

FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

September 13 - 20, 2017

**Red-taped:**  
City, state crack down  
on dispensaries. See P. 7



YOU ARE NOT ALONE  
LET US HELP YOU TURN THE PAGE

# ABOOD

L A W F I R M 1 9 5 6





SEPTEMBER 15TH / 5-8 PM

# St. Johns

## Arts Night Out: Paint the Town

Arts Night Out returns to St. Johns on September 15th! Come explore as local artists invigorate the town with their unique work and talents and get in on the fun with the Children's Raffle and Community Art Project. If you're looking for a family-friendly Friday night, Arts Night Out has something for everyone!

#MyArtsNightOut



For more information, visit [MyArtsNightOut.com](http://MyArtsNightOut.com)





# Bringing the best of **Folk, Roots & Dance** to the Greater Lansing Area

## 2017-2018 CONCERT SEASON



**Friday, Sept. 15**  
**OPENING NIGHT!**  
**LUKE WINSLOW KING**  
The Dangling Participles open



**Friday, Sept. 22**  
**SCOTT AINSLIE**



**Friday, Sept. 29**  
**JOE CROOKSTON**



**Friday, Oct. 6**  
**EMMA'S REVOLUTION**  
Featuring Pat Humphries and Sandy O.



**Friday, Oct. 13**  
**FROM SCOTLAND,**  
**ARCHIE FISHER**



**Friday, Oct. 20**  
**MAY ERLEWINE**  
Album Release



**Friday, Oct. 27**  
**THE FITZGERALDS**  
From Toronto



**Friday, Nov. 3**  
**JOEL MABUS**



**Friday, Nov. 10**  
**JAMIE ANDERSON, DIANNE DAVIDSON & DEIDRE MCCALLA**  
Co-Produced with The Women in the Arts Festival



**Friday, Nov. 17**  
**WINDBORNE**  
An A Cappella Quartet  
Co-Produced with the Peace Education Center  
Held in conjunction with its Alternative Holiday Sale



**Friday, Dec. 1**  
**THE BILLS**  
Quintet from Western Canada



**Friday, Dec. 8**  
**THE STEEL WHEELS**



**Friday, Dec. 15**  
**HOLIDAY SING**  
hosted by Sally Potter with special guests

**All concerts begin at 7:30pm**

- 01/12/18 Joshua Davis
- 01/19/18 Michigan Fiddle Styles: Molly McBride, Ruby John, Judy Raber
- 01/26/18 Michigan Songwriters I: Siusan O'Rourke, Jamie-Sue Seal, Jen Sygit, Taylor Taylor

**The 16th Annual Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival**

- 02/02/18 Concert: Tom Paxton with Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Molsky's Mountain Drifters, & a pre-concert, Old-Time jam.
- 02/03/18 Community Sing: Robert Jones, May Erlewine, Mark Dvorak, Joel Mabus, Frank Youngman, Song Leaders
- 02/03/18 Children's Concert w/ Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer
- 02/03/18 10-12 Afternoon Workshops

[www.singingfestival.com](http://www.singingfestival.com)

- 02/09/18 Ukles & Steel with The Wilsons & Co. Julianna Wilson, Andy Wilson, Joe Wilson & Drew Howard

- 02/16/18 Twin Bill - Irish Mythen & Amythyst Kiah
- 02/23/18 Liz Carroll, with Jake Charron and Nic Gareiss
- 03/02/18 Sound an Echo - Sara Pajunen & Rachael Kilgore
- 03/09/18 Calan - Quintet from Wales
- 03/16/18 St. Pat's Day Party and Pub Sing
- 03/23/18 Tim Eriksen
- 03/29/18 (Thursday) Michigan Songwriters II: Roger Brown, Monte Pride and Sam Corbin
- 04/06/18 "Precious Memories" performed by Sue Masek
- 04/13/18 Uncle Bonsai - An Incredible Trio from Seattle
- 04/20/18 The Alt, w/ Eamon O'Leary, Nuala Kennedy, John Doyle
- 04/27/18 Diana Jones
- 05/02/18 (Wednesday) Le Vent du Nord
- 05/04/18 Reggie Harris & Ken Whiteley Celebrate Pete Seeger!

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# visit [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDED BROWNFIELD PLAN #11 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, APPROVING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK DISTRICT PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 100-140 W. GRAND RIVER AVENUE, 303 ABBOT ROAD, 314-341 EVERGREEN AVENUE, PARKING LOT 4 AND PARKING LOT 8 IN THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, MI 48823, regarding the adoption of a resolution to amend Brownfield Plan #11, Park District Project (also known as Brownfield Plan Amendment for the City Center Two Urban Redevelopment Project). Within the Public Hearing the City Council shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The eligible property included in Brownfield Plan #11 is:

100-140 W. Grand River Avenue, 303 Abbot Road, 314, 328, 334, 340 and 341 Evergreen Avenue, Parking Lot 4 and Parking Lot 8 East Lansing, Michigan.

The project includes a complete demolition and redevelopment of underutilized and contaminated, functionally obsolete structures and adjacent thoroughfares. The proposed mixed-use development includes a hotel, commercial and residential uses, and parking.

The description of the property and a copy of Brownfield Plan #11, are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930 and at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects).

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard, and written communication will be received and considered. **The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.**

Marie Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-242

**See pages 8 & 10 for more Public Notices**

# CityPULSE

**VOL. 17  
ISSUE 5**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)



**PAGE 9**

Get to know some of this year's BluesFest performers.



**PAGE 10**

Get ready for Melik Brown's return to comedy.



**PAGE 12**

Step back and reminisce about the Silver Dollar Saloon.



**Cover Art**

by Gerald Westlund

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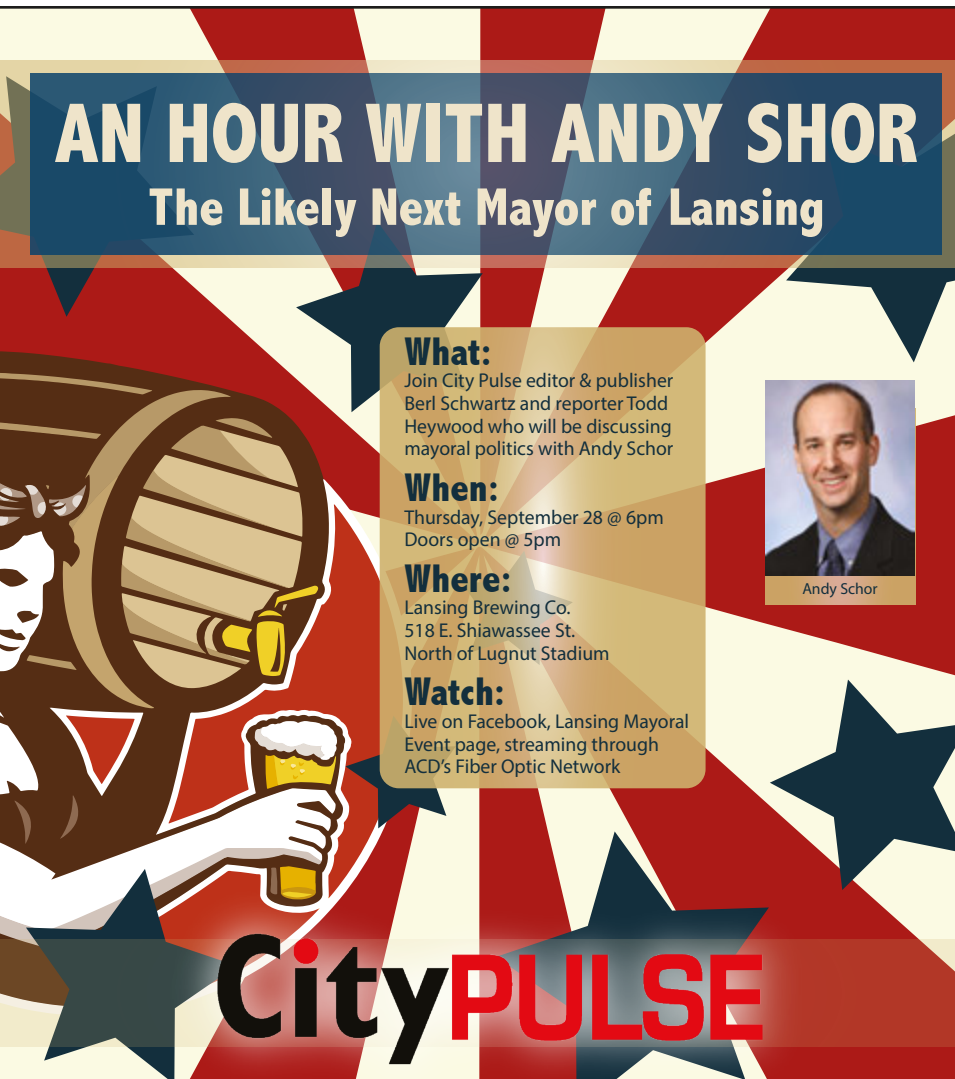
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## AN HOUR WITH ANDY SHOR


### The Likely Next Mayor of Lansing

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


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

**Where:**  
Lansing Brewing Co.  
518 E. Shiawassee St.  
North of Lugnut Stadium

**Watch:**  
Live on Facebook, Lansing Mayoral Event page, streaming through ACD's Fiber Optic Network



Andy Schor



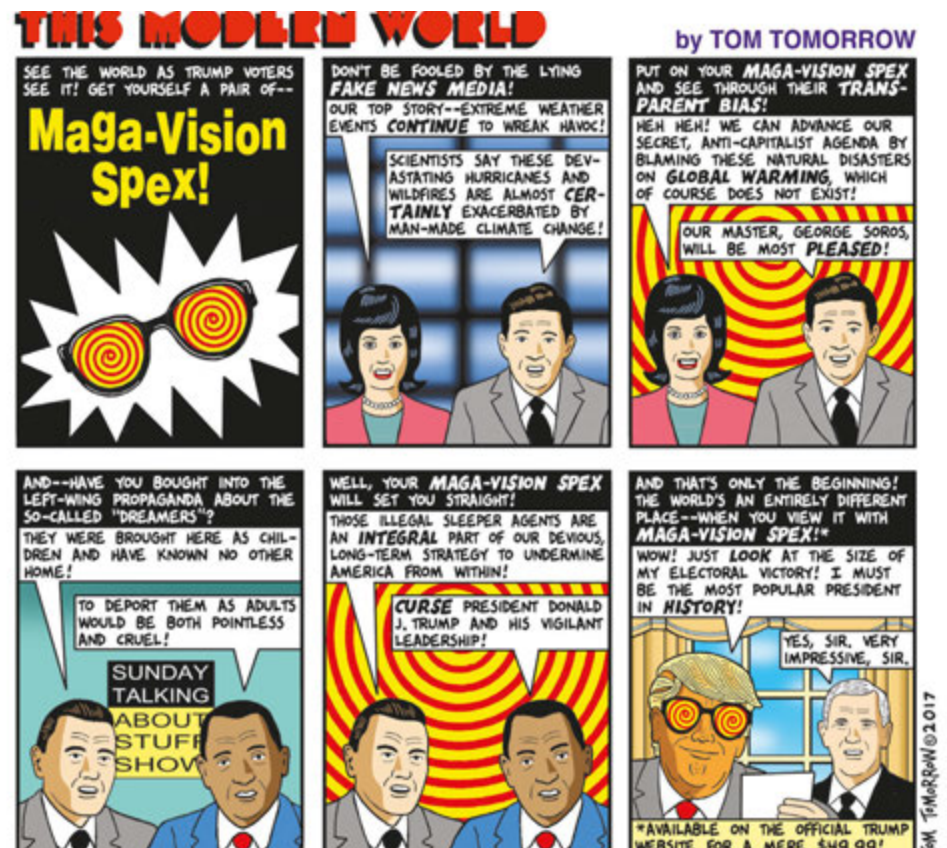

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### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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TO DEPORT THEM AS ADULTS WOULD BE BOTH POINTLESS AND CRUEL!

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

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\*AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICIAL TRUMP WEBSITE FOR A MERE \$49.99!

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## Troubled land, landmark sale

### County auctions lakeside parcels in Haslett for whopping \$405,000

After years of wrangling over unpaid back taxes, one suicide and five years of legal battles between the county and disappointed heirs, the long and troubled saga of the Rigby property in Haslett has banded to a close with the auctioneer's hammer.



Schertzing

Three lots, grouped into two parcels, of prime land at 6200 Columbia Street in Haslett, on the shore of Lake Lansing, were auctioned off Aug. 26 to Jim Bartow of East Lansing. Bartow and the county closed the deal on the sale last week.

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing said it was the biggest auction sale of a single plot of land in the history of the Ingham County treasurer and the biggest sale ever by the Ingham County Land Bank, which administered the property. Schertzing also chairs the Land Bank.

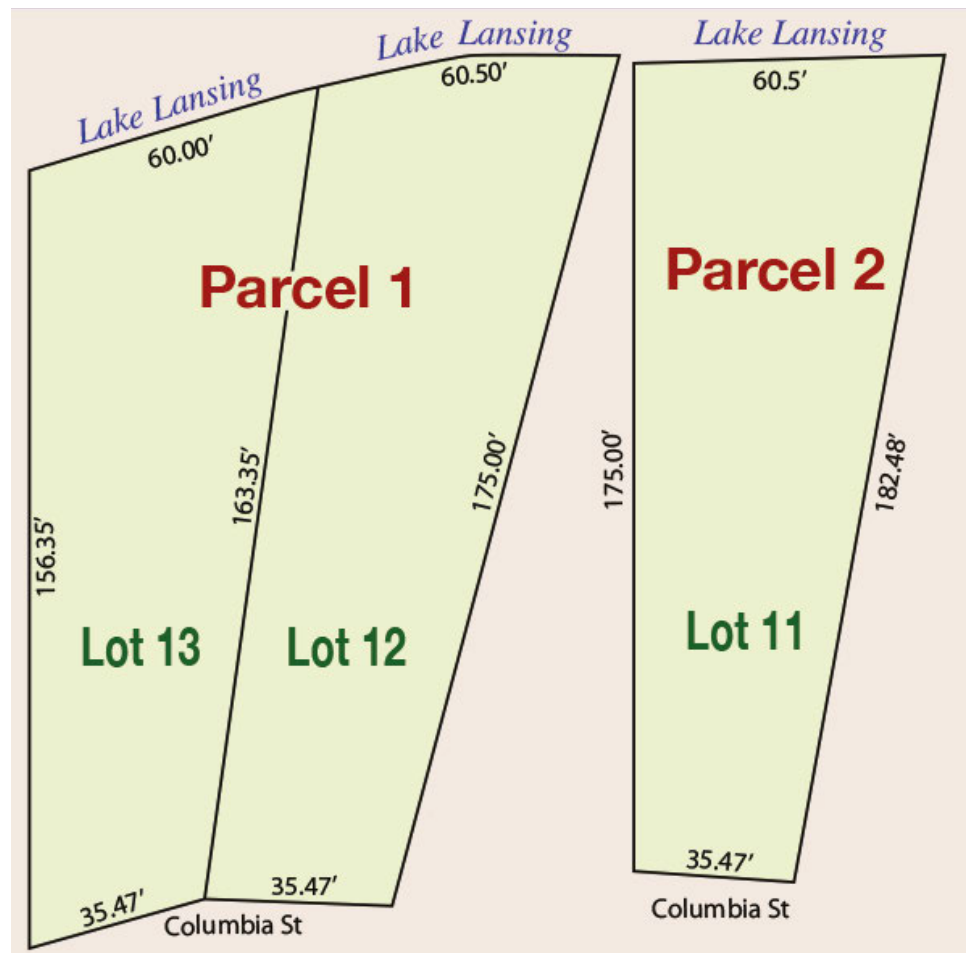
Parcel 1, comprised of two lots, is shaped like a slice of pizza, with about 70 feet on Columbia Street and 120 feet on the lake, from 156 to 175 feet deep. Parcel 2 has 35 feet on the lake and 60 on the street, and is slightly deeper.

