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November 11-17, 2015

ART INFUSION

PUBLIC ART IS POPPING UP AROUND LANSING, BUT WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

WHY RICK JONES?

Hispanics question award to state senator, p. 5

SUN TZU IN SPARTA

Spartan Marching Band prepares epic halftime show, p. 12

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Feedback

Defend EPA clean-air standards

Some in Congress are pushing an extreme agenda that would force EPA to roll back clean air protections. They are targeting the recently announced Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution from power plants, and the newly updated ozone pollution limit that will lead to 230,000 fewer asthma attacks and 160,000 fewer missed school days every year. Sad to say that the much-lauded health benefits of these clean air rules will never be realized if some in Congress have their way. The only winner in such a scenario would be polluters.

Ozone pollution is dangerous. If Congress blocks the stronger standard, we'd be forced to continue relying on a weak and outdated standard – one that the American Lung Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and many other health organizations say denies your right to know when the ozone pollution in your community potentially places your family's health in harm's way.

That's why we must make our expectations known to Congress and the White House. Join me in urging our elected officials in Washington to not jeopardize public health by attacking clean air protections.

—Ken Fletcher

Advocacy Specialist

American Lung Association in Michigan
Lansing

Changes at Community Mental Health

Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties (CMHA-CEI) has lost 60% of their general fund dollars from the state government, which used to help many access services. The Healthy Michigan Plan was suppose to fill the gap; but a year later CMHA-CEI found out that it wasn't enough compensation. Therefore they have had to let over 350 consumers go. Now, CHMA-CEI only accepts Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, and MI Child to access services.

My husband and my services have

been cut from CMHA-CEI and we are hurt and sad that after so many years of good treatment we gave to start over with a new provider. We have to continue getting our medication.

My concern is for the consumers who like us can no longer go to the CMHA-CEI and who are in the height of their mental illness and they can't remember to take their medication. Who will help them and offer them support and guidance?

My hope is that the greater Lansing Community will call, write, and e-mail their state legislators and let them know that mental health services should be accessible to everyone.

—Jerri Nicole Wright
Lansing

East Lansing does the right thing

Three cheers for the citizens of East Lansing for finally throwing out that sniveling snollygoster, Nathan Triplett, and for defying big money smear tactics from the totally reprehensible Greater Lansing Chamber of Commerce (what else is new).

But the worst villain is the pathetic clique of has-been politicians and political operators (the likes of Byrum, Fisk, and Singh)—I wouldn't dignify them by calling it a machine—that still thinks it owns the Democratic Party in East Lansing (and its patronage). They anointed Triplett the next great thing and were willing to stop at nothing to keep selling him, after real progressives had exposed him as a fabricator, a phony, and a fool.

What we have are professional politicians who aligned themselves with the Republican Chamber to retain power against ordinary citizens (Beier, Altmann, community activists), far to their left, with no ambitions other than to clean up their fiscal mess and the stench of City Center II, and to place the interests of the people first. Even Whitmer and Hertel, who should know better, have greatly hurt their credibility by choosing the clique over reformers and by failing to realize how many East Lansing citizens are furious with city hall.

More than \$50,000 in special interest campaign contributions, the undying love of the Lansing State Journal, three attack mailings, robo-calls, and TV ads, unprecedented in East Lansing Council elections, couldn't put Humpty-Dumpty back together again.

Lesser-of-two-evils is far too generous. No wonder the Democrats are losers.

—Eliot Singer
East Lansing

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City & Lindemann at odds over drain project cost.



'Material Effects' takes a second look at everyday objects



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by TOM TOMORROW

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<p>DR. CARSON, HAVE YOU SEEN ANY GOOD MOVIES LATELY?</p>	<p>MS. FIORINA, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?</p>	<p>SENATOR RUBIO, IF YOU WERE A TREE, WHAT KIND OF TREE WOULD YOU BE?</p>
<p>GOVERNOR BUSH, WASSUP?</p>	<p>IN CLOSING, WOULD YOU EACH PLEASE RANT ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON AND BENGHAZI FOR THIRTY SECONDS.</p>	<p>THE POST-DEBATE RITUAL</p> <p>ENOUGH WITH ALL THESE "GOTCHA" QUESTIONS!</p> <p>WHAT WAS THAT-- THE SPANISH IN-QUISTION?</p>
<p>BUT LATER WHO PRO-GRAMMED THOSE ROBOTS?</p>	<p>AND THEN THE NEXT DEBATE SHOULD BE MODERATED BY A PANEL OF AUDIO-ANIMATRONIC REAGAN ROBOTS!</p>	

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Attendees walk out Hispanic leaders taken aback by award to Jones at Chavez dinner

A cosponsor of a Senate bill some Hispanic leaders in Michigan view as a mandate for local police to profile Hispanics received a special recognition award at an Oct. 30 dinner honoring labor leader Cesar E. Chavez.

The award was given to state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, at a dinner sponsored by the Capital Area Cesar Chavez Commission, the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan and the Michigan Hispanic Legislative Caucus.

"[Cesar Chavez] would be turning in his grave right now," said Al Salas, a former member of the Capitol Area Cesar Chavez Commission and founder of a successor group, the Lansing for Cesar E. Chavez Committee. "It's not something the Hispanic community will approve of. [Rick Jones'] rhetoric is negative toward the Hispanic community."

Noel Garcia Jr., a retired Lansing police lieutenant and member of the Hispanic-Latino Commission, said he didn't know about the award until he went to the dinner.

"It was news to me, as it was to many who were in attendance," Garcia said. "[In] three years of meetings — and I have been to most all of them in my three-year term — I don't recall any discussion, any action or any resolution having been being made for any type of award for Sen. Jones." Garcia is one of 15 members of the commission, appointed by the governor for three-year terms. The commission is part of the state Department of Civil Rights.

In a phone interview Monday, Marylou Alvarez Mason, executive director of the Hispanic/Latino Commission, said Jones got the award, in part, for furnishing the commission with oversized prop checks handed to student scholarship recipients each year.

"Senator Jones has always done those great big checks that they print out," Mason said. "Every year since he's been an elected official, he's made them

for us."

Mason said Jones was chosen for the award three years ago by a committee of several students from Lansing Community College. She said he wasn't given the award sooner because this was the first year he could attend the dinner.

In a phone interview Monday, Jones said he's worked with the Hispanic-Latino Commission for 11 years, "helping them any way I could."

"Sometimes they want me to assist them with creating the large plastic checks when they're handing out awards to children to go to school," Jones said.



Chavez



Jones

Garcia said he left the Oct. 30 dinner early because of a family matter but got an earful in the following days from constituents in Lansing's Hispanic community about the award to Jones, some of whom told him they walked out on the dinner because of the award.

"I don't have any ill will toward Sen. Jones," Garcia said, "but I do understand the concerns of the Hispanic community [about his] sponsorship of this bill."

Senate Bill 0445, the "sanctuary policy prohibition act," was referred to the Judiciary Committee in September, with Jones, who chairs the committee, listed as a cosponsor. The bill, if signed into law, would bar cities from adopting "sanctuary" policies that "limit or prohibit" local officials from reporting suspected illegal immigrants to federal

authorities. If police officers have probable cause to believe that a person under arrest is not "legally present" in the United States, they would be required to report that person to federal immigration officials. Any cities that fail to comply would lose their federal revenue sharing funds.

"I don't recall cosponsoring it," Jones said Monday. "I may have."

John Castillo, a 30-year administrator in the state Department of Civil Rights, said the bill's purpose is clear. "Hispanics would be the group targeted," he said. "In the past, Hispanics have been stopped on the streets of Lansing, at the bus depot, and asked to provide proof — not Canadians, not individuals from Europe."

