investigation and allegations.

"Mr. Rinella was instructed to move the male students to another campus living location while the university investigated the sexual assault allegations," Zayko wrote to OCR investigators. "Mr. Rinella immediately coordinated the students' move to an apartment in Spartan Village. Mr. Rinella met with Assistant Basketball Coach Mike Garland and the two male students. Mr. Rinella took the keys from the residents and informed them, with their coach present, that they were not allowed back in Wonders Hall unless they first contacted him."

Later in the document, Zayko wrote that Goldblatt issued the order to move the students from Wonders Hall. Zayko argued that the two men wanted to remain in a dorm, but the decision was made to place them in Spartan Village, which normally is not available for first-year students.

"Given the severity of the allegations against the male students, the university determined it was not appropriate for them to remain in the residence hall system pending investigation of the complaint," Zayko wrote.

The criminal investigation was completed Sept. 2, when then-Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III declined to issue a warrant for the players' arrest. University officials at that point began to struggle with whether to bring housing

contract hearings and judicial hearings against the players for violating the university's sexual harassment policies. Pursuing either process would have required the alleged victim, Carolyn Schaner, to pursue actions, forcing her to testify and give statements at least twice. Schaner has identified herself to the media.

To address victims' concerns about testifying, the university changed its policy to allow it to begin investigations into sexual assaults and harassment claims independently and without victim participation.

An outside investigator hired to conduct that review determined by a "preponderance of the evidence" the university's sexual harassment policies were not violated and that evidence could not determine whether the alleged assault was consensual.

Schaner reported to police that both men were seen dining in Wonders Hall on at least two occasions, according to reports filed with MSU Police. This would have violated Rinella's direction that the men not enter Wonders Hall without contacting him first. The university determined that because the men were cooperating, there was no need to issue a no-trespass letter barring them from Wonders, despite giving them verbal warnings to that effect.

Appling and Payne were never given a formal housing contract hearing to back up the administrative decision to move them to an apartment in the Spartan Village complex.

— TODD HEYWOOD

# Shrouded in smoke

## City won't identify people behind marijuana license applications

Who's financing the burgeoning medical marijuana business in Lansing?

Who knows? Not the public, at least.

Citing state law, city government is refusing to release the identities of the financial backers behind medical marijuana facility license applicants. The City Attorney's Office rejected the request by City Pulse under the Freedom of Information Act. Assistant City Attorney Amanda O'Boyle cited the Michigan Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act, which states that the information on municipal license applications is exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

O'Boyle said Tuesday the city "cannot" provide such information.

But state Sen. Rick Jones, who chairs the Judiciary Committee and backed the legislation, said it is a "soft exemption," meaning a municipality may disclose the information if it wished.

"They can, if they want, provide it," said Jennifer Dukarski, an attorney for the Michigan Press Association. She said he law would otherwise say "must" exempt.

Said O'Boyle: "I disagree with their interpretation."

Meanwhile, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said Tuesday he favors releasing the information and will look into the feasibility of providing it.

Why does it matter?

Craig Mauger, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, said it will be difficult to ensure licenses will not simply be granted to those with the most political clout.

"We are completely reliant on state

bureaucrats and people who are involved in these applications to police themselves," Mauger said. "The transparency systems don't exist, and essentially what happens is governments are telling the public, 'Trust us that this is going to be taken seriously, that there aren't conflicts.'"

For nearly all of the 138 license applicants listed on the City Clerk's website as of Monday, the only information given is the LLC that applied, the address for the planned facility, and the name the applicant intends to do business as.

City Clerk Chris Swope stood behind the decision not to disclose. He said that "it would be a lot of work to put it together." He also expressed concern about whether applicants assumed they would be granted confidentiality because the law exempts disclosure.

The true owner of a business can be obscured by organizing under an LLC format. Unless provided voluntarily, businesses need not disclose "members," or business owners and investors.

Mauger said the steps the new state law, passed in 2016, took to prevent conflicts of interest were rendered moot by the exemption, which could obscure whether those who lobbied for the bill stood to benefit financially from the licensing process.

Mauger, who said he was passionate about the issue of transparency in the medical marijuana licensing process, said that there was an intense lobbying campaign to craft the law in a manner favorable to "big-money" applicants.

Among other provisions that would appear to benefit big businesses, an allow-

ance of license "stacking" — that is, the ability of applicants to obtain multiple grow licenses for the same location — and a requirement of up to \$500,000 in assets were included in the state's emergency rules under the new law.

Mauger concedes that exempting some sensitive information like security plans or proprietary information listed in business plans is appropriate. Yet he said he hoped to see municipalities opt to redact that sen-



Swope

sitive information, rather than denying the public access to the information as a whole.

"There are ways to compromise with people seeking these documents, to say, 'Well, what are you looking for and how can we provide information while also being sensitive to the needs "of an applicant?"' Mauger said.

He noted that in prior work for his organization, he had been able to obtain applicant information from Webberville, a village about 25 miles west of Lansing whose medical marijuana ordinance makes no mention of the exemption clause.

"They provided the business's application, information on the business's plan, who was involved with the business," Mauger said. "We were able to access that

See Smoke, Page 9

### 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 on March 12,13,14,15,&16 2018 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 14 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review the assessment roll and hear appeals from taxpayers. 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 appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal if your property is residential or agricultural. An appointment is suggested and must be scheduled before 4:30PM, March 14, 2018. If you do not make an appointment, you will have to wait for the next available opening in the schedule. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30PM, March 15, 2018. Please call the City of Lansing Assessor's Office at (517) 483-7624 for information about your assessment and/or to make an appointment. City of Lansing will also hold its Organizational meeting on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 4PM; no appeals may be heard at this meeting.

### RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2018

Eaton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	52.91	0.94501
Industrial	48.19	1.03756
Residential	47.69	1.04844
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Ingham County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	48.34	1.03434
Industrial	46.45	1.07643
Residential	48.49	1.03114
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Clinton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	47.81	1.0458
Commercial	48.63	1.0282
Industrial	48.36	1.0339
Residential	N/C	
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018** at 7:00 P.M., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, to consider:

- Resolution placing on the ballot a proposed charter amendment authorizing a 15 year income tax with a mandatory \$5,000.00 minimum exemption and the first \$5,000,000.00 in revenue, annually, dedicated to payments toward the unfunded pension liability of the City.
- Resolution placing on the ballot a proposed Headlee override of 2.4321 mills with 1.4321 mills dedicated to parks and recreation and 1 mill dedicated to capital improvements/deferred maintenance for facilities and streets.
- Resolution placing on the ballot a proposed 3 mills for a public safety pension board under Act 345 for funding public safety pensions.
- Resolution authorizing a sum not to exceed \_\_\_ million dollars and issue its unlimited tax general obligations bonds for the purpose of financing repairs to park and recreation facilities.
- Resolution authorizing a sum not to exceed \_\_\_ million dollars and issue its unlimited tax general obligations bonds for the purpose of financing street repairs.

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 this meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities, should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517-319-6920), TDD (1-800-649-3777).

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#18-032

CP#18-014

# Leaving the station

## BWL sticking with gas plant despite robust dissent

Despite a strong show of opposition, leaders of the Lansing Board of Water & Light show no signs of backing off its planned \$500 million natural gas-fired plant, announced in December.

About 80 people packed into the old Grand Trunk railroad station in REO Town Thursday evening.

BWL Commission Chairman David Price said it was the most people he'd seen at a board meeting since the "torches and pitchforks" that followed a severe ice storm and widespread power outages in December 2013.

A snaking line of 30 people spoke against the plant at the biannual joint meeting of the Lansing City Council and the BWL Board of Commissioners.

Some fought the roar of passing trains as they implored the board not to commit the city to another large fossil fuel-burning plant, but BWL officials gave the impression that the train has already left the station.

"I say this is the right plan, and so does our board," BWL Commissioner Dennis Louney said. "We're 100 percent behind it."

BWL General Manager Dick Peffley said construction is already set to start in January.

"The site has been selected. Construction

is ready to start," Peffley said. "We've been two years working on this and we can't wait much longer because we need to replace the energy lost by Eckert," he said, referring to the Eckert Power Station, set to close in 2020.

None of the commissioners expressed interest in a proposal, raised by several speakers, that the board submit its plan to a third party for evaluation. Opponents of the plant say the utility's nearly 2-year-old analysis is already out of date in view of rapid advances in renewable energy and storage technology.

"If we had to start over, have a third party look at this and stopping everything, that's another three years we'd have to wait," Louney said.

In that event, Peffley said, the BWL would have to buy energy from the grid, mainly from Indiana and Ohio and Illinois, instead of selling energy to the grid, as it does now.

Commissioner Sandra Zerkle said it was enough that third parties were involved in developing the plan.

"We had community leaders come in and talk about what are the options for us," Zerkle said. "We had the strategic plan that the staff in this building gave to us. Plus, we

had the customer survey. So we started out with a third party process."

But Mary Brady-Enerson, cochairwoman of the citizens' advisory council that worked with the BWL to develop its Integrated Resource Plan, said she had "concerns" about a series of 2016 meetings where the BWL gave the council information on power generation technologies. Brady-Enerson is the Michigan director of Clean Water Action.

"Throughout these presentations, it became very clear to me that the BWL fully intended to build a new natural gas plant and presented information to support the conclusion that they had already reached," Brady-Enerson said.

BWL execs responded at Thursday's meeting that the utility needs a "bridge" power plant that will take the utility to the era of 100 percent renewable energy — probably the last it will ever build, Price said.

The BWL plans to reach 40 percent renewable energy by 2040, but won't be able to meet federal requirements for energy capacity without the plant, Peffley said.

"In about 10 years, about half of our power will come from other sources, but we're still going to need to fill in the cracks," Peffley said.

Opponents who spoke Thursday ranged widely in age and cited a wide variety of concerns, including the greenhouse gases emitted by natural gas plants, the volatility of natural gas prices, and the preference of young professionals to settle in communities that commit to using renewable energy.

Several speakers cited a June 12, 2017, City Council resolution committing Lansing to "promote the long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

"This is real, Lansing," resident Carol Rall said. "This is our moment in history to make a choice that will have effects for many years to come."

Lynn Stout, a public health consultant and vice chairwoman of the Ingham County

Board of Health, was one of several speakers who urged the board to step up energy efficiency programs.

"I don't want to pay higher rates on a facility that will be obsolete a few years after it's built," Stout said. "Be brave and rethink your plan. We still have time."

"We are definitely on board for upping energy efficiency," Peffley responded. "If we went to 2 or 3 percent, that would be great."

But Peffley added that even if efficiency programs resulted in an unheard-of 10 percent reduction in usage, the utility would still face a shortfall of "hundreds of megawatts."

Claude Beavers, a Lansing resident since 1969, told the board he formerly lived in Williston, North Dakota, the epicenter of the boom in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to obtain natural gas.

"Walt Disney could not have created a more idyllic place," Beavers said. "Today it's a disaster because of all the fracking that's been going on. Why are we rushing? There's new data coming in all the time."

Lansing resident Will Lawrence called for a third-party study of the BWL's plan "at bare minimum."

"We are in good company of people the world over who are fighting for a healthy future for us and for our children, and we're going to win," Lawrence said. "This thing cannot be built over energetic and sustained public opposition."

"It doesn't fall on deaf ears," Peffley said. "We're on the same side. Timing is the problem. We need to have this plant, on line, generating power before Eckert closes."