Here, on May 3, 2012, Meridian Township police discovered the body of the occupant, Steven Rigby, who had been in and out of tax delinquency for several years and committed suicide by drug overdose. His body had lain decomposing for up to five weeks in the cottage his grandfather



Courtesy Photo

This house that once stood on Lake Lansing property was just auctioned by Ingham County for \$405,000.



Courtesy Photo

Ingham County reaped \$405,000 from the auction of two parcels of land along Lake Lansing. But it cost the county \$100,000 in legal fees to win the right for foreclosure on the property.

built in the 1940s.

Rigby had a long history of tax delinquency and near-foreclosure. According to an affidavit signed by Ingham County property tax coordinator Karen Conroy after Rigby's suicide, a couple who loaned Steven Rigby money to pay off property taxes in 2011 said Rigby approached them after three years of no contact, threatening to kill himself if they didn't lend him \$14,000 to pay off delinquent taxes.

Five weeks after Rigby's body was discovered, a neighbor tracked down two cousins, Gordon Small of Lansing and Beverly Bach of Ohio, using Ancestry.com. Another cousin, Dennis Rigby of California, joined the subsequent fight to take over the land.

None of the cousins had been close to Rigby, who estranged himself from family and neighbors. Neighbors only alerted police that something might be wrong when

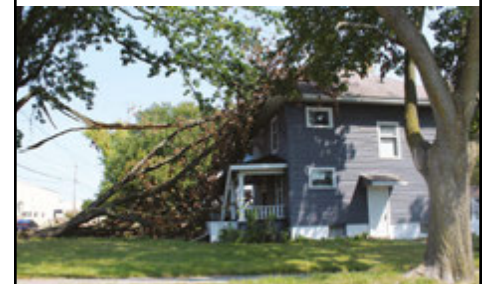
they saw his grass had grown longer than usual.

The cousins argued that they contacted the county as soon as they learned of Rigby's death and were entitled to relief. Ingham County Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III agreed and stayed the foreclosure in 2012.

"I'm not saying that the treasurer hasn't appropriately followed the requirements," Canady said at the 2012 hearing. "But I am moved by the fact, why should the treasurer benefit from the value of the property when there were heirs. And as long as Steve Rigby was alive, their hands were tied. And then once they discovered his death ... it seems like the heirs took prompt action to try to unravel the situation."

The county appealed Canady's ruling. The case wound its way to the state Supreme Court, back to the Circuit Court on remand,

See Troubled land, Page 6



2121 S. Washington Ave.  
Lansing

This home appears to be well-maintained, apart from the obvious damage to the front porch caused by a broken limb. According to the reader who reported this home, the fallen tree has been in place over nine months. Any structural damage caused by the initial accident will be aggravated as long as the roof remains open to the elements. The damage to the character of the neighborhood, while less quantifiable, is no less impactful.

The home is executed in the Foursquare style, often seen as a cross between Colonial Revival and Prairie styles. The style is defined by the simple, rectangular plan and hipped roof, often featuring a dormer.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



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

## Ingham County Animal Shelter

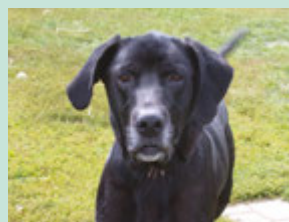
To adopt one of these pets from the ICAS call (517) 676 - 8370, 600 Curtis St. Mason, MI 48854. ac.ingham.org



### Chiku

Chiku is a friendly big guy looking for an easy going home. He gets along with pretty much just about everyone and everything.

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### Monty

Monty is a guy who knows what he wants out of life. He will need an experienced owner with a lot of patience!

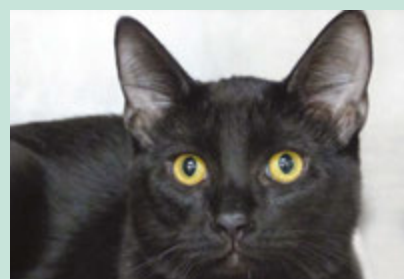
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Anne & Dale Schrader



### Jan

Jan is a shy gal looking for a loving laid back home. Once she knows you she'll gladly sit in your lap and enjoy all the attention you have to offer.

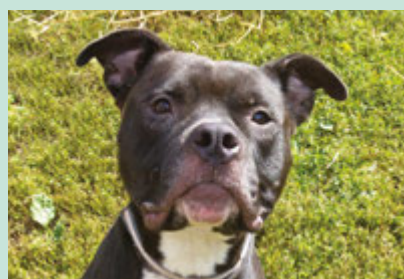
In memory of  
Rodica's cats



### Buttons

Buttons is a sweet but shy guy looking for a single cat home. He's very playful and fun and would make a great companion for an older child looking for a buddy.

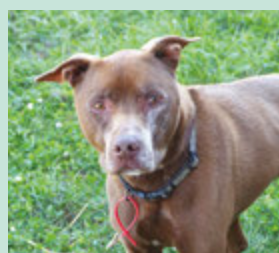
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### Frankie

Frankie is a sweet, shy, lovable guy looking for a second chance at a forever home. He's a lovable goof and with a little patience he'll make a great companion.

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City Pulse



### Naomi

Naomi is a shy, senior girl who is finding the shelter too loud and scary. She hasn't had it easy lately, and she has a lot of love to give to someone.

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### Kingsley

Kingsley is a big goofy guy looking for a home with plenty to do. He has had some training and knows lots of commands already.

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## BRIEFS

### Neighbors win round in Ormond Park fight

Ingham County Circuit Judge James Jamo ruled Tuesday against the city of Lansing's request for a directed verdict to end a citizens' lawsuit over a proposed entryway planned through Ormond Park.

Instead, Jamo ruled that the city must make its case before he can determine whether to continue the order preventing the city from continuing construction. No date has been set for when the parties will be back in court.

The entryway would serve Groesbeck Golf Course. Friends of Ormond Park sued in July to stop the project, claiming it would irreparably harm the environment and the unique geographical features of the eight-acre neighborhood park.

Jamo issued a temporary restraining order. City lawyers are trying to convince Jamo the proposed project does not harm the environment and is necessary. In late July, after two days of testimony from the Friends of Ormond Park, a deputy city attorney, Joseph Abood, asked the judge to rule that a case had not been proven.

### Public invited to view City Hall plans

The future of Lansing City Hall may be on display tonight as four developers present their plans to purchase and develop the 1957 building and plaza. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. in Hall C of the Lansing Center.

Each of the four developers will have 45 minutes to present their vision and plans. They are Beitler Real Estate Services of Chicago; Urban Systems of Okemos; Karp and Associates and Boji Group, both of Lansing.

"One of the proposals would renovate the existing structure and transform it into a hotel," a press release from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's office Tuesday noted. "Two of the proposals would renovate the existing structure and construct a new tower on the current City Hall plaza, ranging from 12 to 20 stories, each featuring a hotel. The fourth proposal would raze the current structure and construct a 13-story building featuring a hotel and other uses."

The press release also indicated each of the four developers would also present plans to redevelop or build a new building to serve as a new City Hall.

For renderings, see [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

### Troubled land

from page 5

and back to the Court of Appeals.

In an unpublished January 2017 ruling, the Appeals Court settled the case once and for all, finding that the county followed the foreclosure law by mailing a notice to Rigby, posting it on the property and publishing it in City Pulse. More important, the court ruled that the cousins were not entitled to notice.

A three-judge panel pointed out that state foreclosure law clearly lists the records the county treasurer is required to consult to determine who is entitled to notice — land title and tax records held by the county register of deeds, county treasurer and the local treasurer.

Unsurprisingly, the county isn't required to log onto Ancestry.com and find cousins or distant relatives.

Charles Lawler, an attorney for the Treasurer's Office, said the relatives missed their chance and should have kept tabs on the troubled cousin while he was alive.

"Where the hell had they been in the last five years?" Lawler said. "Should they get a windfall just because they happen to be related to Steven Rigby? It's kind of like hitting the lottery."

Schertzing pointed out that there were several options open to Rigby, such as refinancing the house or selling off one of the

three lots to pay the back taxes.

Lawler also cited a little-known service offered by the county treasurer. For \$5, anyone can request notification of tax delinquency on any parcel of land in the county. The information is also available on line.

"You can find out if a relative's in trouble without even asking or embarrassing the relative," Lawler said.

By the time the dust cleared, the county spent about \$100,000 in legal fees to take over the Rigby property, according to Lawler. Schertzing framed the conflict as a clash of principles and more than a fight for valuable land.

"Nobody hesitates to give us contaminated gas stations," Schertzing said. "Everything in the capitalistic system is happy to pipeline all of the crap to the government. The blighted houses with the missing roof, nobody is complaining about. Some things that have a little value — the best or the worst can come out in people."

Bartow's purchase of the lots brings this turbulent story to a bland, predictable conclusion.

"I bought them as an investment," Bartow said. "I will be clearing the land and reselling them for anyone who wants to build on it. I think I paid a fair value on them."

He's not interested in the drama over the parcels.

"I've heard the stories but I'm not going to comment on them," he said.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

# 'Business risk'

Pot dispensaries opened after Dec. 15 face 'impediment' to getting licensed

Any medical marijuana facility operating after Dec. 15 is doing so at its own risk. That's the message from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the state Medical Marijuana Licensing Commission.

"The department will not shut down facilities," Andrew Brisbo, director of the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation in LARA, told the commission Tuesday afternoon. "However, continued operation would be a business risk as the operation could be shut down by law enforcement and could be an impediment to licensing."

That moves concerns Lansing resident Teisha Doyle. She uses various forms of the medicinal plant to treat chronic pain resulting from a serious car accident that left her with a metal plate and screws holding her spine together.

"What am I supposed to do after that?" the 42-year-old asked during a break. She held up a copy of the Lansing State Journal and waved a story around about a woman held against her will for three days and repeatedly sexually assaulted. The woman, according to the story, had gone over to the home to get marijuana from a basement grow operation.

"That could happen to me," she said. "I use a cane. I am vulnerable, and now you want me to go to somebody's house I don't know and talk to them about my medical issues?"

Another concern for her, she said, was accessing all the forms of marijuana that she uses to control her pain. "I don't just use the flower," she said. That's the part of the plant associated with smoking. She noted she uses tinctures and edibles as well as different strains of the plant to address her concerns. "No caregiver can provide all those needs for me," she said.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope, who attended the commission meeting, said the state's move to request marijuana busi-

nesses to wind down by Dec. 15 or face an "impediment" in obtaining a license could negatively impact patients.

"I don't see them issuing licenses on Dec. 15," Swope said. "That seems to leave a whole lot of people without access."

Commission member Donald Bailey, a retired Michigan State Police sergeant, stoked fears last month during a commission meeting when he appeared to call for the wholesale shutdown of all medical marijuana business operations in the state as soon as Friday.

Bailey tried to push that move through the commission on Tuesday, but Chairman Rick Johnson, a former state House speaker, withdrew his support for the motion, effectively killing Bailey's move. Instead, the commission deferred to the rule-making authority granted to the bureau under state laws.

Pushing his point, Bailey told the crowd of about 250 he would not support any license applicant that operates after the date.

"It's a violation of the law, it has been," explained Bailey, who was heavily involved in drug investigations for the MSP during his career.

He alleged that the medical marijuana industry was involved in "significant diversion" of pot to the black market "in Michigan and the Midwest."

He is correct that dispensaries are illegal. In 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, approved by Michigan voters in 2008, did not authorize dispensaries. Under that ruling, the court said, only caregiver to patient transfers were legal. Last year, the state Appeals Court added that patient to patient transfers were also prohibited. The courts have also ruled that preparations meant for edibles and tinctures were not covered by the law.

As a result, the Legislature adopted a



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Teisha Doyle, 42, who suffers chronic pain as the result of a car accident, is worried about obtaining medical marijuana after Dec. 15, the deadline the state has set for dispensaries to close to avoid an "impediment: to getting licensed.

package of laws late last year that authorized the licensing of five types of marijuana facilities, as well as explicitly allowing for preparations like extracts for the edibles market.

Those laws goes into effect Dec. 15. That's also when the state could begin accepting license applications in all categories. However, it remains unclear when licenses will be issued by the state.

For Swope, who has been tasked by a city ordinance passed last week to develop a regulatory and licensing scheme for Lansing, Dec. 15 date seems to be a date from which he will work backward in figuring out when to open applications and when to issue licenses in order to prevent the city from being the "delayer" in local businesses obtaining state licenses.

A bureau official, speaking on background, said it was unclear if "impediment" meant a definitive rejection of an application or if it would be taken into consideration along with other as yet undetermined criteria. That same official indicated that even if Lansing has its licensing scheme up and running, the new state law requires

a marijuana operation to have licenses from both the local municipality as well as the state; so the person referred back to Brisbo's original statement where he called continued operation after Dec. 15 "a business risk."

As state officials begin processing emergency rules, which will serve as the basis for the final administrative rules governing the issuance of licenses, it is also struggling with what the costs for the applications and administrative fees will be.

Brisbo said that's because the fees will be established in part as a result of the costs the state will incur in public meetings, investigations of applications and other administrative operations.

As a result he said the application fee will range from \$4,000 to \$8,000. The cost for administrative fees could be as low as \$10,000 to upward of \$57,000 a year. Both sets of costs will be determined in part by the number of applicants involved.

That comes on top of the \$5,000 application fee the city established last week.

— TODD HEYWOOD

## City Council endorses empty storefronts policy on medical pot

Better than it could have been, but a blow to a growth business in Lansing.

That's a quick look at the Lansing City Council's ordinance passed last week to regulate the medical marijuana business.

The ordinance, which was approved 5-3 last week at a special meeting and endorsed by pro-pot Mayor Virg Bernero, sets no limits on the number of facilities for growing, processing and testing pot or businesses to transport the product.

But it set a cap of 25 on the number of dispensaries, ultimately putting under at least 45 more dispensaries — and some estimate the number at 55 or even 65. That means lost jobs and empty storefronts across the city. Moreover, because

of stringent zoning restrictions, those that do make the cut may have to move, an added expense.

Still, 25 was perhaps three times greater than the limit that more conservative Council members were seeking.

The ordinance was adopted after at least 18 months of work, nearly a dozen drafts and many hours of public testimony. Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke, a candidate for mayor, worked with President Patricia Spitzley to introduce the draft that was ultimately adopted. Brown Clarke moved to adopt the ordinance despite complaints from other members they had not had a chance to read it.

Brown Clarke, Spitzley, Kathie Dunbar, Tina Houghton and Jessica Yorke cast yes votes, while Wood, Adam Hussain and Jody Washington opposed it.

The new law takes effect Oct. 10, after which City Clerk Chris Swope, who is charged with determining license recipients, can begin sifting through applications. He said he has not yet decided when he will begin accepting applications.

Spitzley and City Attorney Jim Smiertka said they do not expect dispensaries to be targeted for closure immediately.

"There will be a phase in," said Smiertka. "And I will exercise my prosecutorial discretion on this. It is unlikely I

will be taking immediate actions."

Spitzley was even more clear.

"I just don't see Chief Yankowski doing raids to shut these places down," she said, referring to Lansing's police chief. "I just don't."