Castillo said Jones has a "long history of being anti-immigration."

In 2007, at Jones' request, then-Michigan attorney general Mike Cox ruled that illegal immigrants are ineligible for driver's licenses. The ruling angered the Hispanic/Latino community and reversed the policy of Cox's predecessor, Frank Kelley, who said that such a bar might violate the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection clause.

"Is this award justified and is it in the spirit of Cesar Chavez?" Castillo asked. "I think not."

Monday afternoon, Garcia said he questioned Mason about the award after hearing complaints from constituents.

"It's kind of concerning at this time that we haven't had any clear understanding of how or who made the decision to give this award to Mr. Jones," Garcia said.

The same afternoon, Mason said she hadn't heard from anyone with questions about the award. "Nobody has called me directly to say, 'What's the big idea?' or 'What did you do?'" she said.

Castillo said he talked with "15 or 20 people throughout the community, and it is unclear to anyone as to how and why he got that award."

Mason said Monday that each year, a three- or four-member LCC student committee reviews nominations for several awards given by the Hispanic/



British architect CFA Voysey admonished, "Never look at an ugly thing twice. It is fatally easy to get accustomed to corrupting influences." The metropolitan Lansing area enjoys an outstanding stock of formal and vernacular architecture. While Eyesores remain plentiful, the regular pursuit of dilapidated, unkempt buildings requires a search for things that most people would rather not look at.

To that end, the City Pulse is introducing a new feature this week — to rotate with Eyesore and Eye Candy — that will further highlight the region's great architecture. This will focus on noteworthy details found on local buildings and structures. Some buildings will be obscure or unknown. Some do not rise to the level of Eye Candy, but have particular details that merit individual attention. Some of the buildings are indeed beautiful, thereby letting their smaller details to go unnoticed.

Individual details will be highlighted in one issue, following up several weeks later with information about of the building, plus a new detail for readers to identify. Eyesores will continue as a regular feature. Suggestions for future Eyesore subjects are welcomed, since they periodically have served as agents for improvement. After all, no one should look at an ugly thing twice, much less have to live near it.

The relief pictured here is our first Eye for Design. We invite you to let us know its building. Hint: It is on MSU's campus. The first person to identify it correctly will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to debollman@comcast.net. by Nov. 25.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

After Ashton Ingham County moving to resolve 'ethical lapses'

(Brian McGrain is an Ingham County commissioner representing District 10, which includes the eastern and southeastern sides of Lansing and Lansing Township, as well as the southeastern portion of East Lansing and Michigan State University. He chairs the Board of Commissioners.)

As readers of the City Pulse are aware, Ingham County has recently found itself in the midst of a situation regarding alleged unethical actions by one of our former high-level employees. While Ingham County has prided itself in being well-run and well-managed over the years, this situation may have caused the public to question our reputation.

Guest Column

unethical actions by one of our former high-level employees. While

To recap, it appears that the County's former Chief Information Officer accepted gifts from contractors and may have leveraged his County position for personal gain. County officials became aware of these incidents when filling a request for documents filed by the City Pulse under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. County officials were quick to identify incidents of questionable conduct by our former Chief Information Officer. An investigation ensued, facts were verified, and the employee was terminated – all within a 24-hour timeframe. Additionally, this situation has been turned over to police authorities for further investigation.



McGrain

Ethical lapses are unfortunate. Officials sometimes seek to spin such issues to make them sound less significant than they actually are, but the most effective way to deal with the issue is full and timely disclosure. Please rest assured, county officials are working tirelessly to be as transparent as possible during this time.

Details of who knew what and when have been distorted. While the County had been working for months on dealing with "performance" issues affecting its IT delivery, no charges or allegations had been made regarding unethical conduct. Commissioners were indeed surprised when this information came to light and supported quick action to rectify the situation.

Now that we are past the initial shock of what happened, it is imperative that our organization take time to reflect and reassess. Not only do we need to understand how this ethical lapse occurred, but

perhaps more importantly, we need to determine what changes need to be made to ensure this does not happen again. A formal review of internal controls was initiated to determine if there is need for systemic change. Amongst many changes being considered, employees will be required to undergo a review of ethical conduct policies, and future contracts will require vendors to abide by County ethics standards.

No written policy can prevent unethical acts by a determined individual. However, residents should know that Ingham County sets a high bar when it comes to employee ethics. Breaches will not be tolerated, and any report of an ethics violation will be taken very seriously from the outset. We will do our best to regain your trust and confidence in County government, and I challenge everyone associated with Ingham County to do the same.

Development slowdown East Lansing Council aims to tighten project oversight

For many East Lansing voters the recent election was a referendum on developments and tax incentives. But how a new City Council is going to handle those is not entirely clear even to the candidates who benefitted from those sentiments.

"I think there will be a delay in development," Councilman-elect Mark Meadows said. The reason? "Every candidate, Eric [Altmann], myself — everyone — was for using tax incentives for the right types of projects. What that is, I can't tell you."

Meadows said he hopes the Council will develop guidelines on when and how tax incentives should be used and what they should look like. Such a move would not impact those incentives already approved by Council, only those moving forward.

This election saw unprecedented involvement by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber backed Meadows and Shanna Draheim, who also won. But it lost big time with the defeat of Nathan Triplett, a two-term Councilman and the Council-appointed mayor. With his defeat and Altmann's victory, the five-



Meadows

member Council will likely swing to a more cautious approach to incentives.

Chamber President and CEO Tim Daman said his organization "hopes development is not going to be delayed," but he said he understands that it will take the three new Councilmembers time to "understand" how city government works.

He acknowledged that the Chamber stumbled with "some assumptions" in the race, such as the strength of Triplett and higher-than-expected turnout in two neighborhoods angered about developments.

One is the Bailey neighborhood, where neighbors have been dismayed by a city decision to shut down the community center there. The other was the Flower Pot neighborhood, which lies between Trowbridge Road and Kalamazoo Street.

To the south, Flower Pot neighbors are upset about the redevelopment of the Trowbridge Shopping Center. To the north, they are angry about a development plan on the former Michigan State Police headquarters property. That development would see residential units for students tall enough to invade the privacy of the Flower Pot homes nearby.

Daman said that on Election Day, as the only incumbent on the ballot, Triplett took the ire of the voters.

Other community frustration over development also played a role in Triplett's defeat, Meadows said. Those concerns center on the stretch of buildings between Abbot Road and the People's Church on Grand River Avenue. These buildings have long

been an eyesore and a target for redevelopment. For nearly a decade, developer Scott Chappelle worked with city officials in an attempt to bring to life a very complicated development in that area of the city. It was known as City Center II, but in 2012, the deal between Chappelle and the city died.

"When I was knocking on doors, everyone — bar none — said that corner is a concern," Meadows said. "They want something there that will be a priority."

A "trainwreck" is how Altmann, an MSU professor who served on the Planning Commission, described the corner. On the "City Pulse Newsmakers" television show last week, Altmann said the failed development has left the legal status of the property in question and that other developers "are not going to touch it" until the city clarifies its status.

"We need to do what we can to get that property into the hands of somebody who can build something there," Altmann said. "There are steps we can take to make that easier. One of the things we need to do is collect a history of all the mortgages and all the tax liens and emails between the developer and city staff and all the stuff that has gone on there over the past 10 or 15 years and publish that as a resource on the city's website."

Both men concede that development in-



Altmann

centives are important tools, but they note there are deep concerns.

Altmann said developers have essentially received a free pass when seeking subsidies.

"The problem has been that their use has been excessive over the past 10 years and there has been no critical assessment of why subsidies are necessary for a given project," Altmann said. In the past decade, he said, developers have presented their projects and announced what subsidies were necessary to carry the project out — and the Council would essentially give its stamp of approval without any critical assessments.