Councilwoman Carol Wood praised a "very educated public" for speaking at the meeting and said Council would "take up these concerns" in future meetings.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, DeLay  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Clerk Aten, Trustee McKenzie  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2018 approved.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Public hearing held for proposed parks and recreation plan.  
Referred to Planning Commission Ordinance No. 31-169, Amendments to Chapter 85 – "G" General Business Zone and "H" Industrial Zone.  
Referred to Planning Commission Ordinance No. 31-18-170, Amendments to Chapter 84 – Parking and Loading Provisions.  
Approved memorandum of understanding in regards to easements across 2400 W. St. Joseph and authorized West Side Water manager to sign.  
Approved budget amendment.  
Approved Resolution 18-03: Resolution to adopt the parks and recreation master plan.  
Claims approved.  
Executive session held to discuss pending litigation.  
Board returned to regular session.  
Approved MTT settlements and authorized Attorney and Assessor to execute agreements.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#18-030

**B/18/057 PUMP INSTALLATION** 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, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on March 1, 2018 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-031

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#### Correction:

Due to a reporting error, the former job title attributed to Tom Stanton in a story in last week's City Pulse about the Lansing Board of Water and Light's proposed natural gas plant was incorrect. Stanton was a staff member of the Michigan Public Service Commission.

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# Proposed constitutional amendment would streamline voter registration

By **GLORIA NZEKA**  
*Capital News Service*

LANSING — Voter advocacy and civil rights groups are petitioning for a state constitutional amendment that would make it easier for Michigan residents to vote.

The campaign, called “Promote the Vote,” seeks to give military members more time to vote, automatically register citizens when they conduct business at a Secretary of State office and allow absentee voting without the need to give a reason. It also would allow same-day voting registration with proof of residency and straight party voting.

Under current state law, you need to be registered at least 30 days before an election to vote. Military operating from an

overseas installation are advised to send back their absentee ballot 35 days before election day, according to the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

“We just want voting to be accessible, convenient and everyone’s vote to be counted and secure,” said Judy Karandjeff, the president of the League of Women Voters.

The proposal, which is targeted for next November’s election, is backed by the league, the American Civil Liberties Union and the state and Detroit branches of the NAACP.

The Secretary of State’s Office is confident in the state’s current voting process, said Fred Woodhams, the elections agency’s director of communication.

“We believe that Michigan elections system does an excellent job of allowing voters

to cast a ballot and have their voice heard.” “Michigan saw the most registered voters ever in 2016,” he said. “Recent elections have seen near-record turnout.”

The Board of State Canvassers has approved the petition language, “and people will be able to sign the petition shortly,” Karandjeff said.

Backers of the proposal must get 315,654 valid signatures of registered voters to make the November ballot.

Only 15 states and the District of Columbia allow same-day registration, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. The organization says there is strong evidence that election day registration increases voter turnout.

Promote the Vote isn’t the only campaign

seeking to reform Michigan’s elections laws. Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, a group of activists introduced a constitutional amendment proposal called Voters Not Politicians.

It would establish an independent commission to oversee the drawing of Michigan’s electoral districts. Elected officials would be ineligible to serve on the commission.

In December the group turned in more than 425,000 valid signatures to the Secretary of State, where the petition is under review. The redistricting process, which takes place every 10 years, was controlled by Republicans in 2011 and the party has since maintained legislative majorities in elections.

## \$124.62 and rising

### State owes county recycling fee for Governor’s Mansion

The Governor’s Mansion is in arrears.

The state didn’t pay the \$94.50 recycling fee to the city of Lansing for 2016. Now it owes \$124.62 with penalty and interest. And that will go up to \$416 March 1.

The fee applies even though Gov. Rick Snyder opts not to live in the Lansing home, 2520 Oxford Road, near the Country Club of Lansing. It is used for special events, though.

“I think this might be an error on the city’s part. That doesn’t make sense,” wrote Snyder spokesman Ari Adler Friday. “Do you have a copy of the bill? I’m trying to get

to the bottom of what this is about with our facilities folks.”

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing chuckled at the implication that the bill was an error.

“They’ve paid it the last 19 years,” he said. He also noted that the Department of Technology, Management and Budget called and confirmed receipt of the billing earlier. “They have it.”

Indeed, they do. On Tuesday afternoon, a department spokesman said it had been located and will be paid.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

## Smoke

from page 7

information because Webberville provided it.”

Lansing’s refusal to release applicant information appears to stem from a concern over safety. In previous interviews, city attorney Jim Smiertka indicated the city was worried about facilities’ being targeted for robberies and other crimes.

Jones, who spent three decades in law enforcement, said there was a “real concern” about protecting medical marijuana patients from violence.

Although he had no direct hand in crafting the legislation, he said he saw the logic behind exempting detailed applicant information from the public eye.

“It made sense to be very protective of a business that deals in all cash and has a medical product that could be sold on the black

market,” Jones said.

Lansing City Council President Carol Wood disagreed with this rationale. She pointed out that the facility applicants’ addresses were already publicly accessible online, and in the case of certain provisioning centers, some businesses were actively operating.

That information is “already available and being published by the city,” Wood said. “I’m not sure how this would prevent crime.”

Wood said that the exemption on releasing information prevented anyone from knowing whether license applicants had provided political contributions to city officials, something she believes “the public has a right to know.”

“With the scarce amount of information that’s available other than an address and a location, we have no idea who these entities are,” Wood said. “The only thing we have to bank on is the integrity of the people that are issuing the licenses.”

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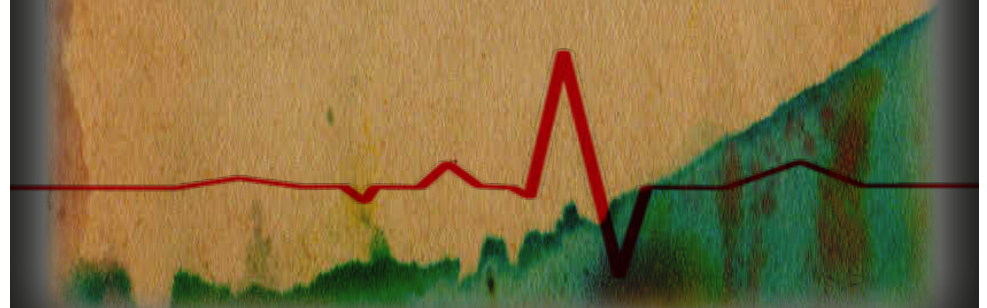
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# Introducing META Collective

Lansing artists coalesce for a new gallery

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It's unfair to say they came out of the blue.

After three years of transforming a dilapidated Old Town building at 718 E. Grand River Ave. into an illustrious urban gallery, META Collective, a new conglomerate of Lansing artists, is set to host its debut multimedia show, "Just this Side of the Tracks," Saturday.

"It's not just going to be art, we're interested in music, film, streaming — every genre imaginable," META Collective co-founder Greg Zivic said.

Keeping true to the spirit of its namesake, the billing by META Collective displays a higher form of self-awareness, allowing attendees to soak in several aspects of Lansing's culture. They've even booked a punk rock band, a genre which the more painfully posh gallery owners often thumb their noses at.

"Just this Side of the Tracks" features well-known Lansing-area artists, many of whom have received national recognition. New pieces will be shown from printmaker Kimberly Lavon, painters Julian Van Dyke, Robert Shelberg and Brian Whitfield, sculptors Ivan Iler and Dace Koenigsnecht, all of the Such brothers, and at least a dozen more artists of many mediums.

There will be a stage, hand built by Zivic and co-founder Trisha Wilcox, in the center of the gallery, suggesting that the musicians performing at "Just this Side of the Tracks" are hardly an afterthought: Mike Bass, the Dasterds, LeSage, Frances Bennigan and Koni Kyodi.

Zivic and Wilcox began talks of forming an art collective in late 2014. The two met at Sparrow Hospital, where Wilcox worked as an EMT and Zivic continues working as

an emergency physician.

Though Zivic earned a BFA from Ohio State in 1980 and made a living as a painter in New York for almost three decades, he went through a career change after a botched robbery left him with a noncritical gunshot wound.

"I went to medical school when I was 43 — it's a long story" Zivic laughed. "Some guys were trying to steal my truck when I lived in south Brooklyn, I chased them away and they came back around and shot me."

Zivic, who was not too severely injured, was inspired by the incident to volunteer regularly in the emergency room of the hospital that treated him. Constant volunteering and encouragement from the Brooklyn doctors pushed Zivic through the doors of medical school.

When Zivic met Wilcox, she had already studied fine arts photography for several years but had yet to take the dive into a full-time photography career. She's since left her position at Sparrow. META Collective is her sole focus.

"I saw her photography and thought it was really good," Zivic said. "We were both artists who shared a medical background and decided that we both wanted to show our own work. So we bought the building."

Zivic and Wilcox had help securing the purchase from arts patron Rob Elhenicky. The duo were also assisted by Cathy Hunt.

But it would soon prove a daunting task, as the space was nowhere near presentable.

"The place was gutted and there were holes in the roof," Zivic said. "We did new plumbing, new electric, new HVAC — new everything."

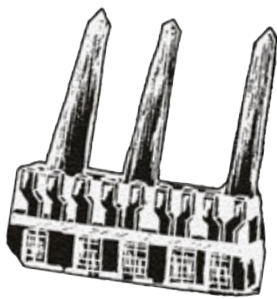
The reconstruction required the teardown of a wall separating the original building from an addition. By no means a DIY project, Zivic and Wilcox had to hire a professional construction crew to get the job done.

The hard work paid off. META Collective's renovated space, complete with a lofted ceiling and robust off-white cement walls, screams New York or San Francisco-chic. For Lansing artists craving an extra level of authenticity in their works' presenta-



"The Further Adventures of Fat Boy and Jive Turkey" by Julian Van Dyke, 2017.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

"Guardian Angel," a 2013 Brian Whitfield original that will be displayed at "Just this Side of the Tracks."

tion, that's a big deal.

When the building's overhaul was nearing completion six months ago, Zivic and Wilcox still lacked connections within the art scene. The two began meeting regularly at their usual haunt, Zoobies, to brainstorm what they wanted to do with the space.

They would eventually come across Lansing community arts organizer and fellow Zoobie's regular, David Such. After overhearing one of Zivic and Wilcox's conversations, Such introduced himself and took an immediate interest in their plans.

"Dr. Zivic was telling me about these New York art events, these little pop-up galleries with a lot of cool art, music and entertainment. And after one night, they'd be over and that would be it," Such said. "I told him, we should do one here."

In the spirit of a collective, Wilcox said what proved to be the difference between bar talk and actual action was "strength in numbers."

"Greg's an artist, Trisha's an artist, I know a ton of artists because of my involvement with Scrap Fest, and we decided to take this on," Such said. "We had a mutual understanding. He's got this cool space, I know all these artists, so we just set a date."

With Such onboard as an independent producer for the show, he brought along another member of Render Studios, Joshua Burwick. Burwick added another level of experience as the booker of poetry acts for a bimonthly



# META

from page 11

Old Town event, “Arts Night Out.”

Though they are not fulltime members of META Collective, Such and Burwick were able to connect Zivic and Wilcox with the cavalcade of artists they had readily available from their previous art soirées, allowing them to build a prestigious lineup across various mediums for Saturday’s show.

Zivic and Wilcox say the show is the first of hopefully many to come. They have a future-minded attitude with their plans for META Collective, hoping to fill the noticeable void in space for Lansing artists.