However, the state department charged with regulating medical pot announced Tuesday that it wants dispensaries to close by Dec. 15 if they want to win a state license. (See related story.) Dispensaries and related businesses will need both city and state licenses to operate in Lansing.

Dispensary owners caught a few breaks. Wood, Washington and Hussain

# Medical pot

from page 7

wanted far fewer dispensaries. And at the last minute, provisions were dropped requiring security guards during business hours and prohibiting drive-thru windows, to make it easier for patients with debilitating conditions.

Wood tried during the meeting to limit grow operations in the city to two, which failed, 5-3.

Dispensaries flourished under Bernero, who saw it an economic driver with new jobs, property improvements and increased tax revenues. But as he contemplated running for a fourth term — which he ultimately decided not to do — he bowed to pressure from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood leaders, particularly on the south end, to place a moratorium on dispensaries last year.

Even with far fewer dispensaries, officials expect the city to net an estimated \$2 million in fees and new tax revenues next year.

The new statewide law, which takes effect Dec. 15, will impose a 3 percent excise tax on gross receipts from dispensaries. That money will go into a new tax fund in the Treasury Department. From there, the money will be split up as follows: 25 percent to the municipalities where marijuana facilities are located; 30 percent to the counties where those facilities are located, 5 percent more to those counties for the exclusive use of the sheriff, 30 percent for the state's first responder fund and 5 percent each to the Michigan Coalition on Law Enforcement Standards and to the Michigan State Police.

That might seem like small potatoes in the state's \$56 billion budget. But Randy Hannan, Bernero's chief of staff, laid out a rosy financial picture of the economic impact of the industry in a statement to the Council. Based on a House Fiscal Agency analysis, he said, if the city sees the full 25 dispensaries and 20 other licenses for related businesses, it will gain nearly \$1.7 million in taxes from the sale of pot, while also cashing in on payroll taxes and annual application fees. Hannan said altogether the city could expect as much as \$2 million more annually in its coffers.

Under that law, marijuana will be taxed with the state and local municipalities sharing those dollars. But a catch in the law credits local governments with shares of the tax dollars based on how many licenses are within their jurisdiction, not on the percentage of sales of marijuana. The county also stands to rake in much needed cash as well.

But East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows said he's not sure the taxation scheme will work as well as it has been imagined.

"I think it looks and works really well

on paper," said Meadows. "I am just not sure it will work out as everyone is planning."

East Lansing passed an ordinance last year allowing dispensaries in the business corridor near US 127 on Lake Lansing Road, Meadows said.

"So far, there have been no takers," he said. "I expect that will change."

He said the city's Planning Commission could take up a comprehensive licensing ordinance as soon as next month. While the details are still being worked out, Meadows, said he personally is "leaning" towards putting caps on the number of licenses allowed in the city. Regardless, he expects an ordinance allowing the facilities to be approved by the time the state has finalized its rules.

"It's not a matter of if it will pass, it's a matter of when," he said. "I think it's a pretty clear expectation that marijuana will be allowed in East Lansing."

Dion'trae Hayes, supervisor in Lansing Township, said the municipality had not yet taken any action on creating an ordinance.

"We are waiting for the state rules to come out," she said. "Then we will be able to determine if we are leaning one way or another on this."

Over in Delta Township, in Eaton County, leaders there are also taking a wait and see approach to the new licensing options, said township Supervisor Ken Fletcher. Last year, the township, at the urging of local law enforcement, banned provisioning centers from operating there.

"It was just enough there in Lansing," he said. "We didn't want to see that happening in Delta."

And Fletcher said he does not believe that the board will revisit that decision anytime soon, but after the state finalizes all its rules it may look at approving licensing for some of the other offerings.

"I could see some grow operations here," he said. The western side of the township, towards Grand Ledge, is zoned agricultural, which would allow a grow operation. But he said unlike some communities, Delta simply doesn't have the idled manufacturing facilities many municipalities believe could be brought back to life and onto the tax rolls with marijuana grow and processing operations.

That's something Meadows agrees with.

"If we had an abandoned manufacturing place, I'd be pushing for that to be used for a grow operation," he said.

The new state law requires local governments to not only approve a licensing request with the state, but to have an ordinance in place to regulate such licensed facilities within its boundaries.

Earlier this year, Spitzley and Washington told City Pulse in a Facebook Live interview that they expected not only that marijuana was headed for legalization, but that any ordinance the city cre-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Lansing City Attorney Jim Smiertka makes a point to the Lansing City Council during last week's special meeting on the medical marijuana ordinance.

ated would lay the groundwork for regulating that as well.

Meadows, a former state lawmaker, said he too expects marijuana legalization to pass if it gets on the ballot in 2018. If it does, he said, he expects the regulatory framework created for dispensaries would likely be transitioned to legal pot as well. That's the model Colorado used when voters there approved decriminalizing marijuana in 2012. That went into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

State Rep. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, widely expected to be elected mayor of Lansing in November, voted for the new state regulatory framework.

Schor said Monday evening that he has not read the 44-page city ordinance, but will "study it when I get in office and see what is and is not working."

He said that while he favors legalization, he is not certain if he is elected mayor or he will become as vocal a cheerleader for that as Bernero has been.

"I am not sure I would feel comfortable taking that position for 114,000 citizens of Lansing," he said.

His reason? While knocking doors, he is hearing reticence from voters over the unchecked proliferation of marijuana shops, particularly along the city's major commercial corridors like Cedar Street.

Despite city voters' overwhelmingly supporting a charter amendment to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana possession and approval of the medical marijuana act, Schor said he's not sure the votes are there now for full decriminalization.

"I'm just hearing a lot at the doors," he said. "They voted in favor of all this, but they are not happy at all about dispensaries in the city. I think that will mean any effort to decriminalize will not get as much support as many people think."

Meadows said he expects that if the coalition pushing the 2018 initiative gets the required signatures that the GOP-dominated Legislature will move quickly to adopt a law to circumvent the ballot question.

"They will see that an initiative like that will bring out voters who are not generally in favor of the Republican agenda," he said. "So they'll adopt the law to avoid that."

Schor said he's not sure that's accurate.

"Republicans have been clear that they were OK with medical marijuana but not with legalization," he said. "I don't see them adopting anything but letting the voters decide. There are so many other issues that could be on that ballot that I am not sure this one issue would impact voter turnout all that much."

— TODD HEYWOOD

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1217

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to replace Chapter 1300 of the City of Lansing Codified Ordinances in its entirety; to provide for the regulation and licensing of medical marijuana establishments; to establish the maximum number of provisioning centers and to establish procedures for the granting of licenses; to establish operational, land use, and zoning requirements, and standards attendant thereto; to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the city of Lansing and its neighborhoods; to establish economic development, job training, and job creation purposes related to medical marijuana establishments; to establish a medical marijuana commission; to provide an appeal process for license denial or revocation; to set licensing fees for the purpose of defraying the costs associated with the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter; to declare certain activities in this chapter as public nuisances; to declare this chapter to be for a public purpose; and to provide penalties for violations of this chapter.

Effective date: October 7, 2017

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

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

www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk  
CP#17-243



# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Chris Canas: Keep it simple

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Ann Arbor blues musician Chris Canas freely admits he wore out “The Simpsons Play the Blues” before he discovered the real deal at about age 10.

Primed up by “Moanin’ Lisa Blues,” “Look at All the Idiots” and other early Simpsons classics, Canas was ready for a genuine epiphany when his Uncle Jamerson rolled up to the house one day in a cherry red T-Top Camaro.

“I was about 10 years old, sitting at home, watching Power Rangers or something, and I suddenly heard all this bass,” Canas said. “He had these giant woofers in his car. Then I heard B.B. hollering over it. It was intoxicating.”

Not all blues musicians bubble up from the bayou, or drift into town with the Chicago wind. Canas, a home-schooled Ann Arbor kid who was classically trained in trumpet, learned early in life how to boil things down to the basics. After his first taste of B.B. King, he scampered to his room and learned “The Thrill is Gone,” note for note, on guitar, rewinding his tape player over and over to get it right.

“Name an album, I could play it exactly as he played it,” Canas said. “It’s like a religion. He’s so expressive.”

All three Kings of blues — B.B., Albert and Freddie — ushered Canas deeper and deeper into the music, and that was just the beginning.

“Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jonny Lang — it just snowballs and keeps going and going,” he said.

He still loved classical music, but B.B. put

a big dent in his trumpet.

“My instructor, David Drake, said, ‘You’re putting a little bit too much stank on this classical stuff,’ he recalled. “He took me from sixth grade classical to eighth grade jazz.”

He enjoyed that, too, but he kept coming back to the directness of the blues.

One day, while still in his teens, he found his grandfather’s old bass in his grandmother’s garage.

“It only had two strings and it was full of dirt,” he recalled. “I cleaned it up and learned on two strings. She eventually fixed it and got four strings and I played it that way. Then I got two more.”

It wasn’t a bad way to gradually master a string instrument.

“It helps because sometimes I break a string, or two strings, on my guitar, and I know how to work with fewer,” he laughed.

At 15, Canas wrote an entire album of tunes, “Shades of Blue.” His parents gave him a four-track mixer for Christmas. He won talent contests in Ann Arbor playing songs from the album and still plays some of them today.

Soon, Canas joined regular jam sessions at Ypsilanti’s Tap Room and got a life-changing gig with Detroit blues legend Thornetta Davis, who mentored Canas and helped plug him in to the Detroit music scene. By now, he’s recorded six albums and written nearly 200 songs.

Canas will set the stage for Chicago legend Lil’ Ed, a diminutive dynamo with a spangled cylinder hat whose live-wire approach is decidedly less relaxed than Canas’ simple sincerity. But that’s all in the spirit of BluesFest.

“It’s unlike anything in Michigan, one of the best blues festivals we have,” Canas said.

## Groove Council: Ring of authority

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Detroit’s Groove Council is an intimidating outfit with nine members — just like the U.S. Supreme Court. But never fear, the council always rules in your favor unanimously. Who doesn’t love Motown, funk and R&B, performed by a vivacious vocalist, a crack rhythm section and a phalanx of horns?

The Council’s first “session” was held in 2006, pulling musicians from around Detroit, and even from Canada, to generate joyful funk/R&B on a festival scale.

“We like ‘groove’ because it relates to the kind of music we play,” alto sax player Ron Tedesco explained. “Council’ works out because we are a large band and the word has a certain official-sounding ring of authority.”

It’s not easy to hold together a band this big, but Blues Council has thrived through thick and thin for over a decade, earning a

shelf of Detroit music awards and regularly backing up sax legend and former Silver Bullet Band member Alto Reed.

It’s hard to believe that singer Kathleen Murray, who easily expresses herself over a formidable horn section, took many years to overcome a fear of singing publicly.

“I’m late to the game,” Murray said. “My husband and I were married for many years before he heard me sing.”

Tedesco and Murray are married.

“I thought, ‘He can do it and so can I,’” Murray said. “I’ve always

loved to sing. I wish I had gotten married to him sooner.”

Blues Council is her first band, but she has made up for lost time since it formed, starting a second project, the rock-blues Kathleen Murray Band, which played Lansing BluesFest two years ago. She often gets the call to join a variety of projects around Detroit, most recently with the Motor City Women, bluesman Bobby Murray and singer Thornetta Davis. She’ll play the Green Door the week after BluesFest.

**Kathleen Murray and the Groove Council at BluesFest**  
7:00-8:30 Sat., Sept. 16  
South Stage

“I love coming to Lansing,” she said. “You are blessed with so much talent. The festival is one of my favorites. We were so very excited to get the call.”



Courtesy Photo

Singer Kathleen Murray had her musical start late in life. She is now a successful artist and married to Groove Council member Ron Tedesco.

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Hubbard Street Dancers Jessica Tang and Jason Hartin in Cloudline by Robyn Minko Williams. Photo by Todd Rosenberg.

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# The storyteller's return

Melik Brown returns to Lansing's comedy scene after a two-year hiatus

By EVE KUCHARSKI

Actor, rapper, entrepreneur, Soup Spoon bartender, family man, funnyman; he has many hats, but don't call Melik Brown a comedian. Storyteller is more apt.

"I really appreciate when someone can spin a good yarn, and I can't remember a good joke to save my life," Brown said. "But fish tales are cool because life is the funniest, so I kind of expand on that."



Brown

After a two-year hiatus, the 2017 Top of the Town "Best Comedian" award recipient is ready to hit the stage once again with his own brand of "fish tales." The one-night show, called "Alright People," is at the Robin Theatre on Thursday.

"I hadn't performed publicly in a stage setting in a couple of years. For me it was weird and quirky and funny, 'Why am I still being voted Best Comedian? There's a lot of people that are local that are really hitting the scene hard and doing shows,'" Brown said. "I had fun. I said, 'Let's pretend it's serious and take a look at it for what it's worth. That's kind of the joke within itself.'"

But just because he hasn't been on stage in a while doesn't mean that Brown isn't without his history. The storyteller has had a penchant for funniness since he was in second grade. He's performed extensively on the local comedy scene, including at the defunct Connxtions Comedy Club. Brown has had forays into corporate gigs and touring in Canada. He also used to host a local comedy TV show where he'd put comics on air.

He's had his share of mishaps too, like being booed off stage three times. Brown recalled a time early on in his career where he had an "out of body experience."

"Whether you believe in it or not, it happened. I don't necessarily believe in it," Brown said with a laugh. "I was telling a joke, and

I forgot the punch line. I felt myself looking at myself and yelling at myself, 'You'd better get to the end of the joke, this is going to be embarrassing!'

Right when I was losing my words, I felt myself getting sucked back in, and then I remember finishing the sentence and hearing people laugh."

"It was terrifying," Brown said. "That's what comedy is — when it goes well it's the best thing ever; when it's not it's the worst thing ever."

Still, for Brown, it seems that comedy goes well more often than not. Brown credits his patience as a comic — he observed comedians for two years before making his first appearance on stage — and his parents with molding his comedic style that has allowed him to bounce back from missteps and made him so locally successful.

"My father is the greatest storyteller you will never hear, and it's not just because he's my Dad. I always brought people to see my Dad in hopes he would tell a story," Brown said. "My mother, she had an observational way about her, so I guess I'm the product of that."

At the show, attendees can, of course, expect stories, but they'll cover a wide range of topics and emotions. Although it's a comedy show at its center, "Alright People" will broach even difficult topics at times.

Brown compares the setup to a late-night chat with a good friend.

"You know those long conversations with a friend you've had for years? Like, 'Oh my God, I've got to be up in the morning. Why are we up at 12, 1 o'clock in the morning?'" Brown said. "Your gut hurts from crying and laughing and melancholy — that I believe is one of the best stories and movies."

## "Alright People with Metro Melik"

Thursday, Sept. 14  
7 p.m.; Doors open at 6:30

\$10  
The Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
Therobintheatre.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On September 6, 2017, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

August 15, 2017 Regular Meeting  
August 22, 2017 Special Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK  
CP#17-241

# Joinery meets finery

Craftsman touch adds heft to ritzy westside home tour

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

This year, there's some eastside solidity in the country-club, old-money frou-frou of the mother of all Lansing home tours — a rare peek into five of the biggest and most lavish homes in the city.

The homes were built between 1916 and 1929 along a two-mile stretch of Moores River Drive and Cambridge Road on the city's west side.

Expect to see sprawling gardens, maids' quarters, epic staircases and many touches peculiar to each home's first owners, like the purple Pompeian bathroom in Lansing's biggest mansion, the 10,000-square-foot Harper home owned by Brian Huggler and Ken

Ross at 1408 Cambridge Road, and plenty more eye candy.