Meadows, a Councilman from 1996 to 2006 and the Council-appointed mayor for most of that time, said there needs to be more focus on the use of incentives, but there also has to be serious focus on holding developers accountable. He used the examples of a downtown building to which a fifth floor was added without Council approval and the installation of an MRI in a medical building in direct defiance of the Council. Neither developer faced reprimands for those moves.

"That's not acceptable," Meadows said.

Said Altmann: "We need to leave development subsidies on the table as one potential tool, but we need to apply them judiciously. We need to do our homework. We need to ask for accountability. This is not rocket science."

—Todd Heywood



Hispanic

from page 5

Latino Commission, including scholarship recipients, Educator of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, and special recognition awards such as the one that went to Jones.

Often, Mason said, the students sifting

through the nominations are from another state or country. It's done that way, she explained, to avoid "anybody being biased as far as nominating someone that they know who they are or what they do or anything like that."

"I'm the only one in the room with the committee," she added.

In addition to providing the big plastic checks, Mason said, Jones has never

missed the annual forum where legislators meet with constituents on Michigan Hispanic Advocacy Day. She added, however, that the forum was only started in 2010 and not held in 2011. Mason praised Jones for staying at the forum "the whole day" in 2014. It was unclear how that figured into the LCC students' decision in 2012 to give Jones the award.

Although this year's award to Jones

was decided upon three years ago, Mason said, it wasn't reviewed this year. She said she hadn't heard of Senate Bill 0445. "Is it something they're talking about that's kind of controversial now?" she asked Monday. "I'd have to look at it and see what they're talking about."

— Lawrence Cosentino



Slow drain

City questions scope of Red Cedar pollution abatement project

Pat Lindemann, the Ingham County drain commissioner, readily shows a photo on his cellphone of two unsightly sewer lines on the banks of the Red Cedar River. A plume of cloudy substance — pollution — can be seen trailing out from one of the outlets.

He wants that to end. But he acknowledges that it's going to cost taxpayers money and doesn't know how much.

It's the cost — millions of dollars — that has the Bernero administration nervous as it continues to negotiate the Red Cedar Renaissance project in the former Red Cedar Golf Course off Michigan Avenue near Frandor. The city outlined its concern in a Nov. 2 letter sent by Chief Operating Officer Chad Gamble to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Lindemann said his mandate is to ensure that the Red Cedar watershed area off Michigan Avenue is designed right. But Lansing has told state regulators it believes Lindemann's plan is excessive and "should and could be reduced."

"Essentially what they are saying is that I will clean the water too much," Lindemann said regarding the city's letter. "How do you clean the water too much?"

Lindemann said the permit he is seeking for the Red Cedar repair meets the state standard for what is known as a "first flush." That means being able to handle and clean the first inch of rain from a storm event.

He said he is unclear where Gamble got the idea that his approach is excessive, since he still has not created a plan, let alone a design.

"The complaints are not about the permits — they are posturing about the money," Lindemann said.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said this week that the city had substantive issues with the plan, but he did not elaborate on what those issues were.

"We're trying to value-engineer this thing to get the most bang for the buck for taxpayers," Bernero said. "In the end, taxpayers are going to have to pay for this."

The city's concerns outlined in its letter to MDEQ were part of the public comment period on the permits needed to improve the entire drain system in the region. The revamped drain will be a key part of the infrastructure investment needed for the hundreds of millions of dollars of new developments and investments in the former Red Cedar Golf Course.

Lindemann said he needs the permits, which cover legal permission to work in areas like wetlands, inland lakes and rivers, endangered species and floodplains, in order to complete designs and finalize the scope of the project. Obtaining the necessary permits ensures that the project meets federal and state regulations, and prevents him from being forced to redesign the project multiple times. He said he plans to complete the per-

mit applications within 30 days.

The city endorses cleaner water, but it is worried about overreach by the drain commissioner.

"We are concerned about the magnitude of the proposed project facilities and the associated impacts to the affected wetlands," wrote Gamble in his letter to MDEQ. In the letter, Gamble argued that what the application indicates is "beyond what is necessary to meet DEQ's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program requirements or for goals related to achievement of water quality standards."

Lindemann said none of the city's concerns about the project had been expressed to him. Without a plan and a design, Lindemann said he's not sure that he will surpass the requirements.

The final bill for the drain improvement would be assessed based on how much each area would be contributing to the run-off to be processed by the drain system. Each mu-

nicipal government could shoulder the cost burden, or assess it to property owners. But those costs are up in the air.

"They're nervous about the cost, because we don't know what it is going to be," Lindemann said of the city. "I'm nervous about the cost because I don't know what it is going to be. But this is early in the process."

He hopes to unveil designs for the drain system in the first quarter of 2016.

The drain work is considered essential in improving the conditions of the Red Cedar and drain systems in that area and has been cited as a key piece of the infrastructure work necessary to attract the proposed Red Cedar Renaissance project, which would include hotels, retail space and apartments. Lindemann said the drain work will move forward whether the Renaissance project does or not. The two, he said, don't rely on each other to proceed. But they are mutually beneficial, with the drain work addressing water issues and potential pollution, and

the development benefitting from park-like infrastructures that also serve a public good in cleaning runoff water.

Lindemann has previously achieved great cost savings by using natural processes to filter out pollution. The price tag for the Tollgate Project, if he had run traditional underground pipe and moved the water from the area, would have been about \$24 million. It ultimately cost just about \$6.5 million.

The former Red Cedar Golf Course was built on a wetland, and as a result, Lindemann said he wants to restore about 6 acres of the area to original wetlands.

"This project clearly presents an opportunity to improve the quality of life and flood management for Lansing's citizenry while protecting precious wetland resources," Lindemann wrote to MDEQ officials Friday in a letter responding to the concerns from the city.

—Todd Heywood



POWER

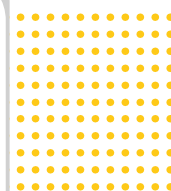
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Champs and chumps

Lansing, East Lansing voters reject dirty politics

For such a minor election, the balloting last week offers some worthwhile takeaways.

It is clear that voters in Lansing and East Lansing rejected heavy-handed tactics designed to influence their votes. In both cities, the Council races were shaped by unusually partisan campaigns. Apparently civility still matters in mid-Michigan.

In Lansing, the secretive Capital Region Progress operation allied with Mayor Virg Bernero waged a well funded, bitter attack against newcomer Adam Hussain and his mother, incumbent First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington.

Washington has tangled with Bernero over his administration's lack of transparency (a charge sadly reinforced by his alliance with the shadowy Capitol Region Progress), long overdue city pay raises and support for more rationale marijuana policies. The Capitol Region Progress/Bernero pitch to voters was that Hussain, a Waverly Middle School teacher, would reflect his mother's political position — a not unreasonable assumption.

But there are always factions in politics. What the attack campaign did was make it personal. Voters rejected the strident



MICKY HIRTEN

campaign and perhaps the secrecy. As in previous elections, most notably the sleazy campaign in 2014 to unseat Ingham County Commissioner Deb Nolan, Capitol Region Progress and Bernero overplayed their hand. If Hussain is anything like Bernero, he won't forget the slights. The mayor wouldn't.

Post election, Capitol Region Progress will slink back into its tax-exempt 501(c)4 "nonprofit" crevice. It refuses to discuss its leadership and financial backers, laundering its politicking through the ill-used tax-exempt education loophole.

As for Bernero, who won't deny affiliation with Capitol Progress Lansing, he can move to another fight, which he likes. It's not necessarily a bad quality for a mayor, but picking the right battles is important. And as the results indicate, this was a bad call.