“There’s always a void,” said painter Julian Van Dyke. “There’s a need, but where’s the support? People want artists, but do they want to pay them?”

META Collective desires to be that support. Though they are a for-profit entity, Zivic and Wilcox, refreshingly, aren’t just in it for the money — of which, let’s be honest, there isn’t much anyway.

“We don’t want to get rich off other artists while they don’t do well,” Zivic said.



“Montmartre” by Trisha Wilcox.

Courtesy photo

“Our whole thing is that we take a lesser percentage of the profits. We’re trying to be more inclusive and let the public figure out what they like.”

Zivic and Wilcox certainly earned the respect of Van Dyke, whose murals can be seen across Lansing and displayed in galleries across the country.

“I hope they have more shows. With all the talent they’ve been seeking out, I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of this lineup,” Van Dyke said.

The prospect of the new gallery, and Zivic and Wilcox’s communal approach, has excited many other artists around town, all hungry for new avenues to show off their work.

“I’m super stoked about what they’re doing for the community,” Kimberly Lavon said. “The look and feel of what they’ve transformed that space into is stunning. Everyone involved are some of my most favorite people.”

“Just this Side of the Tracks” will see Lavon take over 75 feet of wall space.

A consensus seems to be that META Collective is rising from its primordial state at just the right time for the Lansing arts community. Lansing has been craving a new venue. When City Pulse asked its Facebook

followers about their favorite venues, a good chunk of comments argued that Lansing was lacking variety and growing stale.

“New spaces like the gallery can help to bring out more unknown artists and give them a place to showcase what it is that they love to do,” Dasterds



Courtesy photo

A sample of Kimberly Lavon’s prints.

guitarist Mychal Shaw said. “There’s a lot of underrated talent in this area, and it’s awesome that there will be a new place to help get that talent noticed.”

The debut show comes just three weeks after Mayor Schor’s announcement of the formation of a blue ribbon arts commission.

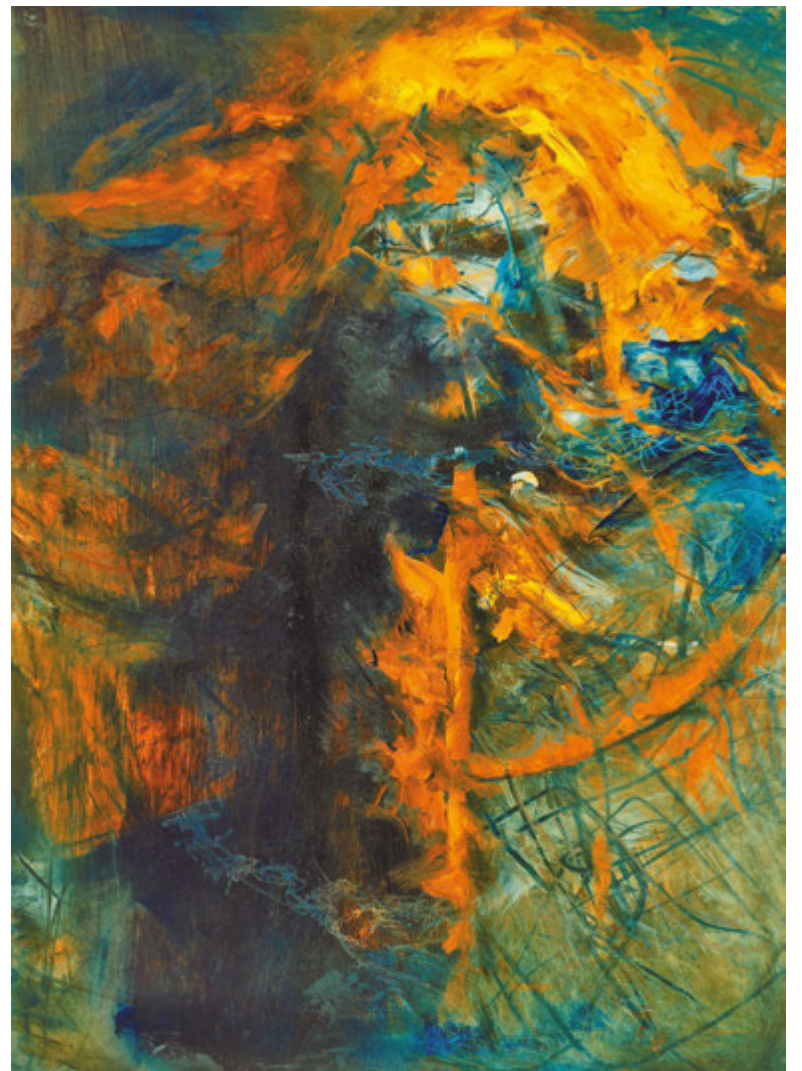
“What I’m noticing is a resurgence in the art scene here in Lansing. People are appreciating art

more, especially public art,” said Whitfield, who painted the murals under the US-127 overpass. “There’s a heightened interest, and Schor has created an artist group that will promote art even further.”

Taking notice of Zivic and Wilcox’s

convenient timing, Whitfield said he can’t help feeling galvanized.

“META Collective is coming at the perfect time for new artists in this area to gather and have art events different from what we’ve already seen,” Whitfield said. “There’s more support, because it’s artists coming together instead of an outside group coming in.”



Courtesy photo

“My Fire” by Greg Zivic.

## Arts Council of Greater Lansing Charity and silent auction

Proceeds from “Just this Side of the Tracks” will contribute toward Arts Council of Greater Lansing’s Young Creatives Program. The Young Creatives Program benefits students K-12 in the Tri-County Region through a billboard program, the development of a young creatives guide, and the council’s Artists-in-Residence program which puts teaching artists into the Lansing School District.

Arts Council of Greater Lansing will also hold a silent auction, featuring the unsold artwork from past Holiday Glitter silent auctions. The artist receives 30 percent of the dollar amount, with the rest going toward the Young Creatives Program.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Convergence of consciousness Lansing poet Eric Crosley brings a collaborative experience to the Robin Theatre

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Eric Crosley, one of Michigan's most well traveled poets, has an abstract, collaborative multimedia performance coming to the Robin Theatre Saturday.

**"Tiles of Consciousness/Multiple Choices"**

All Ages  
\$10  
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.

"I have friends that are writers, painters and friends that are musicians," Crosley said. "So I decided to do a show with those three kinds of artists."

Anchored by Crosley's expressive dance and poetry, "Tiles of Consciousness/Multiple Choices" boasts an art exhibition by Lansing painter Martin Koenig, readings from Asian history professor Janam Mukherjee and a handful of assorted musical acts.

"Multiple Choices is a shoutout to my old friend Robert Busby, who was tragically murdered over a decade ago," Crosley said. "He was a pioneer for the Lansing art colony we call Old Town, and a very gracious person."

The show promises to explore the internal conflicts within the human psyche, something Crosley is all too familiar with.

"We call it 'Multiple Choices' as an allusion to growing up, because there's always multiple choice tests in life, and multiple choices in artwork," Crosley further explained.



Crosley

plained.

Crosley's roots take us to mid50's rural Indiana, where he discovered his transgender identity at the very young age of five. The realization made life problematic for Crosley, who was forced to shroud himself from an outwardly homophobic and oppressive Midwestern social climate.

Crosley worked as a hod carrier – Indiana slang for bricklayer – before obtaining an associate degree in social work from Indiana University Bloomington in 1973.

He survived the struggle, which at times made him suicidal, and still carries the weight of it closely with him. It's been kept alive as a recurring theme of his poetry,

immortalized in the bookending poems of his 1993 creative writing master's thesis.

"I've been dealing with being a transgender person my whole life, and it's very significant in my writing," Crosley said. "I consider myself post-transgender, not because I'm unsympathetic, but because I want to live in a society that moves away from these judgmental attitudes."

Crosley has taught poetry in both colleges and prisons, and even ran to represent Michigan's 8th Congressional District in 2006.

His range of endeavors are a thick knot of yarn to unravel, and that's without mentioning his position as director of the Michigan Society for Cow Protection.

The visuals for "Tiles of Consciousness/Multiple Choices" are being provided by local painter Martin Koenig. The reference to tiles is an allusion to Koenig's signature "box quilt" style, which consists of several painted squares to form a single cohesive picture, in this case, portraits of enigmatic figures, such as John Waters.

"Calling it 'Tiles of Consciousness' was a salute to Marty Koenig's art," Crosley said. "I was very impressed by his revelatory artist's statement."

In a written artist's statement, Koenig declared the portraits to be of "anti-heroes," before he realized that the figures could be viewed as representatives of inner conflict as a whole – tying in nicely with the themes of Crosley's poetry.

"The portraits here are based on a show I've worked on for some time about the anti-hero," Koenig writes in the statement. "But I soon realized that in many ways, we are all anti-heroes with the ability to rise to great heights despite our weaknesses."

Crosley's colleague Mukherjee, whom Crosley calls a dear friend, is going to be an integral part of the show as well. Mukher-



Courtesy photo

Portrait of John Waters by Martin Koenig. One of many that will be featured at the Robin Theatre Saturday.

jee is the author of "Hungry Bengal: War, Famine and the End of Empire," which explores the struggles faced by the Bengal region of India during World War II.

"He's a brilliant and compassionate man, his father is Indian and his mother is from Illinois," Crosley said. "That figures heavily into what we're doing politically, especially with our president who speaks so disparagingly about immigrants."

Crosley stresses that "Tiles of Consciousness/Multiple Choices" is not limited to one single topic and elaborated that it will venture through all realms political, social and even agricultural. And though the show is listed with a \$10 door fee, Crosley insists that nobody will be turned away.

## Deconstructing visual identity New art gallery dissects our digital personas

By JINGJING NIE

"Highly Reflective," an eclectic pop-up gallery hosted by Sometimes Art House, comes to town Thursday.

The interactive gallery, a collaboration between Sometimes Art House and Red Cedar Art Collective, examines the "construction of the self" and the "selfie." In other words, how we catalog our self-image digitally.

"The real point of this event is that winter is depressing," said Sometimes Art House founder Audrey Matusz. "Let's get out of

our houses, have fun things to look at and be happy and celebrate these moments."

Matusz is a senior arts and humanities student at Michigan State University. She wasn't entirely satisfied with her education and found herself needing more experience outside of the classroom.

Her ventures outside of class gave her a taste for photography and film production. Matusz just needed a space to host art shows that would properly display the message behind her creative work.

Sometimes Art House was conceived not only to create a home for Matusz's own productions, but to give a platform for local POC, LGBTQ or female identifying artists.

"Highly Reflective" relies heavily on interactivity between its installions and its

audience. Fiddling with the art is usually a surefire way to get oneself removed for a gallery, but Sometimes Art House actively encourages attendees to take pictures of, and with the art.

"The theme is deconstructing individual identity and the selfie," Matusz said. "Your online persona, your selfies, they're another reflection of who you are on the inside – or perhaps how you wish people would perceive you."

The exhibition is loosely inspired by a Los Angeles selfie pop-up show, Happy Place, which offers many installations, including ball pits, for visitors to use as selfie backdrops.

However, "Highly Reflective" wants to offer something different.

"We're hoping that in your pictures, you're reflecting some part of your identity," Matusz said. "Either it is just your face, or the choices you made in the picture."