So, where's the grit? Watch for hammer-toting builder and restorer Dave Muylle, one of the tour's hosts. Muylle's usual habitat is the city's more modestly scaled east side, where he's constantly restoring old Craftsman style

homes or building tiny cottages. Normally, you'd have to fold a map of Lansing in half to get him over to the west side of town, but the Rozeboom home at 1607 Moores River, one of the five homes on this year's tour, is something of a talisman for him.

"I really appreciate being in this particular house," Muylle said. "It's serious architecture outside the realm of the rich, a simple house for a simple life."

This is the house's centennial year, and it's had a succession of interesting owners, including Howard Finch, or "Uncle Howdy," on-air personality and general manager of WJIM-AM. Freeman McClintock, who ran a Packard dealership and the long-running McClintock Cadillac dealership from the 1930s to the 1980s, also owned the home.

But Muylle is most interested in attuning visitors to the solid workmanship and unpretentious American integrity of the Craftsman style, and he'll never have a better exhibit to draw upon than the Rozeboom house. "It's got everything — the low-profile roof, low overhangs and brackets, ganged-together windows, the large covered porch," Muylle said. "They called these bungalows 'airplane bungalows' in California because they look like small airplanes."

Unlike the other houses on the tour, this is primarily a home and not a showcase for newly acquired wealth — but it's no pre-fab kit, either.

Accustom your eyes to the house's low lines and dark materials, and the house exudes a uniquely American integrity and quietude, seldom noticed in the hustle to make and show off wealth.

"Look for the hand of the craftsman in the joinery," Muylle said. "Where two pieces of wood come together — pay close attention to that. A fine line means craftsmanship. There's a lot of quarter-sawn oak, which brings out the medulla rays, a more interesting pattern in the oak."

Visitors will likely stop in their tracks when they get to the kitchen to admire a gorgeous 1947 GE Liberty stove that is still in use.

"It's like a classic car, almost the star of the whole show," Muylle said.

Adding the Rozeboom house to the tour and drawing on Muylle's expertise helps to further the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's goal of teaching people about the city's history — even as they gawk at rich people's stuff.

"We want people to treasure these houses," Muylle said.

Also on the tour is the Knapp's home, built in 1926 at 1435 Cambridge for the founder of Knapp's Department Store; a



Courtesy Photo

A 1947 GE Liberty functioning stove.

Georgian Colonial Revival mansion built at 1908 Moores River for Wallace and Harriet Olds — R. E. Olds' older brother; and a Dutch Colonial Revival home at 2011 Moores River, built by Theodore and Margaret Foster, a successful real estate developer.

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# Silver Dollar Saloon reunion

## Lansing rock 'n' roll gem gets final hurrah

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Ask Rick Becker what it was all about, and he'll tell you, the "core of the place was people seeking community." At the Brewery — later The Silver Dollar Saloon — their search ended. Becker said the bar that was once located on East Michigan Avenue offered a haven for rock 'n' roll fans.

### "Silver Dollar Reunion Tribute"

Sept. 23  
5-11:30 pm  
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
\$39 tickets (plus \$3 service charge) at:  
www.eventbrite.com

"Where people who looked like me and acted like me, and liked my music," Becker said.

On Sept. 23 at Tequila Cowboy, that

community is reuniting. That's when Becker will host a Silver Dollar Saloon Reunion Tribute. All proceeds will go to the 100 Club of Greater Lansing and Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing.

Seven popular Silver Dollar bands will perform. Many original members of Northwind, Rich Kidz, Full House, Brat, Carrera, Showdown and Raggidy Ann will be on hand. Some musicians, former patrons and employees are traveling from all over the country to attend the event.

In 1972, Becker, Paul Kacer and Bruce Wahlin purchased what was The Tin Lizzy — formerly Grandmother's, the Spartan Lanes and a golf course — and trans-



Courtesy Photo

In its heyday, patrons would crowd outside the door of the Silver Dollar Saloon each night before the establishment opened its doors.

formed it into the Brewery. It showcased countless national and international acts: Lynyrd Skynyrd, Canned Heat, Weather Report, Little Feat, Robin Trower, Spirit, Aerosmith, REO Speedwagon and many more. In '74, Bob Segar performed there six times. The bar had a capacity of 700, but many shows, like an '86 Foghat concert, exceeded that by hundreds. It was a good place for touring acts to fill open dates or to try out new material.

Rush played the Brewery in November '74 — after Neil Peart joined the band only four months earlier. I stood near the band during a show that seemed like a rehearsal and watched repeated missed cues and song endings — all to the amusement of bassist Geddy Lee and a struggling Peart. Even with hiccups, seeing the Canadian trio's show in a Lansing dance bar was an unforgettable treat.

After "listening to sound checks for 20 years," one of the 72-year-old Becker's favorite acts was Chick Corea and Return to Forever.

"At 2 o'clock in the afternoon," Becker

recalled, "a waitress tells me that there's a guy here from the band. He doesn't introduce himself. He asks about the lights and sound." After inspecting the PA system — one Stevie Wonder had toured with — the stranger proclaimed, "Yeah, that'll work," Becker said. "I thought he was just a tour manager — and it was Chick Corea!"

Of the many Brewery shows I saw, the Corea concert was my favorite, too. It featured Stanley Clark, Lenny White and Al Di Meola — musicians who went on to stellar careers. I remember being astonished that such renowned and gifted players were playing in a bar near MSU's Brody Hall and at very low rates: tickets for the April '75 concert were \$4, compared with this year's event at \$42.

For Becker, KISS was another memorable show.

"These clowns came in from the Bronx and bring a forklift in," he said.

It was for a drum platform that elevated Peter Criss. Saving the dance floor wasn't Becker's only worries.

See Silver Page 19

MSU Music  
MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SHOWCASE SERIES

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The amazing sights and sounds of BluesFest can be enjoyed for free—even the best seats in front of the stages! And your gift can help to keep it that way. Please look for the bucket brigade and drop in your cash donation, or visit [michiganbluesfest.com](http://michiganbluesfest.com) to donate online by credit card or PayPal.

### The Turnaround Lounge

The location of this large tent lets you follow acts as they rotate between the main stages, from the Lounge's all-weather covered comfort or open patios. The wristband you get for your modest \$5 daily admission charge will let you explore the vendor area and events happening off-stage, and return to the Lounge as often as you want. This is also the only location on festival grounds where you can buy alcoholic beverages. Soft drinks are also sold.

### Alcohol choices

#### Cans:

Miller Lite  
Coors Light  
Labatt Blue  
Redd's Apple Ale  
Atwater Vanilla Java Porter  
Atwater Dirty Blonde  
Angry Orchard  
Grand River Monkey Mouth IPA

#### Wine List:

Cherry Creek  
Cranberry Passion  
Old School House Red  
Wood Duck Riesling  
Lynn Aleksandr Chardonnay

#### Draft:

Miller Lite  
Leinenkugel Anniversary Lager  
Blue Moon Belgian White  
Frankenmuth Oktoberfest  
Lansing Brewing Co. Amber Cream  
Elison Cressent Fresh IPA

#### NEW! Spirits:

American 5th

#### NEW! Cocktails:

**Michigan Mule**  
American Fifth Vodka, Vernors,  
splash of cranberry juice

#### Grizzly Bear

Capital Gin, fruit simple syrup, lime  
juice, Angostura bitters, soda

### Food Vendors

*(Subject to change)*

Amist Lemonades  
Anishnabe Meejim-  
Native American  
Cinnamon Nuts & More  
Clint's Hot Dogs  
Cottage Inn Pizza  
Eastside Fish Fry  
Maria's Tacos  
Smoke 'n Pig BBQ  
Sweets Rolled Ice cream

### Accessibility

As an outdoor street festival, the venue is naturally wheelchair accessible. Specially marked meters along both sides of E. Grand River are reserved for handicap permit holders, and an adjacent City lot (see below) offers some fully accessible spots. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available.

### Parking

Lot 56 at the south end of Turner St., just across E. Grand River Ave from the festival. City's special event pricing: \$7 by cash, local check, credit card for each entry (re-entry incurs new charge) Friday 3-9 pm and Saturday 11am-9pm. Other times free access.

### KidzBeat - 1212 & 1213 Turner 1-5pm

KidzBeat is a range of activities giving kids arts experiences first-hand - through craft projects run by some of the area's finest artists and arts educators, to playing music themselves at the instrument petting zoo of woodwind and brass instruments, guided by MSU Community Music School, and one-on-one sessions with electric guitar and bass, mentored by professional musicians.

### Retail Vendors

*(Subject to change)*

ABS Clothing  
Armed & Fabulous  
BluesFest t-shirts & posters  
Ms. Laura's Art Gallery  
Providence Chiropractic  
Sunshine Apparel  
Third Generation  
Vibration Creations

### WKAR BackStage Pass

New this year, WKAR will be streaming live each evening from BluesFest. The award-winning WKAR BackStage Pass team will stream the performances of Greg Nagy, with Ray Goodman & Rachel Nagy, and Karen Lovely on Friday and Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council and Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials on Saturday. WKAR personalities will also be sharing updates and artist and fan interviews via Facebook Live each afternoon and evening. Follow WKAR Public Media on Facebook for updates, and view the festival live performances at [wkar.org](http://wkar.org).

### SEE THEM DANCE!

Happendance/DANCE Lansing will connect Modern Dance to Blues music in short solo and small-group performances in front of the stage before the 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 band performances on both Friday and Saturday. (Subject to weather)

### Poster Signing

**Dennis Preston, the illustrator behind this year's artwork, will be signing posters Saturday at 4pm.**

Dennis began illustration work and graphic design in the late '60s while still in high school. After graduating, a majority of the work he did was concert posters (mainly the Lansing, Detroit and Flint areas) and advertising (newspaper ads and posters) for local businesses. He recently retired from Lansing Community College after 40 years of teaching. He taught courses in graphic design, lettering and mainly humorous illustration (cartooning). This past year he has put out 4 adult coloring books. Besides art, Dennis is into music; recording and jamming with some friends. He has CDs available locally and music up on the internet. He's currently working on a solo project in which he does all the vocals and plays all the instruments. To see more of his artwork go to: *The Preston (Like my stuff?) Page* on Facebook.

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 2017

### Frog and the Beeftones

5:00pm - 6:00pm | South Stage



"Frog" Forgey is a Lansing favorite, known for his great guitar licks and vocal chops, including 3 decades fronting the Beeftones as they play the blues with a healthy dose of rock that gets audiences moving.

### Jim Shaneberger Band

6:00pm - 7:00pm | North Stage



Mixing rock, funk, soul, and blues into a sound all their own, the band moved beyond its Grand Rapids roots to high profile gigs and qualifying for the International Blues Challenge. Their jammie-nominated first album, Work in Progress, enjoys

worldwide radio play, and a new release, Above & Below, is likely to follow suit.

### Greg Nagy with special guests Ray Goodman & Rachel Nagy

7:00pm - 8:30pm | South Stage



After years with Lansing band Root Doctor, in 2009 guitarist Nagy released his first solo album, walk that Fine Line, to rave reviews and major award nominations. His 2011 release, Fell Toward None, garnered new recognition of his "heart-stopping, exceptional vocals." Joining him at BluesFest is the legendary Ray Goodman, former guitarist with SRC and Mitch Ride.

### War and Treaty

8:30pm - 9:30pm | North Stage



The duo's name represents the pull between trauma and tranquility, experienced by Michael Trotter, who served in Iraq and shared his music at memorial services, yet found fame winning "Military Idol," the army's "American Idol." Merging styles with wife Tanya Blount, they offer a unique mix of bluegrass, roots music, bluegrass, gospel and soul, and a hit single, "Hi Ho," on the radio throughout the country.

### Karen Lovely

9:30pm - 11:00pm | South Stage



With a unique voice that ranges from lyrical to powerhouse, in 2010 Lovely placed second at the International Blues Challenge, and the awards and nominations haven't stopped since. She mixes contemporary and old school blues styles to create a strong Americana sound-driven and passionate, in a vocal style that is uniquely her own, accompanied by what Blues Rock Review lauded as "imaginative guitar work that will appeal to those who are looking for more than twelve-bar blues." Her fourth album, Ten Miles of Bad Road, made the Top 25 Blues Album list for radio stations on 5 continents. And she's sure to give an unforgettable live performance into Old Town.

### Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree

11:00pm - 1:00am | UrbanBeat



A mainstay in the Lansing blues scene, features Stan on slide guitar, bassist Ron Bretz, drummer Dan Mead, and keyboardist Greg "Biff" Hodge. Repeat winners of the Capital Area Blues Society's annual Blues Brawl, they perform their all-original tunes throughout Michigan. While nothing beats hearing them live, Stan also works on the production side, and when the festival's over, check out their recordings!

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 2017

### KidzBeat

1:00pm - 5:00pm | 1212 & 1213 Turner

#### Bob Wilson

Electric guitar mentor

#### Josh Wilson

Electric bass mentor

#### MSU Community Music School

Petting zoo - Woodwinds/brass

#### Music-themed Arts Experiences

Capital Area Library Van, MICA Gallery & more

#### Art Projects

Broad Art Museum

### Music Workshops

2:30pm - 5:30pm | 1213 Turner

#### 2:00pm - 2:45pm Harmonica for Kids

Back by popular demand: Harmonica pro Andy Wilson encourages kids to play the harmonica, and free ones are provided for the first 100 participants, thanks to the sponsorship of Elderly Instruments. Wilson started playing harmonica at a young age himself, and went on to be a member of multiple professional blues bands.

#### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Stan Budzynski

Slide Guitar techniques in regular & open tunings (welcome to bring your own to try)

#### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chris Canas Band

Blues forms & progressions, as applied to guitar, bass, guitar, horns and keyboard (bring what you can, to play along with the pros)



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Produced by a non-profit, BluesFest relies heavily on its huge team of generous and hard-working volunteers. Sign up in advance for available positions and shifts at [michiganbluesfest.com/volunteering](http://michiganbluesfest.com/volunteering), or come to the Volunteer Headquarters in MICA Gallery (1210 Turner) during the festival to discuss how you may still help.

### Erich Goebel & The Flying Crowbars

2:00pm - 2:45pm | South Stage



Erich Goebel honed his skills as a singer and guitarist for many years as part of the West coast music scene. His forte is scorching, electric guitar in the blues and related American musical forms from funk, to roadhouse, boogie, R&B, jazz, country, Gospel and rock 'n' roll. In 2007 he joined with James Cloyd, Jr.—a fellow Detroit native — to form the Crowbars, and keep the motor city vibes running.

### Slim “Kev” Nichols & Mike Crupi

3:00pm - 3:45pm | South Stage

If you like lots of guitar, plus dobro, harmonica and vocals, don't miss the 2017 CABS Blues Brawl winners, before they make their way to the 2017 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, TN! Mike Crupi has been reading music since he was six, whose preferred instrument became guitar, a passion supported through his business, Practical Guitar in Jackson, and fulfilled by performing with veteran singer/songwriter/guitarist Kev Nichols. “Slim” has performed with various bands at BluesFest, and is no stranger to the IBC — having led bands there many times since 2004.

### Gina Garner & Calling Dr Howard

4:00pm - 5:00pm | North Stage



Gina Garner has performed at BluesFest before, but it's a first for Calling Dr. Howard—a unique group performing blues, jazz and classic rock and roll, that evolved from a weekly series of public jam sessions in Lansing. Vocalist Gina is joined by drummer Mike Daniels; keyboardist Dave Dudt; bassist Mike Smalley; guitarist “Frog” Forgey, and harmonica player/vocalist Bruce Howard — a/k/a “Dr. Howard”. The energy and chemistry of those jam sessions are now yours to share.