Bernero backed Third Ward incumbent Councilwoman A'Lynne Boles, whose reelection campaign was tarred by a series of reports about lawsuits, shaky finances and questionable claims. Reporting by City Pulse reporter Todd Heywood detailed lawsuits that Boles denied, and campaign claims about her votes and support for projects that simply weren't true.

The vote for the Third Ward seat was close, 1,441- 1,369 for Hussain. To no one's benefit, the bitter campaign waged by Capitol Region Progress/Bernero launches the new Council term on a needlessly discordant note.

In East Lansing, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce waded into the

Council races with a mailer that attacked challenger Erik Altmann, citing his work on the city's Planning Commission that it views as anti-growth.

It endorsed three candidates, two of whom won: Former Mayor and State Rep. Mark Meadows, East Lansing most professional politician, an easy choice; and Shanna Draheim, who along with the nod received a \$2,500 contribution. The Chamber wanted East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett, but voters didn't. He placed fourth, losing to Altmann 2,212-1,955.

Meadows, with his long history in East Lansing politics, characterized the Chamber's attack campaign as unprecedented, specifically "misleading, amateurish and ill-advised," according a report by Eastlansinginfo.org. The Chamber also contributed \$2,500 to the Boles' bid. Another loss. Another bad call.

The Chamber and its PAC are at a disadvantage promoting their generally sound pro-business agenda. Members won't dirty their hands in the messy business of local government. Rather, the Chamber must empower mercenaries to do its bidding. You don't find the group's leadership — representing business like Jackson National Life Insurance Co., law firm Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith P.C. or the consulting firm Kandler Reed Khoury & Muchmore — standing for election. Too much time; too little compensation.

Taxpayers in outlying communities were willing to pass renewal millages. Olivet voters renewed the schools operating millage. Vermontville Township voters decided to

retain ambulance service and renewed that millage. But sinking fund millages in Charlotte and Eaton Rapids failed. The Eaton Rapids vote was so close — 1,175 yes / 1,178 no — that a recount is pending. Investing in education remains a hard sell.

Ohio's marijuana legalization proposal failed, in large part because it would have created a supplier monopoly for the 10 growers who funded the ballot initiative. Voters in Michigan are expected to vote on legalization in 2016 and the proposals circulating have no such provision.

Finally, if you marvel at the thousands who turn out for Donald Trump pep rallies or question the support for the incomprehensible positions advanced by Ben Carson, the leading Republican presidential primary candidates, the reelection bids by Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat are proof that it's impossible to underestimate voters.

Trying to reclaim their House seats after the bizarre sex scandal and cover-up that drove them from office, both proclaimed that the will of the voters rather than political elites should determine their fate. Yet another bad call.

They were thoroughly beaten: Courser received just 4 percent of votes cast; Gamrat got 9 percent.

But here's the takeaway. Four hundred and fifteen people in Courser's district and 962 in Gamrat's still considered them the best candidates to represent their interests. Clearly, it's possible to campaign on adultery and lies. But you can't win. At least not this year.

Values issue

Employee pay a mystery

At area banks, credit unions

I suspect that few folks reading this don't have an account at a bank or credit union. I belong to two credit unions.

Credit unions differ from traditional private banks in that they are member owned. This makes it all the more interesting that when I wrote the credit unions I am a member of to ask how we pay our employees, I received no initial response. I asked for three simple figures:

- What is the minimum beginning wage for a full-time employee?
- What is the median salary of all employees (the amount that 50 percent of employees make more or less than)?
- What is the wage ratio from the bottom to the top?

I looked at their websites before I sent this request, but there is almost no information about how either credit union compensates its employees. I thought OK, I



TERRY LINK

can see where they may not want to share with the larger public, but I was taken back that they wouldn't share this information with its members/owners.

Now the genesis for this query comes from the physical expansion of both credit unions, which are both statewide entities. Members seem to have no say in the decision-making that goes into this, even though we are member owners? There is little if any transparency in the decision process. The boards has no minutes shared or posted of their deliberations. And in only one case is there even any slim excuse for a financial statement that might allow a member to judge if the expenditures for expansion are warranted.

In the midst of this query into local banking, I tripped upon a new web site <http://banklocal.info/>. This site allows you to type in your city and see a rating of local financial institutions and how they rank. They use seven criteria pulled from publicly available data: 1) Small Business Lending, 2) HQ Location, 3) Bank Branch Concentration, 4) Ownership Type, 5) Bank Size, 6) Small Farm and Agricultural Lending, and 7) Speculative Trading. They then aggregate scores and rank banks according to their impact on the locale. The scoring system is spelled out, so one can decide if the scoring

reflects one's own values.

Lansing has a number of institutions that score STRONG, the highest rating. Neither of my credit unions made that category, coming in as MODERATE. This was somewhat surprising because credit unions and mutual savings banks get an extra point over shareholder-owned banks. Of course, as I mentioned, one can take issue with the criteria selected in this rating system. But the more important issue for this credit union member is, does the place where I bank align with my values. It wasn't that long ago when we were looking to refinance our home after interest rates fell that we went shopping for a new mortgage. Universally the loan officers we approached and asked how their funds were invested were surprised that we would ask such a question. I mean, after all, isn't this activity only about money and the best deal for me? Why should we be concerned about whether the bank invests most of its money out of state as long as my interest rate stays low?

Three of the rating criteria used by Bank Local are around what they do with the money we lend them — do they lend to small business; do they lend to small farms; and do they engage in speculative trading. The website allows

you to see how each bank/credit union scores in each criteria. It's not the most complete transparency that I would like when choosing a financial institution to do business with, but it's certainly adds some perspective to consider. I still want to know how they share the wealth within the business, thus my three-part question. I'm ready to move my accounts to a financial institution willing to tell me what my money is doing for others. Is there any bank or credit union in this community that is willing to do so? I decided to try one of the STRONG rated credit unions in the area, asking my three questions, indicating that I was shopping for a new home to house my finances. I was promptly and politely informed by the VP of human resources for that credit union, that while they were very proud of their treatment of employees they would not disclose this information to me.

Thinking that this might be a reasonable response to a non-member, I replied asking if I would be able to get this information if I became a member. I'm still waiting for responses. My search for a credit union to bank with continues.

(Terry Link, the founding director of the Office of Sustainability at Michigan State University, is a consultant.)

PUBLIC DISPLAY

PUBLIC ART IS POPPING UP ALL OVER LANSING — BUT WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

By **TY FORQUER**

Lansing's relationship with public art can be best summarized in Facebook terms: It's complicated.

The city's biggest public art project — both in terms of size and price tag — was the sprawling "This Equals That" by renowned artist Michael Heizer. The \$540,000 project, once referred to as "Lansing's Stonehenge," was the largest sculpture in the United States when it was completed in 1980. In 2001, it was moved to repair the ceiling of the garage below it and was damaged in the process. It was left to rot for years in a state-owned field in Mason. Billionaire Detroit art patron Richard Manoojian rescued the piece, which sits in one of his warehouses — to far gone to be displayed again without major repair, a spokesman for Heizer said.

Lansing's next big public art project came in 2011, with the installation of "Inspiration," a steel ribbon sculpture near the Lansing City Market. A coalition led by former Ingham County judge Michael Harrison raised \$300,000 for the project, which marks Lansing's sesquicentennial. The group originally hoped to put a public art piece at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Washington Square, but pushback from the city relegated the piece to its riverside home.

And while the city has wrestled with its stance on public art, groups throughout Lansing have taken matters into their own

hands.

In recent years, small public art works have popped up all over the city and surrounding communities. New murals decorate formerly blank walls, and sculptures have appeared at prominent intersections. Colorful pianos sit outside downtown bars.