The three hour long gallery will have five selfie stations, some of which are simply

backdrops. There will be props and tripods for visitors to use, so they can take the perfect selfie. One station encourages attendees to interact with people as they take selfies.

As implied by the name, various reflective items will be hung around the house, to further bolster the idea of introspective and self-reflection.

A scavenger hunt will also take place, where the audience will be given a list with tasks such as filming performances or using a certain object for a selfie.

"We are not frowning upon taking pictures of yourself with artwork, it is encouraged," Matusz said. "It is very interesting to see how people interact with art nowadays with phones."

The gallery's opening will be augmented with live performances by musicians ETTA and Krissy Booth. Drinks and fortunetelling will be provided, and attendees can also buy photography prints and vintage clothing.

# CURTAIN CALL

## Choose your own adventure or choose your own plot

'Thus With a Kiss I Die' packs an immersive theater experience

By MARY CUSACK

Michigan State University's Department of Theatre has an outstanding history of producing plays that address critical social and cultural issues. From "In the Blood" to "Baltimore" to "Punk Rock," MSU boldly embraces challenging theater. With its latest production, "Thus With a Kiss I Die," the department ratchets up the challenge by creating an immersive experience that puts the audience sometimes uncomfortably close to the toxicity of human hostility.

Those who have been to a murder mystery dinner will be familiar with the immersive nature of "Kiss," although this production is that experience on steroids. "Kiss" takes place at the fictional Jekyll University in 1958. The theater department has brought in a progressive guest director (Raied Jawhari) for its production of "Romeo and Juliet." This "New York Jew" has made it his mission to bring Northern values to this Southern college by casting a black Romeo (Evan Philips) with a white Juliet (Jamie Lien).

The experience begins with a tense opening night, the audience already primed for trouble as characters mill about the auditorium pre-show, hissing and sniping at each other. As the play-within-the-play begins,

the tension onstage grows as the plot progresses toward the kiss alluded to in the title. The show is interrupted by a crime, at which the audience is pressed into service by the local sheriff (Zack DeBrabander).

This is where the immersive experience kicks into high gear. Conceived and directed by MSU's head of acting and directing Rob Roznowski, the production spans two floors, hallways, three theater spaces and a rehearsal room as well as nooks and crannies throughout the building. The audience is invited to follow characters through the building, or stay planted in a space and watch as the characters come and go. The logistics alone are amazing, as the audience is split up and brought back together several times so that they can share key information about the larger story that might otherwise be missed.

Although race is the key conflict in "Kiss," Roznowski has drafted subplots that reflect several contemporary issues plaguing the United States. One subplot that I experienced was witnessing the drama department's costumer, an immigrant from China (the heartbreakingly earnest Hongwen Lu), being bullied by a group of mean girls who accuse her of taking jobs away from their mamas.

Because one can't follow each individual character, I can't describe in detail the stories of other characters. This is good, as it avoids spoilers. To whet the reader's appetite for this behind-the-scenes intrigue, I will share a few stories that I think were happening. One subplot involves an inappropriate relationship between a white college administrator

## Beware the murderous Swedish teenage vampires

'Let the Right One In' tells a different kind of love story

By TOM HELMA

The Dart Auditorium is stark, a bare stage with the notable exception of a single portable basketball hoop.

The action begins almost immediately, as one character slits the throat of another, hog-tying him upside down to drain his blood.

This is LCC's production of "Let the Right Thing In," an adaptation of a 2008 Swedish movie, based on the best-selling 2004 novel of the same name. A major theme of the play focuses on the bullying inflicted upon the central character Oskar, a Swedish high school student played by Jason Durr.

He is soon joined onstage in a playground by Eli, played by Storm Boyer. Is Eli a woman, a girl, a muse? Is she really there, or just a fig-

ment of Oskar's imagination?

The heart of "Let the Right One In" is their relationship, which begins awkwardly, develops slowly and ends with the recognition that love can take many forms. Durr and Boyer portray the couple as sweet, tender and vulnerable.

Thus, when we find out that she has been a vampire, who has been alive for eons and survives by drinking the blood of humans — somehow — we are not surprised. Sometimes, we learn, love between two very different creatures tends to just happen.

When Eli becomes a makeshift vampire superhero, attacking the three bullies that pester Oskar continuously, she fills up her blood-tank for the long haul.

Eli and Oskar, true lovers forever, devise a plan to get out of town, live happily ever after and, in her case, sleep all day in a steamer trunk.

"Let the Right One In" has a large cast of supporting characters, including the three bullies, played to form by Quinn Kelly, Dylan Storm and Richard Kopitsch, and a school



(Left to Right) Evan Philips, Raied Jawhari and Jamie Lien in "Thus With a Kiss I Die."

(Jeff Litten) and his black subordinate (Jala Jackson). Another seems to involve sexual violence perpetrated by a male student (Kyle Parsley) on perhaps several women. Another cast member seems to have either a mental illness, a drug problem, or both (Brandon Drap). The entitled starlet (Isabel Rodriguez) who expected she'd be Juliet has an overbearing stage mother (Isabella Stenz) who may be instilling body insecurities in her daughter. The director seems to be unhappy in his marriage, masking his misery with prescription drugs to control his aggression toward female cast members.

These are but a few of the stories one could follow. There is possibly a subplot about homophobia, which I missed completely but others undoubtedly witnessed. This is the beauty of this production: every audience member will come away with a unique experience and different takeaway lessons. At the opening night performance, I was particularly touched watching Joseph, who plays Romeo, explain to Maggie, who plays Juliet, that while the kiss might cost her her reputation, it could cost him his life. Philips and Lien are perfectly cast, as the gawky and seemingly powerless duo experience an achingly tender

loss of innocence. They are baby birds who have recently left the nest and are now learning about the opportunities for both cruelty and kindness in the bigger world.

The sole weakness of the show is that the sheriff wraps the play up with lines that border on preachy and do not read as authentic for a Southern sheriff of the era. Audience members from Michigan who would choose to come to this play don't need to be blatantly told that the times they should be a changin'. Roznowski might consider refining a slightly less obvious yet still poignant denouement for future productions of the work.

As with most immersive theater experiences, there is a large cast of characters, many of whom have legitimate motives for committing the crime. This means that even if one went to every performance and followed the same characters, the outcome at the end could change as the sheriff reveals the culprit. "Kiss" is literally a new experience at every performance. While few people have the ability to attend every performance, this is a show that warrants repeating at least once. Fortunately, at the time of the publication of this review, there are still seven chances to choose your own Jekyll University adventure.



Storm Boyer as Eli and Jason Durr as Oskar in "Let the Right One In."

gym teacher played by Joey Wodja. Of this group, Wodja is the most realistic, delivering lines with a naturalism that seems genuine.

Oskar's mom, portrayed by Bobbi Newman, also comes across with a sense of authenticity. These are all minor roles, but still necessary to create a framework for the central love story. Hakam, played to perfection by Kyle Haggard, really stands out with a horrific throat slitting scene early in the play.

A haunting musical score permeates much of "Let the Right One In," attenuating and

enhancing the vulnerability of its central characters. Set pieces float in and around the stage effortlessly on rollers, thanks to a highly organized running crew, who were rewarded for their efforts by being the first to get post show bows.

Director Andy Callis must be credited for creating an intangible sense that this is a Swedish play. There are no accents, but there is something dark and poignant that permeates the script that emulates the cold, and at times anti-social, atmosphere of Scandinavia.



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# Decorated Irish-American musician to play Lansing

## Liz Carroll comes to Ten Pound Fiddle

By JONATHAN SHEAD

As a young girl, renowned Irish fiddle player and composer Liz Carroll felt lucky to grow up in a household full of musicians with a rich Irish history. But what she didn't

know, is that the music of her family would be the basis of her entire career.

"I didn't take music in college, because I thought this is just Irish music, there's no place for this," said Carroll, now 61. "It's not jazz, it's not classical. I kind of kicked myself

**Ten Pound Fiddle Presents: Liz Carroll, with Jake Charron and Nic Gareiss**

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Courtesy photo

Liz Carroll plays fiddle with John Doyle at Club Passim in Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 21, 2007. Ten years later, Carroll is still trying to improve her playing style and performance.

because I thought there was a place for it, but I didn't realize it at the time."

Carroll went to DePaul University, in her home state of Chicago, to study social psychology. Shortly after graduating, she found a job teaching at a Catholic elementary school, though she quickly realized the job wasn't as fulfilling as she originally thought.

That's when she knew she needed a change, Carroll said. After being asked to play on a six-week state department tour in West Africa, she knew it was time to leave her current profession to follow her true passion for music. Carroll has been playing and composing Irish music professionally ever since, and has become one of the most notable American-Irish musicians to date.

Carroll has won a variety of awards throughout her musical career, including the Senior All-Ireland Championship at age 18, the National Heritage Award Fellowship in 1994, a Grammy nomination for Best Traditional World Music Album

for her duet album "Double Play," with guitarist John Doyle, and the Cumadóir TG4, Ireland's most significant traditional music award, among several other accolades.

She's also had the opportunity to perform for President Barack Obama at the 2009 St. Patrick's Day luncheon held at the Capitol Building in Washington D.C..

With 13 albums under her belt, and another one she intends to release this year, Carroll is taking to the road and bringing her eclectic Irish music performance here to East Lansing. She is scheduled to perform at the Michigan State University Community Music School with frequent collaborator and guitarist Jake Charron and local dancer Nic Gareiss Feb. 23.

The trio hopes to bring a collection of new and familiar tunes for friends, new and old, to hear, and for Carroll that's all she needs to have a good time performing.

Carroll explained that it's the sense of community, and her fellow Celtic musicians that she's fostered surrounding Irish mu-

sic that motivates her to continue playing and composing. That, and she simply loves playing the music for who've never heard of it before, with the hopes that they'll become more interested in it too.

"It's lively. It's dashing. It's intense, and it's just all-around great playing," Carroll said. "The speedy tunes can get that reaction without really knowing what it is, and then I think the slower songs are version of those fast ones. Those ones are way more accessible for most people."

Expect to hear a list of songs from Carroll's most recently released album with the String Sisters, "Between Wind and Water," as well as some never-before performed songs off her upcoming duet album with Jake Charron.

For Carroll, however, all she hopes and expects to see from her upcoming show in East Lansing is "some old friends in the audience and maybe some new ones too."

"Hopefully they'll bring their friends and we'll have a great night," Carroll said.

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# It's just rock 'n' roll

## Conspicuous Bystanders go against the grain

By MEGAN WESTERS

In May of 2014, two south Michigan-based musicians named Jenna Roark and Emmet McGuire met and began writing and making music together. Their mutual love for classic rock influenced their work together and not long after, they found a few like-minded souls to form the rock group Conspicuous Bystanders. The group is fresh off the release of their first original album this month, entitled “You Can Have It All.”

The group consists of vocalist Jenna Roark, guitarist Emmet McGuire, drummer Zachary McKinney and bass player Duncan Tarr. In a world where most musicians in their 20s are focusing on EDM, electronic or pop-style music, Conspicuous Bystanders, despite their name, aren't exactly bystanders. In fact, their rock 'n' roll mentality and style of music make them stand out from what is currently being made by most local millennial artists.

“In an era where everyone is eager to pinpoint their genre with every descriptive word they can find, Conspicuous Bystanders prefer to call what they play, ‘rock 'n' roll,’” said McGuire.

“Sure, there are jazz notes, blues notes,

and even a little reggae, but to add that noise is too restrictive. Rock 'n' roll has always been a mixture of blues, jazz and countless other genres, and to add such details seems redundant.”