### Maggie McCabe Band

5:00pm - 6:00pm | South Stage



Maggie McCabe has won 5 years of Detroit Music Awards plus 3 nominations for 2017. Her repertoire ranges from early Bonnie Raitt to such blues greats as Sippie Wallace, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Bessie Smith. An award-winning artist individually, she also welcomes performing with a great trio at BluesFest.

### Twyla Birdsong

6:00pm - 7:00pm | North Stage



One of Lansing's most loved vocalists and known for her show-stopping voice and stage presence, she's formed and performed with many bands in her long career, and shared the stage with such legends as Larry McCray and Freddie Cunningham. She performs the Blues with unbridled passion, and a recent touch of Jazz.

### Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council

7:00pm - 8:30pm | South Stage



If you're craving a taste of old school Detroit, then this funky R&B sound will do just the trick. They've been awarded “Outstanding R&B Artist/Group” at the Detroit Music Awards. Everything the Groove Council plays sounds old school but lively. The nine-piece group features 4 horns and a swinging rhythm section. Even if it's a new and original composition you'll find yourself feeling the old Motown style in their music. Their genuine joy for performing and danceable music has made them a favorite and bars and festivals alike.

### Chris Canas Band

8:30pm - 9:30pm | North Stage



Ann Arbor native Chris Canas fronts a band well-known in Metro Detroit and beyond, performing well-blended sets of classic covers and clever originals, with a touch of Funk and a big dose of Soul. They won their first blues competition in 2007 and haven't let up since, still captivating audiences with moving vocals, pounding beats and crackling energy.

### Lil Ed and the Blues Imperials

9:30pm - 11:00pm | South Stage



Chicago is overflowing with bluest talent, and yet the fiery, flamboyant slide guitarist Lil' Ed Williams still manages to stand out from that crowd, performing bottleneck boogie, a/k/a modern electric blues. With a long career including 7 albums released since the '80s, these veteran musicians' latest CD still draws praise for “Lil' Ed's incendiary playing and playful, passionate singing, with the ragged-but-right Blues Imperials cooking like mad alongside him.”

### Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band

11:00pm - 1:00am | UrbanBeat



Kathleen Walters formed her first band in the late 90s, went on to be featured vocalist for Lansing's Frog & the Beeftones, and has shared the stage with a series of national blues greats. In 2006, she formed The Blues Junkies as an outlet for performing her own songs, dazzling audiences with a unique mix of traditional and contemporary blues sounds and sultry ballads.

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The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming. Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists. Supported in part by funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, Ingham County, Arts Council of Greater Lansing, City of Lansing and Downtown Lansing Inc. Program subject to change. Printing by BRD Printing, Inc. Artwork by Dennis Preston.

# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST 2017 Old Town

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Produced By:  
**MICA**  
MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

### MAIN STAGES (1200 block of Turner St.)

5:00pm - 6:00pm	Frog & the Beeftones	South Stage
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Jim Shaneberger Band	North Stage
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Greg Nagy w/ Ray Goodman & Rachel Nagy	South Stage
8:30pm - 9:30pm	War and Treaty	North Stage
9:30pm - 11:00pm	Karen Lovely	South Stage
11:00pm - 1:00am	Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree	UrbanBeat (1213 Turner)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

### KidzBeat (Mother & Earth and UrbanBeat)

- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Bob Wilson - Electric guitar mentor
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Josh Wilson - Electric bass mentor
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - MSU Community Music School - Petting zoo - Woodwinds/brass
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Broad Art Museum - Art Projects

### Music Workshops (UrbanBeat)

- 2:00pm - 2:45pm - Harmonica for Kids - Andy Wilson
- 3:00pm - 3:45pm - Stan Budzynski - Slide guitar techniques
- 4:00pm - 4:45pm - Chris Canas - Blues forms & progressions

### MAIN STAGES (1200 block of Turner St.)

2:00pm - 2:45pm	Erich Goebel & the Flying Crowbars	South Stage
3:00pm - 3:45pm	Slim Nichols & Mike Crupi	South Stage
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Gina Garner & Calling Dr Howard	North Stage
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Maggie McCabe Band	South Stage
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Twyla Birdsong	North Stage
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council	South Stage
8:30pm - 9:30pm	Chris Canas Band	North Stage
9:30pm - 11:00pm	Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials	South Stage
11:00pm - 1:00am	Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band	UrbanBeat (1213 Turner)

Limited seating available on site. Bring your lawn chairs for added comfort! Schedules Subject To Change.



**DO NOT MISS!**



### "Keeping Time" at MICA Gallery (1210 Turner)

Sight and sound are inseparable partners in the way we experience the world. The new MICA exhibit tries to explore the relationship between music and the visual arts. Featuring: Bruce Thayer, Grant Guimond, Jonah Meltzer, Conner Scott Acheson, Ashley Gooden, Terry Terry, Gracie Curl, Connor Tinnin.



# CURTAIN CALL

## The triple threat The cast of '9 to 5' Crackles

By PAUL WOZNAK

You have one more weekend to tumble out of bed and pour yourself a cup of ambition to see "9 to 5 The Musical." If the ambitious Owosso Community Players' production of the Broadway musical was just a collection of Dolly Parton songs, it would still be worth watching. But this combination of an empowering story, catchy songs and slick dancing is the perfect way to kick off the theater season with 1970s style.

**"9 to 5 The Musical"**  
Owosso Community Players 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16; 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17  
\$20/\$18 seniors and students/\$10 children 13 and under.  
The Lebowsky Center  
122 E. Main St.,  
Owosso (989) 723-4003,  
owossoplayers.com

Based on the 1980 movie of the same name, the musical is about three women working for the man and then kidnapping the man and tying him to a garage door opener. This populist comedy transitions very faithfully to the stage with the help of Parton's music and lyrics by Patricia Resnick. Apart from some structural problems like a slow, sappy second half adopted from the film and occasional sound issues, director and co-choreography Garrett Bradley staged a very polished production, complete with a stunning set designed by Dirk Rennick and Den Wenzlick and colorful costumes designed by Cathy Johnson and Alissa Britten.

Playing "the man," Quentin Brainerd is perfectly despicable as company boss Franklin Hart Jr. Tall and charismatic, with a great voice to match, Brainerd effortlessly reduces women into sex objects with lines like "not too bad for a girl with a little tread worn off the tire." While neither Hart nor Brainerd's performance is based on the current groper-in-chief, the obvious real-

world parallels do make songs like "Here for You," where Hart fantasizes about seducing one of his employees into creepy instead of laugh-worthy moments.

Two of the three lead women, Alissa Britten and Mary Maurer, crackle and burn as the wry Violet Newstead and mousy Judy Bernly respectively. Britten gets her share of snarky quips, but her big Broadway number "One of the Boys" in Act II where she tap dances in unison with a line of silver suited men is a standout.

Claire Canfield plays Doralee Rhodes, the sassy Texas blonde who is more than her assets. Canfield not only resembles Parton with her lithe voice flavored with a country twang, but she also gets some of the best songs like "Backwoods Barbie" and "9 to 5." Canfield can also act, and she gets one of the few moments of spontaneous audience applause when she threatens Hart, "I will change you from a rooster to a hen with one shot."

The highlights of the show are the murder fantasies of the three leads. "Dance O'Death" is a noir nightclub steamer with Judy as the femme fatale, Doralee's "Cowgirl's Revenge" turns Hart into a branded steer at the rodeo, and "Potion Notion" stars Violet as Disney's Snow White who plots to poison Hart with a magic apple.

The rest of the supporting cast, including Ben Cassidy, Anna Owens and the nimble ensemble dancers, are all essential and fantastic. But Rachael Cupples as Hart's homely personal assistant Roz Keith with a crush on her boss steals the show with her Act I burlesque ballad "Heart to Hart." Accompanied by identically dressed backup dancers, Cupples awkwardly shuffles around the stage with a hunch like Hart's redheaded Igor expressing her unnerving sexual desires. The contrast between Cupples' intentionally stilted movement and the dancer's graceful physicality is comic gold. But when Cupples nails her high notes at the end, they might as well close the curtain and end the show.

# Lansing's taste of Seger

## Cooley Law School Stadium hosts Bob Seger tribute band

By EVE KUCHARSKI

It's not often that you'll run into someone who's as invested in cover bands as 54-year-old Todd Stoney. But as the founder, or "mayor," of Tributesville, an organization dedicated to hosting tribute and cover bands, as well as being the drummer of Detroit's only Bob Seger cover band, Lookin' Back, it's his life.

"Tributesville is several things. It's a level of musicianship, it's a level of production, and it's also a level of expectations that we're trying to establish. Tributesville members — or I call them citizens — they're at the top of their games," Stoney said. "Detroit's best tributes. I'm trying to collect them all, and there's room for more, but I've got I think 17 and I'm trying to find stuff to do for these guys."

He said that in a way, he's bringing many fans closer than they'll ever get to

their idols. In his case, particularly Bob Seger.

"Bob shows sell out, Bob shows are expensive, and this is kind of a consolation show for a lot of fans that can't afford to see him, couldn't get tickets or it's just too far to travel," Stoney said.

**"Starring the Music of Bob Seger and Bruce Springsteen"**  
Friday, Sept. 22  
\$12.50  
7 p.m.  
Cooley Law School Stadium  
505 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 485-4500.  
ow.ly/HShr30f5wAc

And on Sept. 22, his timing will dovetail perfectly with Seger's own. One day before Seger hits the Palace of Auburn Hills, Stoney will travel from Detroit to Lansing's Cooley Law School Stadium to bring mid-Michigan fans a taste.

See Tributes, Page 19

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## September 21 - October 22, 2017



BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

This hilarious, raucous, all-female, "power-play" takes on America's overheated political rhetoric on the eve of the Miss America Pageant when Miss Georgia decides it's time to revolutionize the government.  
(Contains adult content)

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Sept. 23 @ 8PM

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www.williamstontheatre.org





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## We Foxes

A Staged Concert

Book, Music and Lyrics by Ryan Scott Oliver  
**Friday, September 22, 7:30PM**  
**& Sunday, September 24, 2:00PM**

Circa 1945, this Southern musical thriller tells the story of a tough, unmannered orphan adopted by the Sheriff's wife, and the battle that ensues when she uncovers secrets under the floorboards. Complete with phenomenal new music and featuring Broadway professionals teamed up with high school and MSU theatre students. Contains strong themes and language. For ages 13+

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# CURTAIN CALL

## An actor's dream

### 'Moon Over Buffalo' cast shows acting chops

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Perhaps only Buffalonians didn't enjoy "Moon Over Buffalo." The play is set in the green room of a theater in Buffalo, and certainly made some of its laughs poking fun at the city and its residents. For the rest of us, the Over the Ledge Theatre Co.'s production was thoroughly delightful.

"Moon Over Buffalo" is an outlandish farce with an outlandish cast of characters who are hard not to be outright delighted by. Every link in the chain of actors joined on the Ledge's Playhouse stage was solid.

LeAnn Dethlefsen played Charlotte Hay and David Dunckel played George Hay — the thespians at the helm of a wild theater troupe. The pair offered great acting as once-great actors. Anna Szabo showed her own acting finesse as their daughter, Rosalind. I can say that each of the Hays in the play conveyed an array of moods in talented ways.

Jeff Kennedy's Paul and Diana Lett's Ethel made their supporting roles equally marvelous and distinctive. Their performances of more incidental members of the troupe were nothing inconsequential. Paul was a sometimes goofy, passionate, athletic, loveable and insecure egotist. Ethel was the hard-of-hearing, matronly and grumpy grandmother with a tendency to make herself heard. Kennedy's lanky meanderings and Lett's affable gruffness were both appealing.

Zach Riley as Howard — Rosalind's less-often-seen fiancé — made each of his appearances a treat. Riley earned some of the biggest laughs in the comedy filled with puns, wordplay, slapstick, sexual incidents and comedic accidents — with a skill that wasn't accidental.

Featured actors Jim Coyer as Richard the attorney and Ja'Nay Duncan as the actress Eileen completed the skilled lineup. Each gave smooth and steady performances in a turbulent play.

The entire cast frequently entered and exited five working and slamable doors. Such precise timing — as well as expertly delivered lines — was surely attributed

#### "Moon Over Buffalo"

Sept. 7-17  
 Thursday-Saturday, 8

p.m.

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Tickets start at \$10

The Ledges Playhouse  
 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive,  
 Grand Ledge

Overtheledge.org

to Mary Job's direction. Her "Moon Over Buffalo" had perfect pacing and actors with exquisite mannerisms.

The cast also shifted easily into multiple and often elaborate costumes

and footwear that were created superbly by Lark Burger. Jeff Miller designed the wonderfully detailed set, complete with working stairs, a brick wall visible through an opened door and particulars, like a horizontal bar door opener. Crystal Carson designed multifarious props that included a period phone, realistic swords, an old style sewing basket and Cyrano de Bergerac's nose.

An uncredited Joe Dickson was responsible for lighting and spots that were always in the right spot. Job provided stills and theater posters that covered the walls and added a nostalgic charm that suited Ken Ludwig's comedy set in 1953.

"Moon Over Buffalo" was a theatrical show that pleased the assorted actors, locals and critics I saw in the audience who love good theater. That included this reviewer who once lived in Schenectady, New York — but who never lived in Buffalo.

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# Tributes

from page 17

“It’s nervy, it’s ballsy, and it’s not so risky,” Stoney said. “Seger’s on his 2017 Runaway Train Tour. There’s a lot of speculation and conversation about this being it, and he’s selling out everywhere.”

Stoney is from Lansing, but he moved to the Detroit area in pursuit of music. Eventually, he even formed a physical Tributesville location in Waterford that plays exclusively cover groups; another is under construction also in Waterford.

However, Stoney said that it was in Lansing that he first heard of Seger.

“My Aunt Kathy was supposed to babysit me. Meanwhile my parents were vacationing on a long road trip and my Aunt Kathy subcontracted the babysitting responsibilities to this lady I had never met before,” Stoney said. “I asked, ‘Where

are you going?’ She was all dressed up, and she said, ‘I’m going to go to a rock concert.’ I asked, ‘Who are you going to see?’ She said Bob Seger, and I just got it stuck in my head.”

Fastforward several decades, and Stoney’s 8-year-old band has played festivals, more than 100 shows and sold out dozens of ticketed events. He said that his long-term goal is to play in Lansing more frequently, and potentially create a Tributesville location that’s closer to his hometown.

“We can really move through his career,” Stoney said. “Now that we’ve got production stuff, audio/video stuff, percentages that everyone can work with, and now that we have a home, we can get a little more creative with set designs, video backdrops, colors to help bring out the mood of the song. So that we can really get involved in the details of the artist that we’re covering.”



Courtesy Photo

Assault is one of dozens of groups to play at the Silver Dollar Saloon over the decades.

# Silver

from page 12

“Between the crew and the band,” he said, “I thought they were going to break out into a fight!”

In ‘75, Becker, with wife, Linda, bought the Brewery and remodeled it into the Silver Dollar Saloon. The Mother Lode restaurant and fancy, red chandeliers were added. It remained Lansing’s premier rock ‘n’ roll dance spot for 19 years.

“From ‘72 to ‘91 it was rock,” Becker said.

Then came the Iraq War.

“CNN had it on 24/7,” he said. “Bars that televised it did well.”

It wasn’t a prosperous time. As Becker put it: “The economy sucked.”

But music and tastes were shifting as well.

“Music at that time became acid — really noisy and obnoxious,” Becker said. Country music was flourishing. Attendance at the Silver Dollar was way down and the dollars owed to workers, utilities and the IRS were way up.

Linda told him, “I don’t think you’ll be able to save the bar.”