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing even created a smartphone app, 517 ARTsearch, to help Greater Lansing residents discover the hundreds of public art works in the region. The app — available on Apple and Android platforms at 517artsearch.com — uses GPS navigation to guide users to public art locations.

So where is all of this art coming from? The culprits — and their motives — are almost as diverse as the art works themselves.

PUBLIC SERVICE

"I was afraid no one would show up," said Mitch Tomlinson, looking out at a crowd of over 100 people packed into a small tent for the unveiling of "Project Re-stART."

The new public art installation, located



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Students from REACH Studio Art Center's Teen Open Studio pose behind a storm drain mural across the street from its REO Town art studio at 1804 S. Washington Ave.

a neglected parking lot near the intersection of Saginaw Highway and Rosemary Street, is a collaborative project between Peckham's youth services program and MSU's College of Engineering and Residential College in the Arts and Humanities. Tomlinson, president and CEO of Peckham Inc., called the project a "three-year journey."

The installation, stretching over 200 feet, comprises a series of 12 mosaicked concrete barricades. Each barricade has a different theme. Some have

messages of hope or inspiration, while others have images inspired by Lansing or MSU. Each barricade also features a pole at each end, and butterfly paintings created by Riddle Elementary students are strung between the poles above the

barri-
cades.

"This was the kids' idea," Tomlinson said. "They wanted something that spoke about the newness of Lansing, about what Lansing could be. It's a hopeful thing."

The "kids" Tomlinson refers to are the youth involved in Peckham's Next Step program, a free second chance program that works with juvenile offenders. Tomlinson said the youth would leave the program inspired but then would get depressed on the way home as they passed empty factories and abandoned industrial sites. The "Project Re-stART" site, a forlorn parking lot no longer adjacent to any extant businesses, seemed like a good place to start.

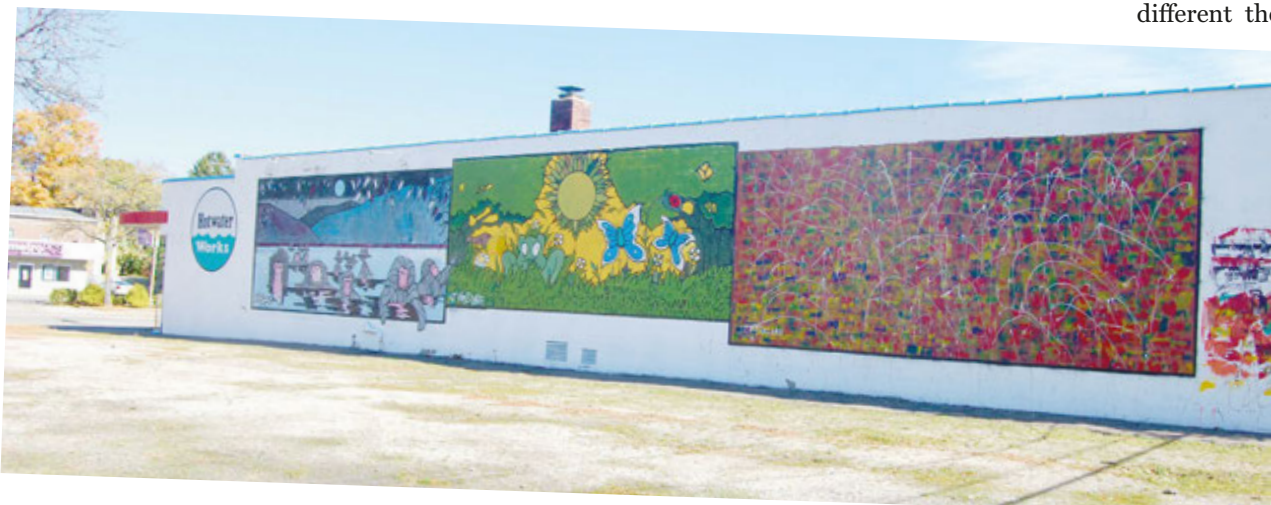
Vincent Delgado, assistant dean for civic engagement at MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, found the installation site entirely appropriate.

"This is a traumatic site," said Delgado, looking out at vast swaths of empty land that once supported Lansing's automotive industry. "It represents the end of a dream for thousands of people."

While Peckham and MSU provided guidance and logistical support, the project, from inception to final product, was driven by the youth. Over the three years, over 100 youth participated in the project.

"The most important thing is that is was

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Ty Forquer/City Pulse

A three-part mural by artists Julian Van Dyke and James McFarland brightens the wall of Lansing's Hotwater Works at 2116 E. Michigan Ave. on Lansing's east side. McFarland also owns the business.

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an inside-out project,” said Delgado. “The people who made the important decisions were the young people. What we really wanted to do is help these youth be leaders in their communities.”

The art itself is rife with metaphors, explained several speakers at the unveiling. The transformed roadblocks represent overcoming life’s obstacles. The broken glass used to make the mosaics represents taking broken things and giving them new life. The butterflies are symbols of metamorphosis.

“Through the years of this partnership, the vision and art mediums morphed from mural paintings to graffiti art to what we have today,” said Sarah Britton, youth programs coordinator at Peckham. “The project displays symbols and messages of hope and resilience and reminds us that no matter what adversities or roadblocks cross our path, we choose to use those moments as learning opportunities and to make something beautiful out of the process.”

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The students in REACH Studio Art Center’s Teen Open Studio class recently learned firsthand about one of public art’s biggest obstacles: the public.

The class partners with local nonprofits to create three public art projects per year. Its most recent project is a series of four sidewalk murals around city storm drains. The goal of the project is to help Lansing residents understand that garbage and pollutants washed down storm drains can end up in Lansing’s rivers and waterways. A few of the murals, which illustrated the

ugliness of trash and pollution, raised the ire of passers-by.

“It made a point. It stood out,” said Ripley Olsen. “We didn’t want to sugarcoat it.”

Ripley, 15, is one of the teens who helped to create the murals. Initially, she was disappointed in the reaction to the murals.

“We learned that there will be people who dislike your art, even though you worked so hard on it,” she said.

Through the ordeal, the students learned about compromise and education. One mural, situated on the River Trail near the City Market, was redesigned to address public concerns. In another instance, locals were concerned about the look of an unfinished mural.

“It looked so ugly before it was finished,” said Colby Castillo, 14. “Explaining the piece helped them understand what was going on.”

Colby said that educational murals are a great way to get across a complicated message in a simple way.

“People are very impressionable,” he said. “Art can really affect how they think about things.”

Joy Baldwin, program director for REACH, uses these nonprofit partnerships to teach teens about issues that face their communities. For the storm drain project, she brought in officials from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the Eaton Conservation District, the Watershed Coordinator, the Greater Lansing Regional Committee and the City of Lansing to talk to the students.

“I let the professionals handle the education,” Baldwin said.

She went on to explain that education provides students with the motivation to go out into the community and create the works.

“The teens realize the importance of the

i s -



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Local artist Julian Van Dyke touches up his Jerusalem mural on the side of east-side Lansing’s Jerusalem Bakery at 1456 E. Michigan Ave.

sues,” she said. “They work hard because they care.”

Since 2012, the Teen Open Studio has executed 15 public art projects resulting in 33 works of art spread across 12 locations. Other recent partnerships include a “bottle rocket” sculpture at Impression 5 Science Center and a pair of murals at the Women’s Center of Greater Lansing. Baldwin said that the Women’s Center murals, especially the colorful mural on its west wall, have already made a difference in the community’s awareness of the agency.

“Before, the building was kind of invisible,” she said. “Now so many people walk in just to see what’s going on there.”

Alissa Ledesma, 16, worked on the murals at the Women’s Center. Through the project, she also learned about the services the center offers.