McKinney agreed, saying that he feels that rock 'n' roll has actually lost popularity. And yet, this style is what they choose.

“It's fallen off in the pop scene, which is controlled by other people and the powers that be in those record labels. Rock 'n' roll is natural and it has a rawness to it. No one told us to play this style of music,” he said.

“You Can Have It All” is the first album officially released by Conspicuous Bystanders and contains eight original songs — all the original material the band has been playing since its first incarnation in Jackson. It's true to Conspicuous Bystanders' style, ranging from heavier rock songs to light, danceable music like their song “Buttons.”

“I think what's unique about a band in general rather than just a solo artist, is that we have four unique artistic opinions that are going into our music,” said Roark.

“Taking a beat that's been pre-made and adding things over it isn't creative. You can only take that direction so far. You can get so much more with four people contribut-



Courtesy photo

Conspicuous Bystanders (Left to Right): Zachary McKinney (drums), Jenna Roark (vocalist), Emmet McGuire (guitar), and Duncan Tarr (bass).

ing than just one.”

The album was released on January 1 and is available on the band's YouTube channel, SoundCloud, and BandCamp. As time goes on, the album will appear on popular

streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music. Conspicuous Bystanders first tour is due in April of 2018 and plans to play in Indianapolis, Chicago, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo.

# Behind the scenes: Jan Ross

## Riverwalk Theatre veteran opens up

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

When Jan Ross laughs, it's not just heard — it's felt. The big bellow suits her 5'10" formidable frame. Sometimes theater audiences have heard the distinctive chuckles, and other times not. That's because Ross works onstage, but mostly behind the curtains.

Ross' theatre experiences began while growing up in Kalamazoo. “I was in kindergarten and played Cinderella,” she said. “I remember because we put the carriage before the horses.”

In eighth grade she acted for the Kalamazoo Junior Civic Players. “I got the part of the sheriff in ‘The Prince and the Pauper,’” Ross said. “It helped to have a manly ‘long stride’ and a deep voice at the time.”

She moved to Mason in 1975 and appeared onstage with the Mason Coventry Players “a year or two later,” acting in productions of “Lady in Red,” “The Odd Couple,” and “Harvey.” She also played Weezer in Coventry's rendition of “Steel Magnolias.”

“By far that was my favorite role I've ever



ROSS

done,” she said.

In 2007, Ross secured a role in Lansing's Starlight Dinner Theatre's “Amy's Wish.” Since then, she has been an actor, stage manager, assistant director, co-director, runner, set dresser, costumer, crewmember,

spotlight operator, and even assistant dining room manager for the company. In 2009, she eventually became Starlight's secretary/vice president.

“Jan is probably the hardest worker we have on staff. She always does more than her position requires,” said Linda Granger, Starlight's founder. “She is the backbone of the backstage area.”

Ross's duties have included prop placement and acquisition, guiding actors backstage, keeping them on task at rehearsals, organizing set and costume changes, handling any breakage and “making people on the stage look good,” Ross said. “Under supervision, I can do almost anything.”

She painted and built sets for Starlight, including for last season's production of “Catch Me if You Can.”

“I enjoy almost every aspect of watching the set come together,” Ross said.

Her costumer work has limitations. “I don't sew,” she admitted, “(but) I can coordinate.”

Her best advice for stage managers dealing with quick costume repairs? “Duct tape.”

Ross's advice to actors is “to be respectful of your crew,” she said. “If it wasn't for the crew, you wouldn't be onstage.” That applies to managers who “yell and scream,” something Ross is “learning to tame down a bit.”

Despite everything she's done for the com-

pany, there is one role she won't do. “I can say with certainty, I'll never be a director,” she said. “I don't want that. I'd rather work backstage in my little cubby hole.”

Finally, Ross moved to Lansing in 2014 with Mike, her husband of 43 years, where they live currently. “Mike eats a lot of TV dinners when I'm rehearsing,” she said. That has included rehearsals for St. John's Home-grown Productions of radio plays, or for the New Thought Community Choir where she sings tenor.

Ross' onstage Starlight roles include “The Curious Savage,” “Red Velvet Cake Wars,” “Opal's Husband,” the female version of “The Odd Couple,” “Pretty Little Thing Called Love,” and this season's “Farce of Habit.”

In “Farce of Habit” she played a cop who ended up with “bruises and bangs and bumps.” Ross hit the back of her head during a performance and “actually saw stars.”

“We had a lot of fun with that show. It was delightful,” she added with a boisterous laugh.

After each play's end, Ross says she always feels a range of feelings. “It's such a relief when you're done. You get your life back,” Ross said. Though the contentment is usually quickly interrupted with a yearning question, “When do we start another show?”

# Window closing on Snyder LGBT legacy

(This week we introduce a new monthly column by Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, the statewide LGBT rights organization.)

By **STEPHANIE WHITE**

In 2009, when Rick Snyder was considering a run for governor, he conducted a series of small meetings to bounce ideas around and get feedback from various citizens. As a person in one of those meetings, I was interested to hear him express his lack of interest in divisive social issues that Republicans typically take on. He said he wasn't interested in fighting about gay rights. That position of a socially moderate Republican who comes from a corporate background made complete sense. After all, virtually every Fortune 500 company in America has nondiscrimination policies in place. Companies realized long ago that creating policies to support all of their workforce and reach all consumers is good for business. As an Ann Arbor Republican, one could assume he saw the benefit of strong gay rights to his hometown as a booming, healthy economy.

Unfortunately, his practice of policy-making has yet to hold up to that promise. Looking back over his seven-year term as governor, it's not unreasonable to draw the conclusion that, instead, he is against LGBT rights in Michigan.

In December 2011, during his very first year in office, he signed into law HB 4770, outlawing domestic partner benefits for state employees. In 2014, after marriage laws were briefly open to all Michiganders, Snyder went to court in an effort to deny



White

those legally wed couples their full rights under the law. He remained on the wrong side of the marriage equality issue all the way through his loss at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015. Further, in June 2015 he signed into law a package of bills that allow faith-based adoption agencies that receive government funding to legally refuse to work with gay couples. And just recently he named a vehement and prolific antigay activist to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

Through the years, he has continued to portray himself as socially moderate, accepting and supportive of gay rights. Yes, he did let stand Gov. Jennifer Granholm's limited executive action against employment discrimination in the executive branch, neither rescinding it nor renewing it under his own signature. He did

use his 2015 State of the State address to say, "The other thing I call for is a continuation of the dialogue and discussion on Elliott-Larsen and I appreciate the prior discussions that were had, but let's keep up that dialogue and let's show that we can deal with the issues of discrimination in our state." He has been open to some discussion and meetings on the topic of gay rights.

But Michiganders need a governor to lead this fight with tangible action. And there's no reason a Republican governor who shares our desire to create a vibrant economy that attracts and retains top talent shouldn't be that leader we need. Clearly, Democrats have always moved first on socially progressive issues, and LGBT rights would be nowhere without Democratic leadership. But gay rights

are no longer radical and there aren't any valid arguments against full equality left — they've all been thoroughly disproven. Today there are too many pro-equality Republicans emerging for this to be a purely partisan issue any longer. If Dick Cheney, Orrin Hatch, David Koch and the U.S. military can all support gay rights, then so can Gov. Rick Snyder.

Time is running out for Snyder to change his legacy on this topic. In this last year of his service, when he has far fewer political restrictions on his work, now is the time to put his socially moderate values into policy. As former NFL Coach Bill Parcells says, "You are what your record says you are." Positioning our state to attract forward-thinking industries and entrepreneurs, to make clear that all Michiganders are equal under the law, to support diversity and inclusion, and to finally end discrimination in our state — that would be a winning record and a legacy to be proud of.

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# Putting the 'special' in Special Collections

## Patrick Olson rummages through MSU Library's hoard of rare books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

What puts the 'special' in Michigan State University's Special Collections?

Patrick Olson, head of Special Collections, had just finished installing an exhibition of graphic novels in the MSU Library for the upcoming MSU Comics Forum, when he took some time to answer that question.

"When I assumed the job in 2014, I said the collection should be used as a 21st century teaching tool," Olson said. "The mission is to get the material in the hands of

classes and the community."

The collection, which holds more than 450,000 printed works, ranges from early Renaissance material to Fourth Folio Shakespeare, and from early comics to SDS posters.

"I want people to see books from those times as people saw them then," Olson said.

MSU has one of the world's largest collections of comics, books on popular culture and material cataloging radicalism of all stripes. In the last few years, the comic collection has added more than 45,000 foreign-language comics.

Olson's own special interest trends more toward books of the hand press era, which ran from 1440 until about 1830.

"I'm definitely a hand press person," Olson said. An old hand press is currently under restoration and will be used for demonstrations at the MSU Library.

Special Collections already had a good collection of almanacs, but it went from good to great when it received the collection of William and Helen Chase.

The Chases are the founders and publishers of "Chase's Calendar of Events," an international guide to daily festivals, celebrations, anniversaries and other chronological activities. Chase's is celebrating its 60th anniversary with its 2018 edition.

"Chase collected books on chronology and it was a working collection for him," Olson said. "The collection of almanacs got immediate use by a class studying early astronomy."

Almanacs typically cover phases of the moon, sun and other astronomical occurrences, along with astrology and rare appearances of asteroids.

Special Collection's hoard is now approaching a thousand individual almanacs, even boasting an early German al-

manac from 1494.

The single-sheet German almanac, published to be hung on a wall, informs the owner about daily activities such as blood-letting and purging. It also includes planting timetables.

That the early German almanac survived was a matter of luck. It was cut in half and then used to line a book binding, a common printing practice at the time.

A story in Monday's New York Times told of a librarian at Union College in Schenectady, New York, who recently discovered a 1793 almanac with hair clippings from George Washington tucked inside.

Which seems to prove Olson's point that almanacs, "are a great way to study individual culture."

Olson said some of the almanacs in the collection have hand-written notes in them, and it wasn't unusual for owners to detail temperatures, rain and snowfall along with planting dates.

"People mostly tossed these almanacs away. I wanted the collection to take popular culture and push it back in time," Olson said.

Almanacs were popularized in the United States when Benjamin Franklin began publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac" in



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Patrick Olson stands at the ready in MSU's Special Collections vault.

1732. The MSU collection has a 1753 Poor Richard's Almanac with Franklin's imprint.

Olson said another goal of his is to expand the LGBTQ collection, which recently added the records of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, held annually from 1976-2015.

MSU is also adding to the "Changing Men Collection," which catalogs the pro-feminist men's movement. Olson is also busily cataloging and processing material to be added to the "Arsenal Collection," which consists of radical right-wing literature.

Olson said he developed a love for old books from a junior high teacher, who told the students about Nathaniel Hawthorne's first book, "Fanshawe." After an abysmal reception, the author of "The Scarlet Letter" bought up the remainders, finding a rare collectible in the process.

As an undergraduate, Olson also worked at a Chicago rare books dealer, which added to his appreciation for rare tomes.

An article in the popular website and book "Atlas Obscura" mentions a rare book in MSU's Special Collections — "Shadows on the Wall of Death," which tells of poisonous wallpaper. The article went viral, and brought attention to the vast variety of books contained in the MSU Library.

Olson said he is anxious to provide more public services, and ultimately move the collection into a newly renovated space with improved climate control and more space to develop collections.