“The only thing I could do was go country,” Becker said.

For him, it was an easy decision.

“All I had to do was change radio stations and bands,” Becker said. “It was decorated as a country bar.” The promise to shift formats earned extensions from creditors. The gamble paid off and the country Silver Dollar “took off like a rocket,” according to Becker.

But not for long.

Live bands lasted at the Silver Dollar until June ‘94, until it was sold “at the bottom” a year later. It was renamed “The Dollar” and was seized by Ingham County for back taxes just 10 years later. By January ‘07, the once must-see spot was vacated. It was razed in April ‘08 and turned into the Midtown Flats and PNC Bank. But Becker said that perhaps it was for the best; perhaps it had lived as long as it could have.

“I was burned out,” Becker said. “It’s a bitch to throw a party all the time.”

Twenty years later, people who remember the live music party days there six nights a week in the ‘70s and ‘80s are gathering for the tribute party. Those are the folks who remember the Silver Dollar’s heyday: its Beat the Clock drinking game, Simpson’s look-alike, Itsy Bitsy Bikini and Playboy model contests and the bar’s “Dating Game.” There was also a John Belushi Memorial Food Fight.

As Becker put it, “A lot of spaghetti was involved.”



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# Friends in high places

Local radio personality writes book about friendship with former president

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Don't let the dust jacket of the new book "I Call Him 'Mr. President': Stories of Golf, Fishing and Life with My Friend George H. W. Bush" fool you.

It features a photograph of golf pro Ken Raynor playing golf with the former president, and it is misleading — according to the co-author and Lansing radio host Michael Patrick Shiels.

"The book is not about golfing, fishing or politics. It's about friendships," Shiels said.

In this case it's about the decades-long friendship between President George H. W. Bush and Raynor, who was the

long-serving golf professional at the Cape Arundel Golf Club in Kennebunkport, Maine — the summer home of the Bushes.

Shiels said the book itself originated with a friendship he developed with Raynor eight years ago when he broadcast his program the "Big Show" from the president's charity golf event.

"In talking with Raynor and listening to his stories, I thought it would be interesting to know what it was like to be a friend of a president," he said.

Shiels began his project by mining Raynor's attic, filled with crates that held pictures and notes from the president.

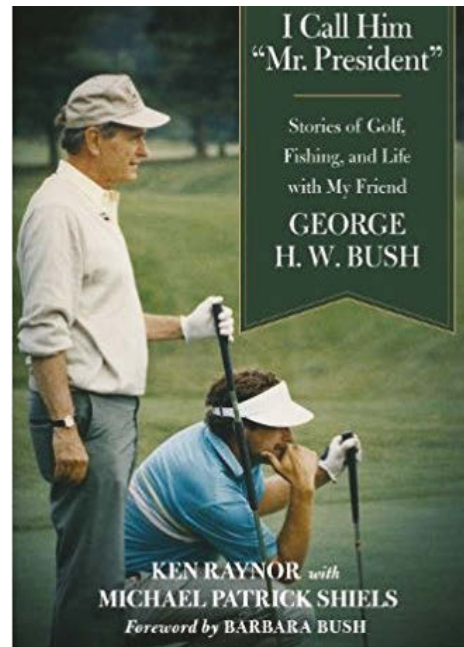
"The amount of notes he wrote to Raynor is amazing," Shiels said.

After painstakingly sorting through those physical notes, he then recorded hours of conversations with Raynor about the times he spent fishing, golfing and just hanging out with the former president.

The book paints President Bush as a regular guy, except for the Secret Service team hanging around.

The golf course itself is a character in the book a course that Shiels calls an "antique."

"People are surprised when they see it for the first time. The 'clubhouse' is a little cottage with a screen door. It's also a public course."



Courtesy Photo

Golfer Ken Raynor and former President George H. W. Bush were a tight-knit pair.

But Raynor was often reminded that his friend was the president. Once, during a dinner party at the White House, with both the first lady and Bush, the president proposed a toast to the ceasefire announcement that would end Operation Desert Storm.

Raynor writes that instances like these provided a dose "of reality of who my friend really is."

The author also relates numerous stories of the times he appeared in media photographs, golfing with Bush and often accompanied by his son George. In one photograph taken by Raynor, the two Bush men are shown "anguishing over a missed putt."

Raynor writes of seeing Bush as more of a father and a friend than anything else. When the first lady asks why he doesn't call the President George instead of Mr. President, he replies, "I don't call my father by his first name." The Bushes' hospitality extended to all of Raynor's family too — Raynor's son Kyle took his first steps in the Lincoln bedroom.

# Join the City Pulse Book Club!

By EVE KUCHARSKI

City Pulse is launching a new book club focusing on both fiction and non-fiction works by Michigan authors, as well as books which are set in Michigan.

The first book selection is "X: A Novel" by Ilyasah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X and Kekla Magoon, author of eight young adult novels.

The cross-over novel for both adults and teens is part of the 2017-2018 Michigan Humanities Council Great Michigan Read selection. The novel explores the Michigan roots of one of the most important civil rights leaders of the 20th century, especially the time Malcolm X, then called Malcolm Little, spent in Lansing as a youth.

The book is an inspirational read and has been called a testament to redemption and reinvention.

In cooperation with the Michigan Humanities Council and Schuler Books in Okemos and Lansing Township, City Pulse has arranged for 30 copies of the book to be made available for free for the first 30 readers who visit Schuler Books and sign up for the City Pulse Michigan Book Club. Fifteen copies of the book are available at each of the Lansing area Schuler Books. Others purchasing the book on their own can join the Book Club by emailing [BookClub@Lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:BookClub@Lansingcitypulse.com).

Members of the City Pulse Michigan Book Club will have the opportunity to meet with Ilyasah Shabazz before her visit to Lansing on Oct. 12, as well as participate in a book club meeting with Michigan State University professor John Aerni-Flessner on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. Aerni-Flessner teaches a class on Malcolm X's time in Lansing.

Malcolm X lived in Lansing from 1928 to 1940, returning many times to visit family and friends. In 1958, he was married in Lansing to Betty Shabazz, and, in 1963, he gave a notable speech at Michigan State University.



## Schuler Books & Music

Author **ROBERT DOWNES** presents **Lessons from the Ojibwe, 400 Years Ago**

Wed., September 20 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Join us for a presentation about the Ojibwe Native Americans by historian Robert Downes, author of the meticulously researched historical novel *Windigo Moon: A Novel of Native America*.

Girls Night Out presents **KRISTINA RIGGLE, author of Vivian in Red**

Thu., September 21 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location

Kristina Riggle is the author of numerous novels, most recently *Vivian in Red*, now released in paperback! A sweeping love story, family mystery and historical drama set eighty years apart, *Vivian in Red* will swell your heart like a favorite song while illuminating Broadway like you've never seen before.

Okemos Native **KATIE SLIVENSKY** presents **The Countdown Conspiracy**

Thu., September 28 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Meet Okemos High School grad Katie Slivensky — now an educator at the Museum of Science in Boston — as she presents her debut middle grade science novel *The Countdown Conspiracy*!

for more information visit  
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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 Eve at (517) 999-5066.

## Wednesday, September 13

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Endnote X7 and Endnote Online.** A basic introduction to Endnote and Endnote Online. 10-12 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Dr. East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** At 6 p.m. Donation welcome. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.

**Beginning West Coast Swing.** Ten week swing class. 7:15-8:05 p.m. \$125.00. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 712-6674. [usadance2037.org](http://usadance2037.org).

**Intermediate West Coast Swing.** Ten week swing class. 8:15-9:05 p.m. \$125.00. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 712-6674.

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington, Lansing. (517) 420-5820. [ow.ly/3aWl30crcLc](http://ow.ly/3aWl30crcLc).

**Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic.** Demonstration of shamanic healing. 6-8 p.m. Donation as guided. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D, Lansing. (517) 402-6727. [willowstickceremonies.com](http://willowstickceremonies.com).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Bookworms at the Broad.** StoryTime and fun about invisibility. Ages 2-5. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

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

### MUSIC

**Shenanigans at Allen Farmers Market.** Stories/activities about taking care of Earth. Up to age 5. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 351-2420. [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** From 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

### EVENTS

**"Lion" Movie & Panel Discussion.** Watch the film "Lion" followed by a community panel discussion. 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Allen Farmers Market.** Weekly market. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [ow.ly/Vuws30f59IB](http://ow.ly/Vuws30f59IB).

**Dr. Michael Ryce and A Course in Miracles.** Author/speaker offers 3 classes. 7:15-9 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

**Family Storytime (Ages up to 6).** Engaging stories, songs, activities to build literacy. 11:15 a.m.-Noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 S. Main St., Webberville.

**Free Popsicles @ Allen Farmers Market.** Fill out survey about how to shape Michigan and Grand River Ave. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market,

## Blood, sweat and rap



Courtesy Photo

Rosco P is a local Lansing rapper who will perform alongside some of rap's biggest names at PRIME Music Festival.

Sept. 15

It's tricky to go against the grain, particularly if you have the expectations of many resting on your shoulders. But sometimes, it's necessary; for rapper Marcus Jones, known better as Rosco P, there was no other way.

"I lived in a household where everyone was like, 'You've got to go to college and get a good degree and go to school and get a good job.' Once I got into college, I realized that I was clearly going for everyone except myself. I didn't want to be here, this was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So, two weeks into Art History 101," he said with a laugh, "I left, and I've been making music ever since. It's the best decision I ever made."

But things weren't easy right after his break from LCC — he soon lost his job. Instead of wallowing in the difficult moment, Jones decided to funnel all his energy into creating music. Fastforward five years, and the 25-year-old rapper has been making waves locally.

"I recorded a bunch of songs, but the one that really sparked everything was this track I made called 'Blue Benjamins.' It's a song about being an entrepreneur and finding financial freedom over 808-laden beats," Jones said. "It was kind of cool. I decided that I was going to take substance and

put it over what was trap music at the time, and it worked."

It worked so well that soon his song was playing over the air on Power 96.5 FM and even over the loudspeakers at Common Ground Music Festival.

"Right over the main stage, so everybody heard it. The next year, we were invited, and then the next year, we said, if we could just progress all year and get a better set time, and that was this year. We were offered the 11 p.m. slot," Jones said. "I actually closed after Big Sean, and I went from opening the festival to seeing people running over the hill to see me. I was like, 'Wow, that's amazing. We're doing something here; it's really working.'"

Now, he will head back to Adado Riverfront Park to open for Lansing's all-Hip-Hop festival, PRIME. Performing alongside names like Machine Gun Kelly, Waka Flocka Flame, Migos and more. He said that his secret is making relatable, "substance"-filled music.

"I want for it to be cool to be normal. A lot of trap music is like doing drugs and selling this or driving that, whatever have you. I like to make things that are more relatable to the everyday human being. Not a lot of us are doing that, so why can't we just shed

light on more relatable topics," he said. "I try to give real-life substance over those kind of beats. You're still turning up and everything, and you're like, 'Yo, I just figured out how to get out of that life circumstance.'"

Jones has branded his new take on traditional trap sounds as iTrap and has a new music schedule to come out soon. He will also start touring after his PRIME set.

"At the end of September, we are hitting the road and seeing everything. We're still planning, we're very hands on, we're doing everything ourselves," Jones said.

Before all that, however, Jones is excited to try his hand at stagediving.

"I always climb up on the guard rail," Jones said. "But this time around, people want me in it, so I'm jumping into it."

### "Rosco P at PRIME Music Festival"

Friday, Sept. 15  
4-4:45 p.m.  
Tickets start at \$35  
Adado Riverfront Park,  
201 E. Shiawassee St.,  
Lansing  
[primemusicfest.com](http://primemusicfest.com)  
Instagram Handle: @  
roscoxp

— Eve Kucharski

## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Sept. 14-21

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Two animals are pictured prominently on Australia's coat of arms: the kangaroo and the large flightless bird known as the emu. One of the reasons they were chosen is that both creatures rarely walk backward. They move forward or not at all. Australia's founders wanted this to symbolize the nation's pledge to never look back, to remain focused on advancing toward the future. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to make a similar commitment, Aries. Is there a new symbol you might adopt to inspire your intention?

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): \*The Simpsons\* is an animated sitcom that will soon begin its 29th consecutive year on TV. During its run, it has told over 600 stories. The creators of another animated sitcom, \*South Park\*, once did an episode entitled "Simpsons Already Did It," which referenced their feelings that it was hard to come up with new tales because their rival had already used so many good ones. I bring this up, Taurus, because I suspect your life story will soon be spinning out novel plots that have never before been seen, not even on \*The Simpsons\* or \*South Park.\* You could and should be the Best Storyteller of the Month.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Love won't exactly be free in the coming weeks, but there should be some good deals. And I'm not referring to risky black-market stuff obtained in back alleys, either. I mean straightforward liaisons and intriguing intimacy at a reasonable cost. So if you're comfortably mated, I suggest you invest in a campaign to bring more comedy and adventure into your collaborative efforts. If you're single, wipe that love-starved look off your face and do some exuberant window-shopping. If you're neither comfortably mated nor single, money may temporarily be able to buy you a bit more happiness.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): The current state of your fate reminds me of the sweet confusion alluded to in Octavio Paz's poem "Between Going and Staying": "All is visible and elusive, all is near and can't be touched." For another clue to the raw truth of your life right now, I'll quote the poet William Wordsworth: "He spoke of 'fleeting moods of shadowy exultation.' Is the aura described by Paz and Wordsworth a problem that you should try to fix? Is it detrimental to your heroic quest? I don't think do. Just the opposite, really: I hope you can hang out for a while in this pregnant mystery -- between the yes and the no, between the dark and the light, between the dream and the reality. It will help you learn what you've been too restless to tune in to in the past.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): The imminent future will be a favorable time for refurbished models and revived originals. They are likely to be more fun and interesting the second time around. I suspect that this will also be an auspicious phase for substitutes and alternatives. They may even turn out to be better than the so-called real things they replace. So be artful in formulating Plan B and Plan C, Leo. Switching over to backups may ultimately bring out more of the best in you and whisk you toward your ultimate goal in unexpected ways.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the coming weeks, you might want to read the last few pages of a book before you decide to actually dive in and devour the whole thing. I also suggest you take what I just said as a useful metaphor to apply in other areas. In general, it might be wise to surmise the probable outcomes of games, adventures, and experiments before you get totally involved. Try this fun exercise: Imagine you are a psychic prophet as you evaluate the long-range prospects of any influences that are vying to play a role in your future.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dear Dr. Astrology: I'm feeling lost, but am also feeling very close to finding my new direction. It hurts! It would be so helpful if I could just catch a glimpse of that new direction. I'd be able to better endure the pain and confusion if I could get a

tangible sense of the future happiness that my pain and confusion are preparing me for. Can you offer me any free advice? -Lost Libra." Dear Libra: The pain and confusion come from the dying of the old ways. They need to die a bit more before the new direction will reveal itself clearly. I predict that will happen soon -- no later than October 1.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Welcome to "Compose Your Own Oracle," a special edition of Free Will Astrology. Departing from tradition, I'm temporarily stepping aside so you can have the freedom to write the exact horoscope you want. Normally, you might be in danger of falling victim to presumptuous arrogance if you imagined you could wield complete control over how your destiny unfolds. But in the days ahead, that rule won't be as unyielding, because cosmic forces will be giving you more slack than usual. Fate and karma, which frequently impel you to act according to patterns that were set in place long ago, are giving you at least a partial respite. To get the maximum benefit out of "Compose Your Own Oracle," identify three plot developments you'd like to weave into a self-fulfilling prophecy for your immediate future. Then start weaving.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Almost two-thirds of us confess that if we are alone, we might sip milk directly from the carton rather than first pouring it into a glass. Fourteen percent of us have used milk as part of our sexual activities. One out of every five of us admit that we have "borrowed" someone else's milk from the fridge at work. Most shockingly, four percent of us brag that we have blown milk out our noses on purpose. I expect that in the next two weeks, you Sagittarians will exceed all these norms. Not just because you'll be in the mood to engage in mischievous experiments and playful adventures with milk, but because you're likely to have a loosey-goosey relationship with almost everything.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to raise funds in support of political prisoners, or to volunteer at a soup kitchen, or to donate blood at a blood bank. In fact, any charitable service you perform for people you don't know will be excellent for your physical and mental health. You can also generate vivid blessings for yourself by being extra thoughtful, kind, and generous toward people you care for. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when unselfish acts will yield maximum selfish benefits.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In his novel \*The Jungle,\* muckraker Upton Sinclair (1878-1968) exposed the abominable hygiene and working conditions of the meat-packing industry. The uproar that followed led to corrective legislation by the U.S. Congress. Sinclair remained devoted to serving the public good throughout his career. He liked to say that the term "social justice" was inscribed on his heart. Drawing from his inspiration, Aquarius, I suggest you decide what your soul's main motto is -- and imagine that it is written on your heart. Now is a perfect moment time to clarify your life's purpose, and intensify your commitment to it; to devote even more practical, tender zeal to fulfilling the reason you were born.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You know that "patch of bothersome weeds" growing right in the middle of your life? Is it really a patch of bothersome weeds? Or is it perhaps a plot of cultivated blooms that once pleased you but has now turned into a puzzling irrelevancy? Or how about this possibility: Is it a chunk of languishing beauty that might flourish and please you again if it were cared for better? Those are excellent questions for you to pose in the coming days, Pisces. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, it's time for you to decide on the future of this quizzical presence.