“It’s awesome that there’s somewhere like that,” she said. “I didn’t know there was a group like that supporting women.”

PUBLIC IMAGE

In recent years, the funding for several Greater Lansing art projects has come from a source with a decidedly un-artistic name: the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. A public/private partnership dedicated to fostering economic growth, LEAP may seem like an unlikely ally of the push for public art. But Bob Trezise, president and CEO of LEAP, thinks art is an important part of presenting Greater Lansing as a 21st century city.

“Our bottom-line goal is to make sure everyone under-

stands we’re a global community competing in a global economy,” Trezise said. “We need to have a sophisticated, cosmopolitan image.”

Trezise said that many local business are recruiting recent graduates, who are often leaving culture-rich college towns. Other businesses are trying to lure top talent away from cosmopolitan cities like London or Stockholm.

“We have to help businesses recruit and retain global talent,” Trezise said, citing MSU’s FRIB facility, Jackson National Life and Techsmith as local organizations seeking employees on an international level. “They’re recruiting global candidates — and their families. They want to see an environment that is like the one they’re leaving.”

Since 2012, LEAP has invested \$110,000 in 11 public art projects in Greater Lansing. This year, it unveiled the new “Greetings from Lansing” mural near the corner of Michigan Avenue and Cedar Street, as well as sculptures in Grand Ledge and St. Johns. The funding comes from LEAP investors; no tax dollars are used.

“We haven’t heard of another economic agency doing this,” said Sara Parkinson, LEAP’s director of talent and communication. “Our members love the program.”

Parkinson oversees LEAP’s placemaking efforts, which include the public art grants. The grants are relatively small for public art projects, just \$10,000 per project. Some communities have turned to other grants or crowdsourcing campaigns to augment the LEAP funding. St. Johns used its LEAP grant to create a sculpture, unveiled last week, to accompany its crowd-funded community splash park. The city broke ground on the splash park the same day as the sculpture unveiling.

“The art grants are a carrot,” explained Trezise. “We’re trying to introduce the im-

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Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Storm drain murals, like this one outside Old Town’s Sir Pizza Grand Cafe at 201 E. Grand River Ave., are designed to show how trash washed down storm drains ends up in rivers and waterways.

ART

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portance of the arts into communities.”
 “They’re figuring out where to get their funding,” added Parkinson. “We get them to think about it. Eight or nine communities have adopted public art policies or started local arts councils because of the program.”

The City of East Lansing, which was awarded a LEAP grant in 2014 to help fund the installation of six creative bike racks, recently instituted a Percent for Art ordinance to codify and fund the purchase and maintenance of the city’s public art. The ordinance sets aside 1 percent of the budget for any city capital improvement projects for a public art fund. Any new private developments must include a public art component to its design, with the cost being at least 1 percent of the total project cost up to \$25,000. Alternatively, developers may omit the public art component by donating 1 percent of the to-



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Despite the rainy weather, over 100 people came out for the unveiling of “Project Re-stART,” a public art collaboration spearheaded by Peckham Inc. and MSU.

tal project cost, up to \$25,000, to the public art fund. The East Lansing Arts Commission oversees the fund. Ami Van Antwerp, communications coordinator for the city, said that the ordinance raised \$11,500 for public art in its first year. She expects that figure to

be higher next year as developers wrap up significant East Lansing projects.

The City of Lansing considered a similar proposal last year, but it was defeated in City Council. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero opposed the measure.

PUBLIC GOOD

Other public art projects are just for fun. This spring, local artist and Capital Area Blues Society board member Larry Grudt placed nine artist-decorated pianos throughout Lansing and East Lansing. Last month, local artist Julian Van Dyke wrapped up two outdoor mural projects before the weather turns cold.

“(The idea to make the murals) came from what the Arts Council (of Greater Lansing) was talking about, beautifying the city,” he said. “I try to do work to get people’s attention.”

Van Dyke’s newest murals, both on Michigan Avenue, adorn the sides of two local businesses. The first, a triptych on the side of Hotwater Works, was a collaboration with James McFarland, the business’ owner and a fellow painter. That project led to the second opportunity.

“The owner of Jerusalem Bakery saw the mural at Hotwater Works and asked me to make one for him,” said Van Dyke.

The Jerusalem Bakery mural depicts the skyline of the bakery’s namesake city, including its distinctive city walls and the prominent golden peak of the Dome of the Rock. Van Dyke loves that thousands of people traveling the busy Michigan Avenue corridor will be able to see his work.

“Artists want their work to be seen,” he said. “I get the best deal because there’s so much traffic on Michigan Avenue.”

Van Dyke believes that mural projects and public art can make a neighborhood feel safer and more inviting. While he was working, many people stopped to take pictures or compliment the murals. Even Bernero stopped by to snap some photos. Van Dyke said he’s glad to see so much public support, and he is excited about all of the public art projects popping up in Greater Lansing.

“There’s not enough art to go around,” he said. “We need more of it.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT: MID MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT

SITE: 730 W. MAPLE ST.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

OWNER: Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy

Sealed bids from Contractors for the Project must be received no later than **November 24, 2015 by 1:30 p.m.** by Owner at Ingham ISD, Thorburn Education Center, 2630 W. Howell Rd., Mason, MI 48854, where they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after this time will not be considered or accepted. Bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the Academy’s Board of Education or Superintendent. Complete Project details, contact information, drawings, specifications and addenda may be obtained on or about **November 9, 2015** from www.buy4michigan.com.

A **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Inspection** of the work premises will be held at the Project site on November 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

CP#15_277

B/16/052— RECYCLE RAMA E WASTE RECYCLING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING/PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR. LANSING, MI. 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on NOV. 19, 2015, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 or go to www.mitn.info

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15_273

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Rezoning #00150

Date introduced: November 3, 2015
 Nature of the ordinance: A request to rezone approximately 1.18 acres addressed as 4660 Marsh Road from RC (Multiple Family-Medium Density) to PO (Professional and Office).
 Full text available at: Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
 Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct.
 Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street
 Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
 Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue
 The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_275

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On November 4, 2015, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
 Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
 Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
 Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
 Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
 Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
 and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

October 20, 2015 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_276

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Rezoning #15050 Ordinance No. 2015-06

Date passed: November 3, 2015
 Nature of the ordinance: A request to rezone approximately 9.07 acres located north of Grand River Avenue and west of Powell Road (1510 Grand River and adjacent undeveloped parcel) from PO (Professional and Office) to C-2 (Commercial)
 Full text available at: Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
 Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct.
 Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street
 Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
 Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue
 The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_274

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

WHOLE-HOG HALFTIME

HIGH ART TAKES A FLYING WEDGE INTO SPARTAN STADIUM

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Halftime will unfold serenely at Saturday's MSU vs. University of Maryland football game — at first. A lone cellist will waft a tender Chinese melody over the Spartan Stadium turf. A delicate trill from a flute will evoke mist rising at dawn.

The dawn of battle!

An unprecedented mélange of high art, stylized war and sheer spectacle will end some 12 minutes later, with 500 musicians, singers, drummers, dancers and color guard personnel whipping up a sonic and visual tumult, 1,500 people flashing patterned cards in the stands and multi-colored plumes of smoke bursting from dozens of explosive canisters.

There has never been, and may never be, a halftime show like “The Art of the March: Cues from Sun Tzu’s ‘The Art of War.’”

Spartan Marching Band director John Madden has produced themed shows before, including one on Marvel superheroes and a “1965” show that vigorously tromboned the Rolling Stones. But a multimedia extravaganza conceived by an acclaimed New York visual artist, based on an ancient Chinese military treatise, will be a new experience for him — and for the world.

“You can’t do this every week,” Madden deadpanned.