The research you do in determining rarity of a book for resale is "in dollar and cents," Olson said.

### SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

#### LOCAL AUTHOR NIGHT

Thursday, February 22 @ 7pm

Featured authors include Mark M. Bello (Betrayal of Justice, Zachary Blake Legal Thriller series); J.A. Bullen, (Beyond the Amaranthine Veil, young adult Legends of Valoria series); award-winning, bestselling author C.M. Gleason (Murder in the Lincoln White House); and Randy D. Pearson (novel, Trac Brothers).

#### MAGIC FREE PLAY

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#### CITY PULSE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 1 @ 7pm

On the 50th anniversary of 1968, the "year that changed everything," the City Pulse is sponsoring a monthly book club featuring 12 books that capture the essence of that incredible year. The March selection is My Lai: Vietnam, 1968, and the Descent into Darkness by Howard Jones, a book that has been called "a nail-biting and exhaustive narrative that places the My Lai massacre within the wider context of the Vietnam War."

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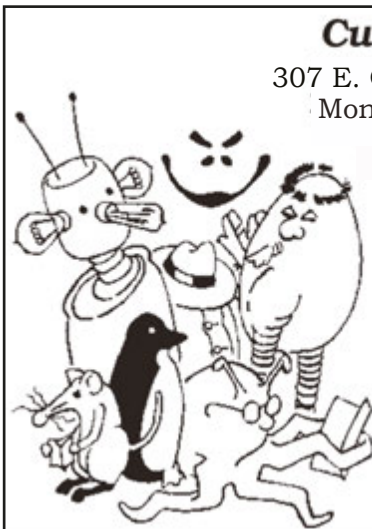
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# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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 Ella at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, February 21

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

The wildlife that surrounds us: understanding the animals that call cities home. From 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

AARP Senior Learning Series: Finances for 50+. From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Community Discussion to Prevent Gun Violence. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. free. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

MSU Creative Writing Center Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Open Studio Life Drawing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others.. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

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

Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic. From 6 to 8 p.m. Donation as guided. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

### EVENTS

3D Print Lab (Age 13 & up). From 4 to 6 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

3D Print Lab (Age 13 & up). From 4 to 6 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Cooking with Kids. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Film: Inconvenient Sequel. From 6:30 to 9 p.m. cost is in the notice. Adults \$7 seniors \$5 students are free. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road East Lansing.

Games at the Meridian Senior Center (See Descriptions for Dates and Times). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Live Animals in the Library (All ages). From 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

See Out on the Town Page 14

## Allen Neighborhood set to host Community Supported Agriculture Fair



February 24 • 11 a.m.

### By CIARA PAGE

The 2018 Allen Neighborhood Center Community Supported Agriculture Fair takes place Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. The CSA Fair aims to bring fresh foods into the city and encourage a healthier lifestyle.

Members of the Lansing community will get a chance to shop and meet with a variety of local farmers who grow fresh produce and farm products. Customers can sign up for shares and learn about different types of vegetables and produce.

The Allen Neighborhood Center started in 1999, with a primary focus on food security. The center consists of a Farmer's Market, Bread Basket, and online food hub, all of which help local farmers get produce out to different places.

The fair is a way for the community to shop with farmers in shares to ensure that they have a fresh, harvested, diverse selection of vegetables.

"This is important because we want people to know what a CSA is. It's so many different kinds out there and this helps in bringing in the support," Allen Neighborhood Center Executive Manager John McCarthy said.

"You're supporting the local economy that you live in," he said.

Many customers think shopping at the local grocery chain is more convenient and cheaper than buying fresh produce through CSA or Whole Foods. McCarthy explains the difference by asking, "would you rather

have greens that are cut that same morning or greens that were cut a week ago, washed with sanitizer and sat on a truck?"

"It's about the labor of love. You're paying a premium for fresh produce and the money goes back to your neighbor, soil and economy."

This year the mid-Michigan farmers selling their produce include Ham Sweet Farm, Hillcrest Farms, Miss Kim's Jams, Rust Belt Roastery, Monroe Family Organics and many others. Produce from these farms include vegetables, garlic, squash, egg, and beets, as well as different add-ons such as pork, jelly, meat and coffee.

"People learn how to eat better while being involved with a CSA. It gives access to more nutritious foods and everyone can benefit from eating foods that are healthy and fresh," said Rebecca Titus, a 12-year-old CSA that practices ecologically grown, sustainable farming methods.

Titus has been a part of the CSA fair for the past three years.

"It's really awesome to be a part of a community of like-minded people who want to eat better," said Titus. "I'm in the business of growing people. I see people and their kids grow every day through healthy foods."

Titus says being able to have a personal relationship with the person producing your food is important. Customers can hold their farmers accountable for the produce and the quality of it as members of a CSA.

According to Titus, when a person shops at a local grocery store, they tend to "stick with what they know," versus being in a CSA, where there's a potential for over 200 options.

"It also helps in cutting back on fats and sugars in your diet. You replace them with flavorful veggies and produce," said Titus.

MSU's Organic Farm primarily functions as an educational tool for students to learn about farming. According to farm manager, Denae Friedheim, they are a "dot connector" between being educated and taking action.

Friedheim encourages the community to support local farmers at the CSA fair. She explained that buying from a grocery store usually means that customers are buying from a larger-scale farm.

"A lot of food safety issues happen in large scale farms," Friedheim said. They have a problem of enforcing food safety and food safety practices with their workers. With CSA, farms are smaller and buffered away from some of those issues."

The end goal for John McCarthy is to engage the community and teach them about different foods, all grown here in Michigan.

"I want people to take a CSA subscription away from this. The goal is to get people to enjoy local foods and really open up their minds to different produce and products," McCarthy said.

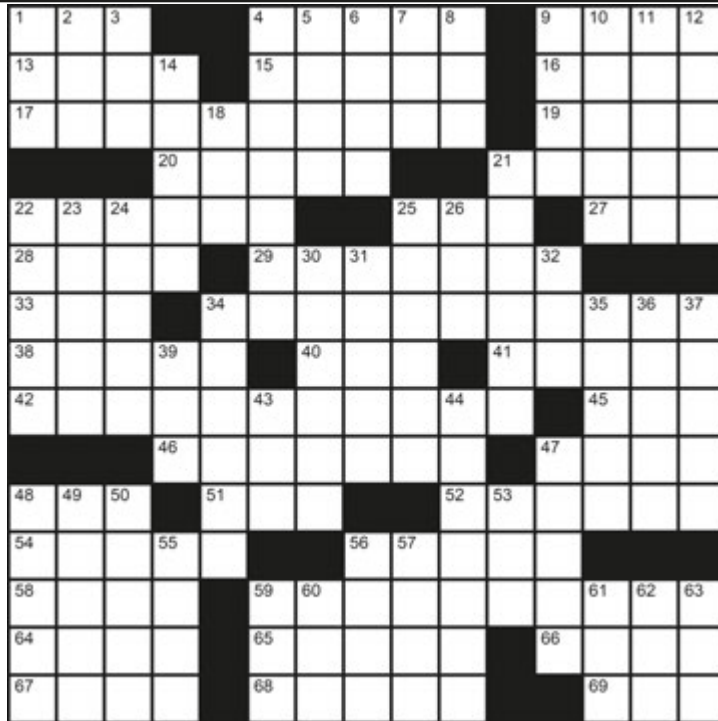
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"It's All Downhill"-- make a run for it.**

**Across**

- 1 Bread that may or may not have seeds
- 4 Unit of heat energy
- 9 Copier problems
- 13 Mall entrance features
- 15 Cartoon dad who's had over 100 jobs
- 16 Musk of SpaceX
- 17 Poet who excels at short comedy scenes?
- 19 Queen abandoned by Aeneas, in myth
- 20 "Wabbit" hunter Fudd
- 21 Red or Yalu, e.g.
- 22 "Ad astra per \_\_\_\_" (Kansas's motto)
- 25 Furor
- 27 Crisis responder, for short
- 28 Radar reading
- 29 1950s nostalgia group with a TV show in the 1970s



- 33 "That's right!"
- 34 Just briefly reads the rules to a classic arcade game?
- 38 Early photo color
- 40 Reed or Rawls
- 41 Slovenia neighbor
- 42 Someone who's an expert at sliding out?
- 45 \$, for short (well, not really, being three characters)
- 46 Disregards
- 47 "There Will Be Blood" actor Paul
- 48 Many corp. logos
- 51 A, in Berlin
- 52 Hockey players, slangly
- 54 Trail follower
- 56 Not significant
- 58 Julia of "Addams Family Values"
- 59 Request to a supervisor to avoid

- something?
- 64 Prefix for present or potent
- 65 "\_\_\_\_ Burr, Sir" (song from "Hamilton")
- 66 Days of long ago
- 67 Ten-speed, e.g.
- 68 Air freshener brand
- 69 Predicament
- Down**
- 1 Apt. ad count
- 2 Hairy Himalayan beast
- 3 Prefix for dermis
- 4 Jim Carrey movie with the catchphrase "Smokin'!"
- 5 Dig this!
- 6 Ruler in Abu Dhabi
- 7 "Can't Fight This Feeling" band \_\_\_\_
- 8 "The A-Team" regular
- 9 "Star Wars: The Last \_\_\_\_"
- 10 Still in the game
- 11 Wi-fi device
- 12 Derisive sound
- 14 High-priced
- 18 35mm camera option
- 21 Repair, as a loose board
- 22 Bottomless depth
- 23 Streamlined
- 24 Longstocking of kiddie lit
- 25 Provide coverage for
- 26 Grammy category division
- 30 Hotelier Conrad, or his great-granddaughter Paris
- 31 Love, in Le Havre
- 32 Take the stage
- 34 Reproductive rights pioneer Margaret
- 35 Palindromic formality
- 36 On one's own
- 37 Stocking stuff
- 39 Ugandan dictator Amin
- 43 Indie rocker DiFranco
- 44 Foolhardy
- 47 Word after roller or Kentucky
- 48 Pulsate
- 49 Home of the Heat
- 50 Mammal with a defensive spray
- 53 Hotel room extra
- 55 Peace Nobelist Wiesel
- 56 Actress Sorvino in 2016's "Exposed"
- 57 Device with the Nano discontinued in 2017
- 59 Hang down
- 60 Actor Penn
- 61 "That's gotta hurt"
- 62 \_\_\_\_ Lanka
- 63 Masters and Johnson research subject

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 25**

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

February 21 - 27, 2018

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** When you're playing poker, a wild card refers to a card that can be used as any card the cardholder wants it to be. If the two of hearts is deemed wild before the game begins, it can be used as an ace of diamonds, jack of clubs, queen of spades, or anything else. That's always a good thing! In the game of life, a wild card is the arrival of an unforeseen element that affects the flow of events unpredictably. It might derail your plans, or alter them in ways that are at first inconvenient but ultimately beneficial. It may even cause them to succeed in an even more interesting fashion than you imagined they could. I bring this up, Aries, because I suspect that you'll be in the Wild Card Season during the next four weeks. Any and all of the above definitions may apply. Be alert for unusual luck.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** If you gorge on ten pounds of chocolate in the next 24 hours, you will get sick. Please don't do that. Limit your intake to no more than a pound. Follow a similar policy with any other pleasurable activity. Feel emboldened to surpass your normal dosage, yes, but avoid ridiculous overindulgence. Now is one of the rare times when visionary artist William Blake's maxim is applicable: "The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom." So is his corollary, "You never know what is enough until you know what is more than enough." But keep in mind that Blake didn't say, "The road of foolish, reckless exorbitance leads to the palace of wisdom."