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

## Out on the town

from page 21

1629 E Kalamazoo, Lansing MI 48912.  
**Practice Your English.** All languages/skill levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### ARTS

**Conscience of the Human Spirit: The Life of Nelson Mandela.** Exhibit from African-American quilters. 12-3 p.m. FREE. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus, East Lansing.

### Thursday, September 14 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Zotero Workshop.** An introduction to the free open source citation management program Zotero. 2-4 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

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

**A Course in Miracles.** Group on peace through forgiveness. 7 to 9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes, Lansing. (517) 371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org)

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St.

Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale, Lansing. [crisisrfc.com](http://crisisrfc.com).

**Celebrate Recovery.** For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. [ow.ly/p9iv30cQGgi](http://ow.ly/p9iv30cQGgi).

**Google Analytics for Beginners.** Workshop on Google Analytics for businesses. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing.

**Homeopathy O and A.** Examples of homeopathic remedies. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE/\$5-\$10 donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D, Lansing. (517) 402-6727.

**Ingham county Genealogical Society.** You have received your DNA report-now what? 7-9 p.m. FREE. Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt. [ingcogenesoc.org](http://ingcogenesoc.org). (517) 719-4737.

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

### MUSIC

**LIVE Music.** With FROG. 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m. FREE. Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9910.

### THEATRE

**The Tempest.** The East Lansing Community Theatre presents The Tempest. 7-9:30 p.m. \$10. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 285-2734.

### EVENTS

**3D Print It--Keychains (Ages 8-18).** Design a personalized keychain with Tinkercad. Call x3. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351.

**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. Every Tuesday and Thursday in room 209. 12-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**Build a LEGO Robot.** Build a LEGO robot using the library's bricks. Registration suggested at [epl.org](http://epl.org). 4-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Junior Achievement-- More Than Money (Grades 3-5).** This six-week series teaches kids about money. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

**Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center.** TOCA provides tasty, nutritionally balanced meals. 12-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Party Bridge.** Weekly activity at Meridian Senior Center. 1-4 p.m. \$1 Members/\$2 Public. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. [ow.ly/FqJC30an1V4](http://ow.ly/FqJC30an1V4).

**Recovery Shot Golf Tournament (Charity).** Driving range, shot gun start, Hors D'ouvres and auction. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Chisholm Hills, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** Practice speaking in a friendly environment. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. [ow.ly/BqE630f0NiU](http://ow.ly/BqE630f0NiU).

**Tracing Your Roots: Genealogy Workshop.** At 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot

See Out on the Town Page 24

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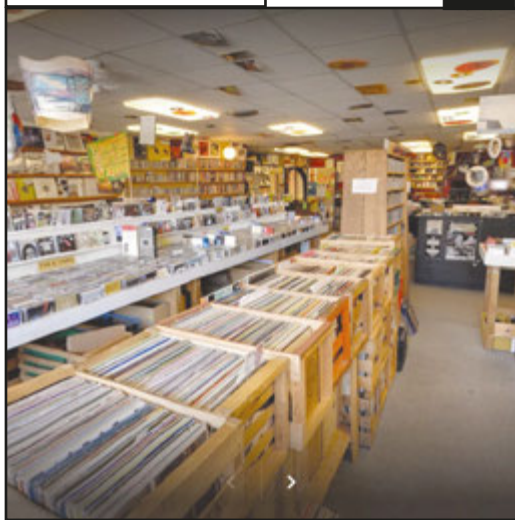
# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Tues., Sept. 26TH

FBC



Fri., Sept. 15th

TIM DARCY



Sun., Sept. 24th.

MONTE PRIDE



## Flat Black & Circular 40th Anniversary

**Tuesday, Sept. 26 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. FREE, 7 p.m.**

Maintaining a business on the Michigan State University stretch of Grand River Avenue is no easy feat. Couple the high student turnover rate with the disappearance of more than half of the population every summer, and you've got yourself a goliath of a challenge. Yet despite all odds, local vinyl shop Flat Black & Circular has remained in the game for over 40 years. To commemorate the vinyl haven's long-lived stint on the street, the businesses will host a free birthday party at the Avenue Cafe with two local outfits: Jonestown Crows and Atomic Boogaloo. The event isn't just for listening to music however, the event is meant to be a way for the shopowners to connect with the many fans and longtime customers that they've accumulated over their 40 years of existence. One of the co-founders, Dick Rosement is even flying in from retirement in New Mexico to see the show.

## Ought's Tim Darcy at Mac's Bar

**Friday, Sept. 15. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10. 8 p.m.**

If you haven't heard of Tim Darcy, chances are you've heard of the Montreal-based post-punk trio Ought. The group has produced two albums together and toured extensively on an international scale, but Darcy felt that the timing was right for a solo record. Released just earlier this year, Darcy's "Saturday Night" is an ironic play on the traditionally high-energy day of relaxation. Listen to the Velvet Underground-sounding tune and you'll feel a far greater introspection that you might expect from a track named after that day of the week. However, the title track of the album doesn't color the sound of the entire record; many tracks include poppy, upbeat-sounding tunes. Within this mix of the melancholy and happy, Darcy manages to weave expertly-written lyrics. Darcy is now on a 10-stop tour, hitting Lansing's Mac's Bar for the first time in his nearly decade-long career as a touring artist.

## Songs for Sustainability

**Sunday, Sept. 24. Old Town General Store, 408 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. FREE/Donations. Noon.**

Local Lansing folk artist and MSU student Monte Pride has been making waves. His most recent LP "Hawthorne Morning Sound" has shown a deeply matured sound, miles away from his first releases. He now also brings a new festival to the Lansing Area. At the Old Town General Store, attendees of the Songs for Sustainability Festival can expect an environmentally focused set list, focused on community building. The new festival's goal is to "continue building Lansing's awareness of the importance of living sustainably," by "creating a unique atmosphere for like-minded folks to engage with each other," writes Pride. The event will feature five different acts, Sea Bridson, the Stump Brothers, the Ruppel Brothers & Company, the Dangling Particples and Jim Jersey "Folk and More." Local vendors will make an appearance too, with Oh Mi Organics, Rust Belt Roastery, Mystical Makings and more.

### UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT [EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM)

### LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	2000's Karaoke FREE	Scary Women FREE	Devil Elvis FREE
Black Cat, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistair Beerens, 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Chris Laskos, 6:30 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Rush Clement, 8 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Jeremy Kratky, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Daryn Larner, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			BluesFest
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	The New Rule	The Knock Offs
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze!!	Mix Pack	Avon Bomb
Harpers, 131 Albert Ave.	Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.	Alistair Beerens, 6 p.m.		Daryn Larner, 6 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Mike Cooley, 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Astronomy on Tap, 7 p.m.		Bear Creek Brothers, 7 p.m.	
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	P.O.S., 8 p.m.	Remo Drive, 7 p.m.	Tim Darcy, 8 p.m.	Freak on a Leash, 8 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.		Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford Duo, 6 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Bryan Schaffer, 6 p.m.	Jake Stevens, 6 p.m.	Wise Guys, 6 p.m.	Wise Guys, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Mike Cooley, 6 p.m.	Tom & Sean, 6 p.m.	The Tenants, 6 p.m.	El Kabong, 6 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St.		Bryan Schafer, 6 p.m.		
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.	Then and Now, 6 p.m.	Benefit Show: Political Books for Prisoners, 7:30 p.m.		
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	A Time to Play, 9 p.m.	FROG, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Calling Doctor Howard, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Sarah Brunner, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr	Open Mic. Night	TBA	Henderseth	Funny HAHA Night at the Waterfront

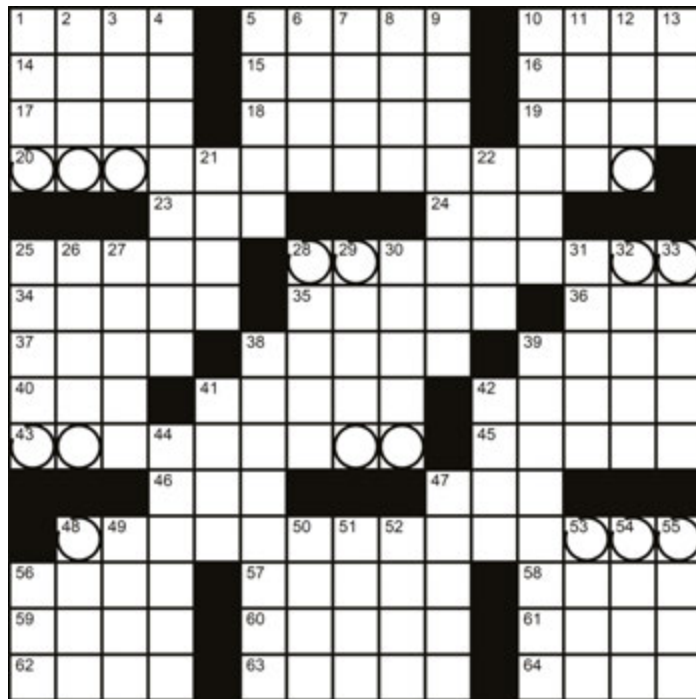
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Outsider Knowledge"  
— I think you'll see  
the appeal.  
Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Leave out
- 5 Manufacture skillfully
- 10 "Dear" columnist
- 14 Austrian physicist
- Ernst
- 15 Vietnam's capital
- 16 Like leafless trees
- 17 Burn-soothing plant
- 18 Beermaking phase
- 19 BBQ side dish
- 20 Puts the past behind with fond memories
- 23 Dorm floor supervisors, for short
- 24 Driveway goo
- 25 Brownish eye color
- 28 Curve in the water?
- 34 Annoyed persistently
- 35 Certain collars or jackets
- 36 Dict. spelling designation



- 37 "Who is John \_\_\_?" ("Atlas Shrugged" opener)
- 38 Rattles off
- 39 Say nay
- 40 Jackie O's husband
- 41 It's propelled by a paddle
- 42 Europe's "The \_\_\_ Countdown"
- 43 It's usually used to cross your heart
- 45 Bohemian
- 46 Chicago hub, on luggage tags
- 47 Green Day drummer \_\_\_ Cool
- 48 Hightail it
- 56 Shiraz, for one
- 57 Egger-on
- 58 "Garfield" beagle
- 59 Musical Redding
- 60 Make amends (for)
- 61 "Livin' La Vida \_\_\_" (#1 hit of 1999)
- 62 Brightness measure
- 63 "Siddhartha" author

Hermann  
64 Ran away

**Down**

- 1 "The Wire" character
- Little
- 2 Bamako's country
- 3 Computer program symbol
- 4 Epithet for Alexander, Peter, or Gonzo
- 5 Mass confusion
- 6 Barilla rival
- 7 Have \_\_\_ to pick
- 8 Times New Roman, e.g.
- 9 Uses an Allen wrench, maybe
- 10 Suck up
- 11 Shagger's collectible
- 12 Country singer
- Paisley
- 13 Archery bow wood
- 21 Caramel addition, in some ice cream

- flavors
- 22 Corn purchases
- 25 "Horrible" Viking of the comics
- 26 Arcade console pioneer
- 27 1983 Woody Allen mockumentary
- 28 Isabella II, por ejemplo
- 29 "Let's do this!"
- 30 Cast ballots
- 31 Decathlon tenth
- 32 Moms' moms, affectionately
- 33 In a boring way
- 38 "Well, ain't that just something!"
- 39 Ice Age canid that shows up on "Game of Thrones"
- 41 PC key below Shift
- 42 Subway rider's payment
- 44 "I kid you not!"
- 47 Number of bears
- or pigs
- 48 Multiple award-winner Moreno
- 49 Dram or gram, e.g.
- 50 McKinnon of "The Magic School Bus" reboot
- 51 Love, personified
- 52 Bills picturing Hamilton
- 53 Megacelebrity
- 54 Delightful
- 55 Drained down to 0%
- 56 "Impressive!"

©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 26**

# Out on the town

from page 22

Rd. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Friday, September 15

- CLASSES AND SEMINARS**  
**Beginning American Style Tango.** Ten week class. 7:15-8:05 p.m. \$125.00. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 364-8888.  
**Beginning Night Club 2 Step.** Ten week class. 8:15-9:05 p.m. \$125.00. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 364-8888.  
**Mud & Mug.** 21 and up only. Bring own food and beverages. Make pottery. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach

Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**StoryTime.** Activities to build early literacy. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**EVENTS**

- Apples, Cider & Pie Storytime (Ages 2-5).** We're featuring stories about delicious autumn treats. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517)676-9088.  
**Beaded Bracelets 101 (Adults).** Use supplies to make bracelets. Registration required. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.  
**MSU Community Club Welcome Reception.** Wide variety of choices like book clubs, bridge and more. 1-3 p.m. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. msu.edu/user/msucclub/.

**ARTS**

**Artist Reception for Laurén Brady Exhibit.** Join us for the opening reception. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Grove Gallery and Studios, 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 333-7180. grovegalleryandstudios.com.

**MUSIC**

**Krissy Booth Presents 'Vivid': A Visual Album Release WSGS.** A night of music. 7:30-11 p.m. \$10 Robin Theater, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

## Saturday, September 16

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**Children's Social Justice Reading Group.** Focus on Autism. Pre K-5th grade. Registration at elpl.org. 10:30 a.m.-noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

**MUSIC**

- Fairchild Fanfare: MSU Federal Credit Union Series.** 3-4:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 Seniors/\$10 for students and under 18. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.  
**Live Music w/ Cleric featuring Jones Town Revival.** At 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517) 371-2600.