The visual architect of “Art of the March” is Jennifer Wen Ma, a Beijing-born artist based in New York. After 27 years commanding his marching legions from a 30-foot scaffold, Madden is proud to be a color in Ma’s palette.

“Jennifer is a brilliant environmental artist,” Madden said. “Her

stage is Spartan Stadium, filled with people, a band that wears a military uniform and is known for precision, and it’s staged at the halftime of a gridiron battle.”

The mother of all mash-ups was conceived at a June 2015 meeting of MSU’s benign Illuminati of deans and department heads, the Cultural Engagement Council.

Scrambling for a way to crown a year of China-themed events and programs, council member Kurt Dewhurst observed that there’s no bigger stage in these parts than Spartan Stadium. Min Jung Kim, former deputy director of the Broad Art Museum, immediately thought of Ma, a longtime colleague and friend.

Ma has worked on a wild range of proj-

ects, from operas and outdoor festivals to the lighting for Beijing’s stunning National Aquatic Center (aka the “Water Cube”). She’s built a temporary island painted over with ink in the middle of a lake in Brazil, worked on the opening ceremonies in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and specializes in big events where a lot of things happen at once.

But when Kim pitched the halftime idea to Ma, the artist pronounced it “crazy.”

“I know nothing about football and have no affinity to it,” Ma said.

But curiosity is one of Ma’s core principles. Another is to never turn down a chance to reach people. Especially 80,000 people.

She studied up on football and watched films of the MSU Marching Band.

“I was so amazed by the precision of movement, the artistry, the musicianship,” she said.

The discipline and quasi-military feel reminded her of the revered Chinese text, Sun Tzu’s “The Art of War,” a heady mix of military strategy and Eastern philosophy. The prospect of choreographing latter-day Spartan warriors roused deep chords in Ma’s cortex. (Sun Tzu lived in the fifth century B.C., the heyday of ancient Sparta.)

“It was a perfect marriage of elements,” she said.

Usually, Ma takes about a year to plan a big project, but “Art of the March” needed

to come together in half that time. The MSU/Maryland game was chosen because Maryland’s band is not coming to East Lansing, leaving MSU to fill the entire halftime break.

While Ma worked out the show’s visuals, Madden delved into research on Chinese music that could be spectacularly, but respectfully, tromboned.

He came up with a five-movement suite, starting with the music of Tan Dun, a leading Chinese composer known in the West for his epic movie scores.

“It worked beautifully with the visual narrative I imagined,” Ma said.

“If this were an opera, Jen is writing the libretto,” Madden said. “We’re stealing the music from other composers and Jen is creating the seamless storyline thread that we don’t typically do in a halftime



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Music major Eugene Wilson rehearses a taiko drum part for Saturday’s halftime performance.

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Band

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show.”

The thread evokes “a day in the life of a Spartan,” in Ma’s words, beginning with morning mist, or “the dust of a previous battle.”

MSU cello Professor Suren Bagratuni and Lansing Symphony principal flutist Richard Sherman will gently set the mood. James Forger, the dean of MSU’s College of Music and one of the halftime show’s biggest boosters, likes the idea of sending football fans and classical musicians into a forced scrimmage.

“I don’t think Suren’s ever been to a football game, and now he’ll be playing for 76,000 people,” Forger said. It’s a good bet many of the fans have never heard a cello at halftime before, either.

Columns of smoke, along with projected video images, will appear at first in stark black and white, representing the clash of opposing forces. As conflict plays out in the music and choreography, more colors will blossom.

“It’s not about good and evil,” Ma said. “‘The Art of War’ is about balance, about conflict resolution.”

The first three parts of the show are set to Tan Dun’s score from the heroic/poetic martial arts films “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” and “Hero.” The music, which Madden called “angst-filled, chaotic and warlike,” whips up a lot of martial drum-



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Spartan Marching Band Director John Madden and artist Jennifer Wen Ma explain the vision of the show to the band at Monday afternoon’s rehearsal.

ming and drilling, set to geometrically intricate battle formations,

“There’s a lot of masculine energy,” Ma said.

The fourth part is set to the wild “Dance of the Golden Snake,” a traditional Chinese tune that whips to and fro with a delirious party feel.

“Then the evening deepens and romance sets in,” Ma said.

A revered Chinese melody, “The Jasmine Flower,” is the heart and soul of the show. Madden said “Jasmine Flower”

touches Chinese people much the way “Amazing Grace” moves Americans.

“It’s not a patriotic tune that connects people, it’s deeper than that,” he said.

Last week, the marching band’s only Chinese student, supply chain management major Luyi Han, stood in front of his 250 bandmates at Madden’s behest and told them “Jasmine Flower” was one of the first melodies he heard as a child.

Finally, the trumpet sounds and it’s time for battle. All the elements of the show are brought back, and then some.

Four guys saxes and fries

Oddball, awesome music energizes all-American night at the LSO
By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Lansing Symphony Orchestra concerts routinely exude power, nobility and lyricism. Eccentricity? Not so much. Weirdness? Hardly ever.

Saturday’s unorthodox all-American slate zapped a new muscle in the audience’s collective brain with its featured work, a concerto for four saxophones and orchestra by Ann Arbor composer William Bolcom.

The oily sound of four saxophones, floating around like a rainbow-colored slick on the familiar orchestral lake, was enough to knock you off base from the start.

The concerto is full of old-timey music, cleverly deconstructed — fitting for hipster-infested Ann Arbor — without puncturing the ham and losing the juice. In the first movement, a corny tune with a Roaring ‘20s feel was slowed down, sped up and corkscrewed in numerous amusing ways.

More than once, soloists Joe Lulloff, Jim Forger, Griffin Campbell and Chris Crevis-

ton made their entrance in sequence, like the Three Stooges doing their famous “hello-hello-hello” salutation.

Generally speaking, when classical composers try to be funny, it’s time to run for the hills. But Bolcom’s concerto uses slapstick touches like a dentist uses gas: to relax you so he can go to work. The sax quartet, maestro Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra worked like mad to bring out every detail of Bolcom’s cubist, polystylistic canvas, turning on a dime dozens of times without making it seem like work.

After a lot of back-and-forth bustle, the music settled into a lovely but truly bizarre lullaby that made me wonder what was in that happy gas. Thickening their tone to the viscosity of Venusian molasses, the quartet played three loving notes, suggesting the words “go to sleep.” The restless, undulating harmony suggested a mama squid singing to her baby at the bottom of the ocean. Around this tender scene, alternating icy and warm currents emanated from the strings and brass, with seaweed-like woodwind trills, bubbles of percussion and other bits of weirdness.

The third movement had a old-fashioned, Gregory-Peck-walking-down-Main-Street feeling, punctuated by circus and parade-like fits, starts and interruptions. (It was a nice setup for the next composer on

the slate, Leonard Bernstein, the master of exuberant self-interruption.)

Finally, with headlong energy and perfect timing, the quartet divvied a pseudo-bebop riff into a Bach-like fugue that almost immediately spiraled out of control and infected the whole orchestra.

A second, far more relaxed melody skirted the edge of sincerity and parody so brazenly the effect is impossible to describe. OK, here goes: It sounded like a Philco radio playing the old standard “It’s Almost Like Falling In Love,” while being tossed around in the mud by a curious baby elephant.

Through it all, the quartet warbled, wobbled and wriggled with a collective charisma that went off the charts. Tenor man Lulloff seemed to be the chief instigator, leaning forward to put the music over, turning to his colleagues to egg them on, raising his eyebrows in a lascivious manner when needed. Forger, on alto, brought a sneaker humor and an inexhaustible spectrum of tone colors. Crevison on soprano and Campbell on baritone were deep in the voo-voo zone, holding up the high and low ends with aplomb.