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Have you ever had a rousing insight about an action that would improve your life, but then you failed to summon the willpower to actually take that action? Have you resolved to embark on some new behavior that would be good for you, but then found yourself unable to carry it out? Most of us have experienced these frustrations. The ancient Greeks had a word for it: akrasia. I bring it up, Gemini, because I suspect you may be less susceptible to akrasia in the next four weeks than you have ever been. I bet you will consistently have the courage and command to actually follow through on what your intuition tells you is in your best interests.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** "There is no such thing as a failed experiment," said inventor Buckminster Fuller, "only experiments with unexpected outcomes." That's an excellent guideline for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks. You're entering a phase of your astrological cycle when questions are more important than answers, when explorations are more essential than discoveries, and when curiosity is more useful than knowledge. There will be minimal value in formulating a definitive concept of success and then trying to achieve it. You will have more fun and you will learn more by continually redefining success as you wander and ramble.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)** During World War II, British code-breakers regularly intercepted and deciphered top-secret radio messages that high-ranking German soldiers sent to each other. Historians have concluded that these heroes shortened the war by at least two years. I bring this to your attention, Leo, in the hope that it will inspire you. I believe your own metaphorical code-breaking skills will be acute in the coming weeks. You'll be able to decrypt messages that have different meanings from what they appear to mean. You won't get fooled by deception and misdirection. This knack will enable you to home in on the elusive truths that are circulating -- thus saving you from unnecessary and irrelevant turmoil.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)** In April 1972, three American astronauts climbed into a spacecraft and took a trip to the moon and back. On the second day of the 11-day jaunt, pilot Ken Mattingly removed and misplaced his wedding ring. In the zero-gravity conditions, it drifted off and disappeared somewhere in the cabin. Nine days later, on the way home, Mattingly and Charlie Duke did a space

walk. When they opened the hatch and slipped outside, they found the wedding ring floating in the blackness of space. Duke was able to grab it and bring it in. I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will recover a lost or missing item in an equally unlikely location, Virgo. Or perhaps your retrieval will be of a more metaphorical kind: a dream, a friendship, an opportunity.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)** According to British philosopher Alain de Botton, "Maturity begins with the capacity to sense and, in good time and without defensiveness, admit to our own craziness." He says that our humble willingness to be embarrassed by our confusion and mistakes and doubts is key to understanding ourselves. I believe these meditations will be especially useful for you in the coming weeks, Libra. They could lead you to learn and make use of robust new secrets of self-mastery.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)** During the next four weeks, there are three activities I suspect you should indulge in at an elevated rate: laughter, dancing, and sex. The astrological omens suggest that these pursuits will bring you even more health benefits than usual. They will not only give your body, mind, and soul the precise exercise they need most; they will also make you smarter and kinder and wilder. Fortunately, the astrological omens also suggest that laughter, dancing, and sex will be even more easily available to you than they normally are.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)** The little voices in your head may have laryngitis, but they're still spouting their cracked advice. Here's another curiosity: You are extra-attuned to the feelings and thoughts of other people. I'm tempted to speculate that you're at least temporarily telepathic. There's a third factor contributing to the riot in your head: People you were close to earlier in your life are showing up to kibitz you in your nightly dreams. In response, I bid you to bark "Enough!" at all these meddlers. You have astrological permission to tell them to pipe down so you can hear yourself think.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)** Paleontologist Jack Horner says that developmental biologists are halfway toward being able to create a chickenosaurus -- a creature that is genetically a blend of a chicken and a dinosaur. This project is conceivable because there's an evolutionary link between the ancient reptile and the modern bird. Now is a favorable time for you to contemplate metaphorically similar juxtapositions and combinations, Capricorn. For the foreseeable future, you'll have extra skill and savvy in the art of amalgamation.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)** "Be stubborn about your goals but flexible about your methods." That's the message I saw on a woman's t-shirt today. It's the best possible advice for you to hear right now. To further drive home the point, I'll add a quote from productivity consultant David Allen: "Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind." Are you willing to be loyal and true to your high standards, Aquarius, even as you improvise to uphold and fulfill them?

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)** In her novel The Round House, writer Louise Erdrich reminisces about how hard it was, earlier in her life, to yank out the trees whose roots had grown into the foundation of her family's house. "How funny, strange, that a thing can grow so powerful even when planted in the wrong place," she says. Then she adds, "ideas, too." Your first assignment in the coming weeks, my dear Pisces, is to make sure that nothing gets planted in the wrong place. Your second assignment is to focus all your intelligence and love on locating the right places for new seeds to be planted.

# SUDOKU

# BEGINNER

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

## 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 25

Live Animals in the Library (All ages). From 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Maker Day (Ages 8-15). From 4 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Maker Day (Ages 8-15). From 4 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Rebounding. From 2 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$70 members / \$80 non members / \$12 drop in fee. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

## Thursday, February 22

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

2018 MSU Comics Forum. From 7 to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Michigan State University Main Library, 366 W Circle Dr East Lansing.

Spanish Conversation Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Starting a Business. From 9 to 11 a.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

East Lansing High School Book Group. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive East Lansing.

iPad StoryTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

Jazz Thursdays at UrbanBeat. From 7 to 11 p.m. Free Show Weekly food and drink specials! UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

### THEATER

Our Lady of Poison. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Adult \$27, Senior (65+) \$25, Military \$25, Student \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW.

### EVENTS

Using Herbs in Winter for Teas & Baking (Adults). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

\*Using Herbs in Winter for Teas & Baking (Adults). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Black History Month--Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. From 5 to 6 p.m. FREE. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road East Lansing.

Book Tasting (All ages). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.

Book Tasting (All ages). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.

Lansing Reiki Share. From 6 to 8 p.m. Free or donation as guided. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Lunch at the Senior Center. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Preschool Storytime in Wacousta. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 517.627.7014.

## ACAPULCO MEXICAN GRILL

By ALLAN I. ROSS

If you've ever been to Mexico, you may have noticed there's a big difference between the kind of cuisine Americans think of as "Mexican" and the real deal for sale in taquerias south of the border. But at Acapulco Mexican Grill, which opened last week in the Frandor Shopping Center, the traditional and the Americanized live side-by-side on an inventive menu designed to captivate a wide range of diners.

### Acapulco Mexican Grill

300 N. Clippert St. Ste. 17, Lansing (in Frandor Shopping Center)

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

(517) 203-0096

"I never heard of chimichangas or fajitas before I moved here," said Jorge Vera, one of Acapulco's co-owners. "Those don't exist in Mexico. And tacos down there don't have lettuce and cheese - that's an American thing. But with our menu, we wanted to make sure everyone was happy, so we included the kind of dishes that Americans are used to, as well as some authentic Mexican food in case they want to try it the right way."

Vera said the menu's closest approximation to authentic Mexican fare are its tacos al pastor, filled with skirt steak, pineapple and onions, and its tacos de carnitas, loaded with diced pork and served with housemade pico de gallo and tomatillo sauce. But he said the item that's already proven to be a standout favorite is the shark taco, made with real shark meat.

"We went through 30 pounds of shark in the first week," Vera said. "We just wanted to create something new that no one else in town had. We had no idea it would be that popular."

Vera and his family emigrated from Mexico in 2003 when he was 14 years old. They originally settled in Chicago, but moved to Lansing in 2004 when his father, Carmelo Vera, was offered a chance to become a partner of Cancun Mexican Grill, 1754 Central Park Drive in Okemos. That became a wild success, eventually leading to six more restaurants around mid Michigan, but with Acapulco, Carmelo Vera wanted to break away from the Cancun vibe.

"We were looking to do something with a different look and feel," Jorge Vera said. "Cancun has vibrant colors and has more of a fiesta feel to it. We went for a rustico look, which is more contemporary and a little more soothing to the senses."

The space feels like a Mexican town square inside, complete with festive banners and a pair of arched doorways that give it an open-air sense. It can seat 185, and includes a full bar and a 20-seat patio. The ownership team - Vera's brothers, Jose and Carlos Vera, their cousin, Raoul Avila and their family friend, Alfredo Melendez - spent over \$600,000 in conjunction with the building's owner, Patrick

Corr, to transform the 5,800-square-foot space. Most of the restaurant's footprint had previously been Just 4 Fun Hobbies & Comics, with the bar area in back annexing a section of the adjacent Blaze Pizza. Acapulco complements Frandor's other international dining options, including Michi Sushi (Japanese), Aladdin's Restaurant (Middle Eastern), Apple Jade Asian Restaurant (Chinese and Thai) and Olga's Kitchen (Greek-American).

"We were originally thinking of going to Grand Rapids, but when my dad saw this space, he decided this was it," Vera said. "Frandor is great because it's right in the middle of everything, it's easy to get to and there are already these other dining options here. It's worked out perfectly."

And there's no shortage of parking. Acapulco is situated directly across from the Bank of America and shares a parking lot with Sears, which has parking room to spare these days. That hasn't escaped Vera's eye.

"At the Okemos restaurant, people sometimes had to park down the street or even at the Walmart nearby because our lot was always full," Vera said. "I don't think we're going to have that problem here."

It looks like 2018 is going to be a big year for Central American cuisine. The Cuban restaurant La Cocina Cubana recently opened in downtown Lansing. The long-gestating revival of Mr. Taco on the city's south side posted a "help wanted" notice on Facebook last week, signaling a possible opening soon. Punk Taco, a full-service Mexican restaurant originally planned near Frandor, recently announced it would be opening in Old Town sometime this spring following a series of pop-ups at its sibling restaurant, the Creole Burger Bar & Southern Kitchen. Pablo's Panaderia, also in Old Town, is working on a second location in REO Town. And, interestingly, Frandor recently added a Taco Bell location in the former digs of Halo Burger.

Acapulco's drink menu includes 12 types of imported Mexican beer and more than a dozen varieties of tequila. Tap beer options include locally made brews by Ellison Brewery and Spirits and Lansing Brewing Co. But whatever you do, don't ask for a shot



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Acapulco Mexican Grill opened in Frandor last week. At the bar, guests can do shots from these mini leather boots, which were handmade in the Mexican city of Guanajuato where co-owner Jorge Vera's family is from.

from the 3-liter bottle of Herradura tequila proudly displayed behind the bar.

"My dad got that bottle years ago, but he's never touched it," Vera said. "I told him we should open it to celebrate the restaurant, but he said no. He said he wouldn't open it no matter how much someone offered for it. I think he just likes the way it looks."

Also behind the bar is a set of shot glasses set inside mini handmade pointy-toed leather boots to be used for special occasions. Vera said they're from the city of Guanajuato, where his family is from, which is known for its leather shoemaking.

"It was a nice way to include a something of where we're from," Vera said. "This obviously isn't traditional Mexican food, but we're trying to stay as true to the spirit of the culture as we can. And I think our guests are really going to appreciate that."



# TURN IT DOWN A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 23-24

MATT WILLIAMS



Matt Williams at Tequila Cowboy

Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-24 @ Tequila Cowboy (Lansing Mall), 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. FREE, 8 p.m.