**EVENTS**

- 2017 Lansing Heart Walk.** Save lives from heart disease, stroke, congenital heart defects and more. 8:30-11 a.m. FREE. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.  
**Carousel Acres Petting Zoo (All ages).** Meet miniature horses and more. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing.  
**Great Library Card Extravaganza (All ages).** Get a CADL card or show one—you'll receive a prize. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster, Lansing.  
**NALS of Lansing 2nd Annual September Swing Golf Outing.** From 2:30-8:30 p.m. \$60. Centennial Acres Golf Course, 12485 Dow Rd., Sunfield.  
**Native Michigan Plant Sale.** 12-4 p.m. Price



## Men's Coffee Hour

Date: **Friday, September 22nd**

Time: **9:30 to 10:30 am.**

Please RSVP any time before the 20th.

Join us for our men's coffee and donut hour. Jump in on such topics as the great outdoors, your career, family life, sports or whatever comes to mind.

Visit us online or call for more information.  
An Independent Living Community

**INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF EAST LANSING**

2530 Marfitt Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
tel 877-635-3171

eastlansingseniorliving.com



See Out on the Town Page 25

# SUDOKU

# BEGINNER

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

**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 26



**Bring this ad along  
and receive \$5 off  
any order over \$60**

**1723 E Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48912**

**517-483-2226**

**10am-10pm**

**Open 7 Days a Week**



# Out on the town

from page 24

varies by plant type/species. Download order forms for complete pricing details. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.  
**Octoberfest - Dinner Dance.** 5:30-1:30 p.m. \$10/\$4 for kids 11 and younger/\$6.00 Dance/FREE for kids 11 and younger. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.  
**Tamarisk Neighborhood 50th Anniversary.** From 3-8 p.m. Tamarisk Neighborhood, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

## ARTS

**Williamston Pop Up Art & Crafts Show.** Illustration, photography, watercolor, acrylic, pen and ink and more. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Keller's Plaza Upstairs, 107 S. Putnam Williamston.

## Sunday, September 17

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence, Charlotte.

**Juggling.** Learn to juggle. Call/text 517-371-5119. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing.

### EVENTS

**Family Special: Finding Fossils.** Families will learn about Michigan fossils through hands-on activities. 2-3:30 p.m. \$3/person or \$7/family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

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

**PeaceQuest 2017.** Community-wide celebration of the UN International Day of Peace. 2 p.m. FREE. Cherry Lane Park, Cherry Lane Park, East Lansing.

**Robotics Festival at East Lansing Farmer's Market.** Watch robots and build your own. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**The Lansing Bridal Show.** Meet with hundreds of vendors, win prizes, and fulfill your wedding day dreams. 12-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lansingbridalshow.com.

## Monday, September 18

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**My Cub & I: Nature for Toddlers.** Kids 3 and under explore nature. 10:30-1:30 a.m. \$35/child for

a 6 week class. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**Support Group.** For those experiencing separation and divorce. 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

**Timber Tots: Nature for Preschoolers.** Introduce toddler to nature. 9-10 a.m. \$35/child for 6-week class. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**BabyTime.** Rhymes and finger plays. Ages 0-2 years with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

### MUSIC

**Music in the Greek Orthodox Church.** Greater Lansing Chapter of American Guild of Organists. Takis family presents. 7:30-8 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road, East Lansing.

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

### EVENTS

**Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8-15).** Get your game on. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

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

**Kids Reading to Dogs (All ages).** Practice your skills by reading to our specially trained dogs. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Social Bridge.** Weekly activities at the senior center. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing.

**Teen Self-Care Club.** Relaxing environment with crafts, activities and hot tea. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

### ARTS

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

## Tuesday, September 19

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

See Out on the Town, Page 26



## OFFICE FURNITURE OUTLET & SUPPLIES

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

After 31 years in business, Office Furniture Outlet & Supplies in Lansing's Eastside Neighborhood will permanently close on Wednesday, Sept. 20. There will be a half-off sale on many showroom items through this Saturday.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

Independent retail stores with their own showrooms are practically relics in the commercial world, particularly as e-commerce is putting the squeeze on even the biggest of the big box store. For 31 years, however, **Office Furniture Outlet & Supplies**, in Lansing's Eastside Neighborhood, has thrived as a full-service consultant and supplier for local professionals. But next week, the longstanding business will close for good, going out on a high note.

"It's a basic inside man/outside man operation," said co-owner Rod Simonson about the store started by his partner, Tim Bennett, in 1986. "He is a great salesman and really great at customer service, but the back office gets in his way. The reason I got into it was simply because it presented itself in a five-line newspaper ad in the Lansing State Journal and it looked kind of cool."

It was 1988, and he had just quit his career as a math and physics instructor to move to Lansing and pursue a master's degree in material management and logistics at Michigan State University.

"I said to myself, 'How can you do any better than that?'" Simonson said. "You're buying yourself a job. If you like it, great, if not, you can go do something else that you like doing and you still own it. How can you go wrong?" Well, I found out later how you can go wrong. When you're a small business owner, sometimes you can't pay yourself."

Despite the lean times, Simonson helped Bennett build OFOS into a thriving operation, with a built-in customer base split between MSU and the downtown Lansing political machine. Simonson said he and Bennett never once fought in their 29 years together as partners, weathering 27 competitors and creating a new business model based on rewarding returning customers.

"We set out to do the office supply, office furniture business differently than anyone had ever done it," Simonson said. "It's one of reasons we stayed around as long as we did, but it was also one of the reasons we couldn't grow larger than we were. We couldn't clone ourselves."

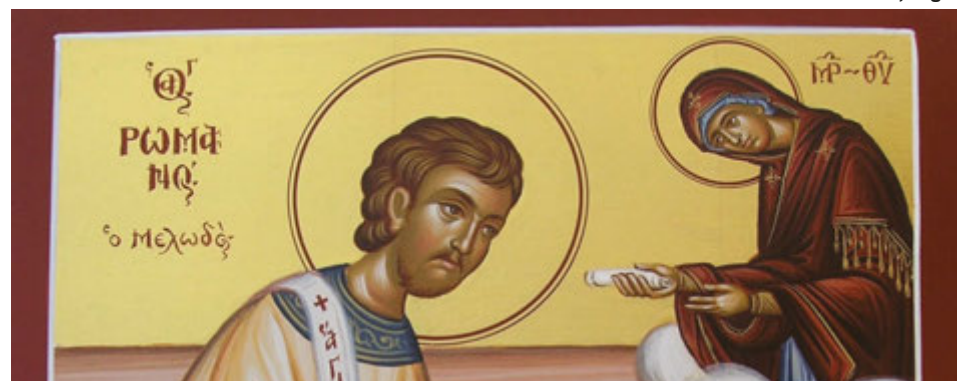
Bennett was the company's "outside man," working with customers to best determine what their needs were and matching them up with office furniture and supplies that would best suit their business. Simonson, meanwhile, handled all the behind-the-scenes action.

Simonson said he plans to retire, while Bennett said he will go to work for **Kentwood Office Furniture**, a former competitor on the city's west side. Whatever merchandise doesn't get sold on the 50 percent off sale that OFOS is holding through Saturday will make the move with him. As for the building, city records show it was purchased by a domestic profit corporation operated by attorney Edwar Zeineh. Simonson speculated that Zeineh may use the space as a new location for his Lansing-based law office, now in a suite at 2800 E. Grand River Ave., but Zeineh didn't return a call for comment.

Simonson recalled having a conversation with a client who was an instructor/researcher in one of MSU's business departments. The customer had finished work on an international study of successful entrepreneurial small businesses and was determining what aspects they all had in common. The study had found 10 similarities, but the researcher was still puzzled by one of them: in almost every case, one or more of the entrepreneurs had a technical, mathematical or scientific background. The former physics teacher lit up.

"If you've got somebody involved in the business who has specific and explicit training in problem solving, then that comes naturally to them," Simonson said. "The likelihood of success is greatly improved." And he said, "Huh, I think I'll add that to our paper."

**Office Furniture Outlet & Supplies**  
**(closing Wednesday, Sept. 20)**  
**1910 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing**  
**8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday**  
**(517) 484-4420, theofos.com**



### SEPTEMBER 18 >>> MUSIC IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Interested in witnessing a religious musical performance that respects old melodic tradition? St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be showcasing a liturgical performance that will include topics of discussion like, what the Orthodox Church is, the ancient Judaic/Christian religious tradition, as well as ancient chants and roles of the chanter, choir and organs in worship. Attendees will also experience singing an eight-tone liturgical excerpt to get their own musical taste of the Orthodox tradition. All who attend will also be introduced to the iconography of the Orthodox church.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 7:30 p.m. FREE. 955 Alton Road, East Lansing

# Out on the town

from page 25

Okemos.  
**Take off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Parish, 102 W., Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 487-3749. tops.org.  
**Game Night at UrbanBeat.** Bring your own games or play ours. 5-8 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.  
**Yawn Patrol Toastmasters.** Learn speaking and leadership skills. 7-8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**ToddlerTime.** Active storytime designed to build pre-reading skills. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., 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

**Duct Tape Pouches (Ages 8-14).** Make a fun and useful pouch. 3:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.  
**Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre.** Weekly events at the senior center. 1-4:30 p.m. Cost Varies. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.  
**Christian College Fair.** Over 30 Christian colleges from around the country will be in attendance. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779.  
**Digital Marketing Lunch & Learn (Adults).**

Discuss research tools, competition and more. 2-1:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 367-6348.

**Home Food Preservation (Adults).** How to successfully and safely preserve foods. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

**Jug & Mug ski club general meeting.** This club is for active singles. Join us at our monthly social/general meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Tony's, 350 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 332-5553.

**Knitting and Crochet Group.** All ages and levels welcome. Bring supplies or use our basic supplies. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**LCC West Toastmasters.** Learn speaking and leadership skills. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing. (517) 483-1314.

**Making Democracy Work.** League of women voters in Lansing fall kickoff. RSVP to cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

**Mid-day Movies (Adults).** Today's movie: Going In Style (PG-13). 2-3:35 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** Struggling with food? Overeaters Anonymous offers hope. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

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

## Wednesday, September 20

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Bach Stress Relief Q&A.** Stress relief with Bach Vibrational Essences. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D Lansing.

**Homework Help.** Drop-in homework help from

MSU's College of Education Kappa Delta Pi. Grades K-12. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**MSU Creative Writing Center Group.** All types of creative writers are encouraged to attend. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## MUSIC

**The Dangling Particles at Allen Farmers Market.** Come enjoy a performance. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Cooking with Kids.** Supplies/tips to make a

treat to take home. Register online. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**Family Storytime (Ages up to 6).** Engaging stories to help build early literacy skills. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School St., Williamston.  
**Gilden Woods Early Care & Preschool of Grand Ledge Grand Opening Open House.** Open house. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Gilden Woods Early Care and Preschool of Grand Ledge, 11920 Nixon Road, Grand Ledge. (269) 430-3156.

**Long-Term Care Planning Workshop.** For retirees and those planning retirement. 6-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

**Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-6).** Older and younger children are welcome to attend. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason.

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

5	9	4	1	3	7	2	8	6
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4	6	7	8	1	2	3	9	5
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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

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# Back of House

## Chef Jason Blastic, Soup Spoon Café

By MEGAN WESTERS

*What made you want to become a chef?*

As a kid, I was always into chemistry, and I didn't have a chemistry set so cooking was my way of playing with chemistry as a kid. It wasn't always what I wanted to do, but I always enjoyed playing in the kitchen as a kid. I started out in the kitchen as a dishwasher when I was sixteen as my first job. So, I got into it and I never left the industry.

*Are you formally trained or did you learn as you went?*

I grew up in Lansing, I went to Catholic Central High School. After high school, I went to Central Michigan and was going to go into hotel restaurant management. I started out learning as I went, because starting off as a dishwasher, I always aspired to be in the kitchen. Then I worked my way up to being a manager. I did take a cooking class in college, an elective type class, and so a lot of the people that were in my hotel restaurant management classes were in that class. I found that the reason I really love the restaurant business is because I love to cook. So, I changed gears from the hotel restaurant management side to the culinary side. After Central, I went to the culinary institute of America.

*So, it seems like it always comes back to the culinary aspect of it. Why do you think that is?*

It still is my chemistry set. I have learned the classical and French techniques in school, but I have always thought about food scientifically. It's just the way my brain is wired, not just the skill or the flavor, but the science of how to make something correctly or how to make a recipe perfect.

*Is molecular gastronomy something that you're interested in, either incorporating that into your restaurant or just as a hobby?*

It's something I dabble with, I mean, obviously, we aren't that style of restaurant. We couldn't go all that way, but we do use elements of that, we do special dinners and things. About five years ago, I spent two days doing a stage — an unpaid internship for chefs — at Alinea in Chicago. It was incredibly intense. Those young aspiring chefs work 12 hours a day — if not more — nonstop. It was refreshing to know that I could hang with them for a few days.

*Do you write the menu for Soup Spoon?*

Nick, the owner, is a chef as well. We are a chef-driven restaurant, so we all write the menus together.

*When you are working on writing these*



Megan Westers/City Pulse

Chef Jason Blastic from Soup Spoon Café

*menus and creating these dishes, what inspires you?*

I draw from all over, like anybody else. I watch the cooking shows and I might see something on Anthony Bourdain, I take that and put a little spin on there. You always get ideas. Sometimes it's seasonal. Like for spring, it's like what can I do with peas or asparagus or mint?

*I know many people enjoy coming to soup spoon for the diversity of dishes, particularly vegan offerings?*

We certainly get a lot of recognition for the vegan items that we do have. Our vegan items are not an afterthought. Our vegan dishes are thought out and are super flavorful. Like our Ethiopian stew, you don't have to be a vegan to love that dish.

*In terms of being in Lansing, what does Lansing offer to you? Do you love it here? What's special about it?*

I love Lansing because I grew up here. It's one of the biggest small towns you'll ever find. People are friendly, I love Michigan, I love going up north, that's probably one of the biggest reasons for staying. I mean I summered in Nantucket, but I also worked up north in Traverse City and Cadillac when I first got out of culinary school. I live here in the east side, same as the Soup Spoon, and it's pretty close knit. Many of the people who live here frequent the same bars, restaurants and stores, so the east side is a mini community within the community of Lansing.

*Where do you eat out when you eat out?*

I eat out quite a bit. Chefs are kind of notorious for eating junk food. I mean if it's your day off, unless your cooking for someone else, then you sort of don't want to. Sometimes you get inspired, but sometimes you just want to order a pizza. I eat the same as a lot of people. My go-tos are Dagwood's and El Oasis. Steakhouse Philly every once and a while. Those are some of my favorites.

## Soup Spoon Café's "Ginzerac"

There is nothing comparable to it in the area. New Orleans might be the closest place for something similar. And one sip proved the Soup Spoon Café's "Ginzerac" was a drink like no other.

The concoction was their take on the sazerac drinks created in bars in the French Quarter that were a variation of a whiskey cocktail. The Ginzerac used Valentine Distilling Co.'s barrel-aged Liberator Old Tom Gin — but one should not expect the flavor associated with the clear booze. It had more of a caramel color and a taste closer to a mellow whiskey.

### Soup Spoon Café

M-Th: 7am-10pm  
Fri: 7am-Midnight  
Sat: 8am-Midnight  
1419 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 316-2377  
soupspooncafe.com

The Detroit distillery's gin costs \$45 a bottle. The price of a Ginzerac, served straight in a rocks

glass, was \$9.

Other ingredients included a bonal aperitif and another New Orleans favorite: Peychaud's bitters. The heavy wine added hints of plum — as the Spoon's menu boasted— and the bitters made the Ginzerac slightly sweet while adding a splash of alcohol.

As smooth and flavorful as the potent Ginzerac was, I found it a bit too intense for a during-meal drink. Next time, I'll save it for dessert.

—DAVID WINKELSTERN



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## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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