In promotion of his latest single, "Southern Man," contemporary-country artist Matt Williams headlines two free shows Friday and Saturday at Tequila Cowboy Bar & Grill. The Alabama native, now living in Grand Haven, debuted in 2015 with "You'll Make Her Cry," a 12-song CD. Williams' interest in music goes back to his youth—at 18 months old he was given a drum set and later learned piano. But in 2004, music was put on hold as he enlisted in the Army and spent time in Afghanistan, during which he witnessed brutal war zones. After completing his military service, Williams suffered from PTSD and depression and turned back to music to deal with his issues. "Coping was something that seemed impossible," his bio states. "I directed my life at what I knew best, and that is music."

Fri., Feb. 23

LIPSTICK JODI



Lipstick Jodi, 'Beetlejuice' screening at the Avenue

Friday, Feb. 23 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

Emerging West Michigan-based indie-rock outfit Lipstick Jodi performs Friday at the Avenue Café. The free show is a part of the Brew & View series, hosted by the Capital City Film Festival. The movies start at 8 p.m. and the music immediately follows. "Beetlejuice" (1988) is the main feature, but before that, three locally-made shorts will be screened, including "Chapter Four," "Kidnapped for Good," and "Goldfish"—all are third-place winners in the 2017 Fortnight Film Contest. Lipstick Jodi is a poppy alt-rock trio based out of Grand Rapids and fronted by guitarist/lead singer Karli Morehouse. Produced by Austin Ruhstorfer at River City Studios in Grand Rapids, Lipstick Jodi released their self-titled debut album in September 2017, backed by the single and music video, "That's So Great (She Likes Boys)." To find a copy of the album, visit lipstickjodi.com.

Sat., Feb. 24

HEATHER STYKA



Heather Styka at the Pump House

Saturday, Feb. 24, @ Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. All ages, \$15 donation, 7 p.m.

Chicago-based singer/songwriter Heather Styka, along with Campbell Dylan, performs a double bill Saturday at the Pump House Concerts. Both will also perform at The MSU Broad Art Museum's Acoustic Lunch at 12:30 p.m. the same day. Styka started writing and performing as a teenager, honing her craft among Chicago's folk community. Over the past decade, she has since released four full-length albums and toured from coast-to-coast, performing at clubs and folk festivals. Styka's 2011 release, "Lifeboats for Atlantis," hit No. 3 on the FOLK-DJ charts and—after moving to Maine for two years—she released the equally acclaimed "While This Planet Spins Beneath Our Feet" in 2014. Her latest release, 2016's "The Bittersweet Tapes" LP, was recorded in Tulsa, on a four-track recorder with sparse, ethereal production—her rawest and most honest release, to date.

**LIVE AND LOCAL**

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT  
ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Worn Spirit, Bike Tuff	Free GGFF	Dark Art of Michigan
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	A Daydream Away	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tournament, 7:30 p.m.		DJ, 9 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic, 8:30 p.m. Showdown	Summer of Sol	Be Kind Rewind
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Star Farm	Star Farm
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St.		Tribute to J Dilla, 8:30	Steel Giant, 8pm	BIG Something, 9pm
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Yay High, 8pm		Darkest Hour, 7pm	DJ Infamous single release party, 10
Reno's North, 16460 S. US Hwy. 27			The New Rule, 7 p.m.	The New Rule, 7 p.m.
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Matt Williams, 8pm	Matt Williams, 8pm
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.		Jazz Thursdays, 7 p.m.		
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's



# Out on the town

from page 14

Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Ages up to 10). From 6 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Ages up to 10). From 6 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

### ARTS

Ballroom Lessons (Argentine Tango). From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$42 per couple \$21 individual. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St. Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

Coloring Club. From 1 to 3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive Lansing. (517)-321-4014.

## Friday, February 23

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

StoryTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

Lansing Symphony Radiance Pops: Women of Motown. From 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$20 - \$55 Student pricing available. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. 5173531982.

### THEATER

Our Lady of Poison. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Adult \$32, Senior (65+) \$30, Military \$30, Student (with valid ID) \$10. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Williamston. 517-655-SHOW.

### EVENTS

Elementary Neuroscience. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Saturday, February 24

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Lean In Lansing. From 9 to 11 a.m. FREE. Grand Traverse Pie, 1403 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (517) 203-3304.

Reiki 2 Training. From 9 to 4 p.m. \$125. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Just this Side of the Tracks. From 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. Free, no end time. META Collective, 718 East Grand River Avenue Lansing.

### THEATER

Reading of Fears & Phobias: Part Deux. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. Blue Owl Coffee Co., 1149 S

Washington Ave Lansing. (517) 575-6836.

### EVENTS

Stop Motion Studio App (Ages 9-18). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

Stop Motion Studio App (Ages 9-18). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

3D Printing Workshop. From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Black History Month Event--Saturday Matinee (Age 13 & up). From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Black History Month Event--The Storytellers (All ages). From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Black History Month Event--The Storytellers (All ages). From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Black History Month Saturday Matinee. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Family Special: Talented Tails. From 2 to 3:30 p.m. \$3/person or \$7/family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Greater Lansing Annual Orchid Show. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Plant and Soil Science Building, 1066 Bogue St. East Lansing.

Health & Wellness Fair. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Center of the Healing Arts, 935 N. Washington Ave Lansing. 517-525-2478.

Moonlight Ski and Shoe. From 6 to 9 p.m. \$10/person with our equipment \$3/person with your own equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

### ARTS

Echoes: Works by Jena McShane & Roxanne Frith. From 12 to 5 p.m. Free, open to the public. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mit Hope Ave Lansing.

## Sunday, February 25

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. From 2 to 4pm. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. 517-371-5119.

### EVENTS

Celebrate STEM Book Party (All ages). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. From 5 to 8:30 p.m. Buffet \$10.99 plus tax (includes complementary hot tea). Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Rd. Okemos. (517) 381-8388.

Battle of the Bots (Ages 8-14). From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Family Activity Day. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Monday, February 26

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Balance and Core Class. From 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$60 for members / \$70 nonmembers /

\$15 drop in. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. French Club. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

BabyTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Out of This World Book Club. At 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### EVENTS

Science Storytime (Ages 2-5). From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Drop-in Homework Help (Grades K-8). From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Maker Monday (All ages). From 3:30 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.

STEAM Activities (Ages 5-18). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

### ARTS

Monday Movie Matinee. At 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Tuesday, February 27

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Homework Help. From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Read to a Dog. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

ToddlerTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

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

### EVENTS

Fidget Spinner Mania (Ages 11-18). From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Lansing Christian School Student Shadow Day. From 8 a.m. to noon Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way Lansing. (517) 882-5779.

More Than Money Series (Ages 8-12). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Tuesday Games. From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre, Free Bridge, \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

### ARTS

African American Film Series. At 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

African American Film Series Panel Discussion. At 7:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### FEB. 21 >> AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER' SHOWING

That light at the end of the tunnel might not be a freight train, after all. Ten years after "An Inconvenient Truth" sounded the alarm on climate change, a sequel is demonstrating how people around the world are waking up, taking action and remaking the energy landscape. Local environmentalists will give brief presentations on local issues, especially the fight against a new power plant in Lansing, at a special showing of 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power,' sponsored by The East Lansing Film Festival, Citizens Climate Lobby and Indivisible Climate Action/350.org

**6:30 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 Wed., Feb. 21 at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. \$5-7. (517) 980-5802.**

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22

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# Q&A with Edie Goik: head chef at Maru

By MEGAN WESTERS

Now a chain of six restaurants with locations in Okemos, East Lansing, Grand Rapids, Midland, Kalamazoo and, their newest location, Detroit, Maru has be-

come a favorite for Michigan sushi lovers. At only 27 years old, Edie Goik, Head chef at the original Maru in Okemos, is doing big things as part of this organization.

**When did the Okemos location open?**

It's been open for eight years, but I haven't been a part of it the whole time. I came in about three years ago.

**Were you classically trained to become a chef?**

I did not go to culinary school. I was trained at the restaurant. I have always cooked and have always experimented at home, but I've never had any traditional training. I just kind of really like Japanese culture, so when I tried it, it was a really good fit. I was trained as a sushi chef by Jesse Sweet, the former head chef at Maru. He's still a big part of the operations around here.

**You said you were interested in Japanese culture. Why do you think that is and when did your interest in Japanese culture begin?**

So that started when I was 13. I went to Lansing public schools and they have an Ostu Japan foreign exchange program with Lansing's sister city which is Ostu. One of my teachers told me I would be a really good candidate and so I interviewed for that and then they chose me to go. So, I went to Japan for, I think 14 days, and I took a crash course in culture and language and after I got back I continued to study and I was always just like, wow, this place! This food, it's so good, and the culture is so different and there were things about it that I really connected with, so when I got back I sort of kept up with the culture over there and kept learning about



Goik

it through college.

**Where did you go to college?**

I went to LCC. I took a couple Japanese classes there, but I didn't get a degree in that.

**In terms of your position at Maru, what are your responsibilities?**

I hire people, I do interviews, I work with my sushi bar training, breaking down fish, vegetable prep, I work with back of the house, we actually have two kitchens at Maru, which is pretty interesting. So, I work with them to make sure that they're making rice properly, and mostly with my kitchen manager and then I work a little bit with front of house, sort of just make sure that everything is happening the way it's supposed to. I also do general chef platters and regular house items, I put those out as well. The menu stays the same across the board, but we do have our chef, Omakase, and so I'm not doing that. I have to make sure that our chefs are following the guidelines within that. Sometimes I do create specials for the week or holidays. I'll do a roll that's not on the menu and I love doing that. Even in my first few weeks of starting I was thinking of things I could do.

**You have two kitchens at Maru - why?**

We have the sushi bar, and that's out front. That's where we keep our fresh fish, our ready to eat food, is out there and we put that together, but then in the back we have another kitchen where we make our rice, drop some of our fried items for sushi, we make hibachi's, noodle dishes and a few others. So, we really do more than just sushi.

**When you do create those individual**

**rolls, what inspires or influences those?**

It's different every time. It's pretty much a combination of my time in Japan, seasonal ingredients, something that I was looking at online, but sometimes it's, 'OK, I have too much of a fish and I want to sell it before I can't.' Sometimes it's just something that I've been thinking of, or a chef roll that I created for somebody that I really liked. Sometimes it's my experiences with experimenting and wanting to know more about Japanese cuisine.

**If you were educating people on sushi - what it is and where it comes from, what would you tell them? where would you start?**

It is from Japan. It basically started as people trying to preserve and ferment fish and rice way a long time ago. It grew from there to becoming a really popular street food, which is where the wasabi and the nigiri come into play. Then it just grew from there into the rolls. Those started in Japan as just the Maki's, which is just one ingredient in the rolls. So, Maki means roll, and then pertaining to sushi just has the one ingredient in them. The bigger rolls like California rolls and others, pretty sure they were created in Canada or California, but it wasn't created in Japan, it sort of just grew. A lot of the styles or ingredients are typically influenced from Japanese culture. But it has definitely evolved over the years to become what it is today.

**Do you eat sushi a lot? When you eat out, where do you eat?**

I do. I pretty much eat sushi like every day that I work there and I haven't gotten sick of it. "The Cosmo" is the roll I eat the most often. But, my favorite roll on our menu is probably the "K-pop." It's just so different. I usually work about five days a week and I love it. I don't usually order hibachi, but usually I'll get a roll. Sometimes I'll get sashimi, which is just the fish but yeah. There are lots of vegetables and obviously, fish too, but a good variety and we try to get the best produce and things possible.

I tend to eat at ethnic restaurants. Right now, I'm really into Indian.

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BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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