The novelty of the Bolcom piece, and its thorough workover from Muffitt and the crew, should not obscure the evening’s biggest triumph: an energized, towering, profound performance of Samuel Barber’s First

“It’s very loud, there will be a lot of cacophony,” Ma said. “Ultimately there is a resolution. It’s a very powerful ending.”

To complement the music and movement, MSU’s Color Guard and dancers will wrangle a giant piece of PVC pipe loaded with 36 smoke canisters that will produce a multicolor smoke-and-light show, a Ma specialty.

“We have approval from the fire marshal,” Madden said.

Meanwhile, old-fashioned card blocks wielded by 1,500 spectators in the east side of the stadium will flash in the stands. Madden has never seen card blocks used in his 27 years at MSU, although they were used back in the day to flash images of team mascots such as Gophers or Longhorns.

As they huddled to plan the spectacle, Ma was impressed by Madden’s openness to experimentation. She also credited other MSU partners in the project, such as the Broad Art Museum and the College of Music, for “meeting people where they are.”

“I love working in galleries and museums, where you’re very protected and supported. But you’re speaking to very few who (already) understand what you’re doing,” Ma said. “Going out of the white box and meeting people where they play, where they work, is very important for an artist.”

When the smoke dissipates, Madden is looking forward to actually reading “The Art of War.”

“Someday, when I have time, I’m going to get my hands on the English translation, hunker down and get into it,” he said.

Symphony. Damn, they managed to sneak in that power, nobility and lyricism after all.

Best of all, Muffitt gave the Barber an exhilarating, sea-spray feel of adventure. Every player seemed locked into the score and swept up in the music’s power.

In one of many compelling moments, each section of the orchestra bleeped a staccato, telegraph-like message to the other. The message was picked up by ever larger masses of instruments, like an alarm building to panic. Suddenly, the whole orchestra widened and flattened to a single low note, like an indigo ocean horizon, across which Jan Eberle took glorious sail with a gorgeous, extended oboe solo. There followed another majestic buildup, a pensive ebb of the tide, and a crowning, furious storm surge, with flecks of foam, lightning and a mighty undertow. With apologies to Leonard Slatkin and everybody else who has recorded this piece, Saturday’s performance was the by far the strongest I’ve ever heard.

The evening finale, three dances from Bernstein’s “On the Town,” started raggedly, with a few timing glitches and an overall pallor. Just when I began to wonder if the orchestra had blown its wad with the superb Barber and Bolcom blowouts, the music jumped to life in the third part, another all-American mess of restless, skyscraping city life.

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Through African eyes 'Material Effects' takes a close look at the things around us

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If things are meant to be used and thrown away, why do they keep coming back?

"Material Effects," a two-gallery display of work by six African artists, peels back the layers of physical things around us — where they come from, what they mean and why our relationship to them is more slippery and mysterious than it seems.

Last week, Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama and a team of 40 assistants spent several days at MSU's Broad Art Museum, sewing and installing "Post No Bill," a 40-foot-high, 80-foot-wide curtain-like sculpture made of hundreds of jute (burlap) sacks.

The humble sacks are a staple of material exchange in Africa, widely used in the cocoa, coal, retail and other trades. Mahama barter for bags that are too frayed or stained to use, stockpiles them and builds what Broad Museum guest curator Yesomi Umolu calls "monumental sculptural interventions."

It's a strong intervention, especially in the ultra-sleek Broad Museum. The rough weave, dirty colors and saggy folds of Mahama's itchy aurora of burlap seem to repudiate the pristine glass and steel behind it. The bags are displayed with all their holes and imperfections, sharpening the contrast.

The art of "Material Effects" works on several levels. You can simply take in all the textures and colors, pondering the origin and creation of each object. Or you can dig deeper, even into the realm of philosophy.

Otobong Nkanga, an artist based in Europe but still rooted in her native Nigeria, traces the history of the kola nut from its native origin in the African rain forest, through its use in soft drinks and

other consumer products in the West. The mixed media work, "Contained Measures of a Kolanut," includes photos, depicting everything from chemical diagrams to commercial uses, as well as actual kola nuts and kola nut extract to represent the nut in its various forms.

"Wherever you are in the globe, our primary relationship to things are as commodities," Umolu said. "You have your clothing, your phone, and they're all about expressing status and wealth through the things we accumulate."

Could things be otherwise? Here the exhibit dives into deep waters.

Umolu explained that the art on display is part of a "broader investigation" going on in the world of philosophy.

The field of philosophy known as "object oriented ontology" recognizes that non-living things have their own existence, apart from any use or meaning they may have to people.

Just because people are done hauling coal in those sacks doesn't mean the sacks disappear. The jute has its own existence, apart from people. Now it's art. In a year it may be in a landfill.

When Umolu visited Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria early this year, she found a rich and sophisticated art scene that draws upon this idea.

"I saw artists who were re-appropriating objects and thinking about the material world and its significance in contemporary life," Umolu said. For "Material Effects," she chose to work with six artists — one from Senegal, three from Ghana and two from Nigeria.

The godfather of "Material Effects" is Senegalese artist Issa Samb, who started a radical group of artists called Laboratoire Agit'Art in the 1960s. (Samb is seen in a video interview at the entrance to "Material Effects.")

In the mid-20th century, when country after country was declaring independence from European powers, African artists were under pressure to reject all things Western and tap into an idealized pan-African culture. To Samb, there was no such thing.

"There's no singular idea of what it means to be African, or even what it means to be in Senegal," Umolu said. "In Senegal they have all these different tribes, different customs, different languages. Whether or not it was in our control, part of being African is having a hybridized origin."



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

"Post No Bill," Ibrahim Mahama's expansive burlap sack installation, is an intriguing juxtaposition against the Broad's sleek, steel-and-glass design.

Hybridization, the mixing of materials, ethnicities and cultures, is another key pattern woven into "Material Effects."

The message is clear in the sculpture and video work of German/Ghanaian artist Zohra Opoku, a specialist in fashion design. Fabrics offer a vivid screen upon which Opoku projects her mixed African and European heritage.

"She is interested in how the clothes we wear say something about who we are as people," Umolu said.

Samb also looked beyond Africa in the 1960s, drawing on surrealism, Dada and other European modernist movements. At his famous "courtyard" studio/colony in Dakar, he used found objects to create ever-changing installations and encouraged performances, discussions and happenings of all kinds.

Samb's spirit influenced the younger artists of "Material Effects" by showing, in Umolu's words, that "African art can be contemporary."

"It can borrow from indigenous forms,

but it can also be very new and very radical," Umolu said.

There is a temptation to fall back on stereotypes when viewing "Material Effects," just as Western observers of Africa have done for centuries. Looking at all those sagging, threadbare jute sacks, some viewers may see a veiled message of protest from an exhausted, exploited continent. But the artists represented in "Material Effects" are getting at something more universal. What does it do to your mind to see every thing in the world as a tool?

Umolu put the question this way: "Do we have a much more intrinsic and essentialized relationship with objects, beyond capital?"

The question is just as valid in Nigeria — where corruption is rampant and "it's every man for himself," in the words of "Material Effects" artist Jelili Atiku — as it is in Europe and America.

Let that percolate while you spin an old tune by hybrid Afro-Cuban/American jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie: "Things Are Here." Indeed they are.



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Otobong Nkanga's "Contained Measures of a Kolanut" traces the kola nut from its roots in African rain forests to its use in soft drinks and other consumer goods.

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CURTAIN CALL

Telling it like it is Powerful play tells the story of Lansing's veterans

By PAUL WOZNIAK

It's so simple: interview a group of people about their lives and assemble their stories into a script. That's the basic premise and structure of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s latest production, "Telling: Lansing." But the production has an emotional depth that transcends the project's simplicity.

"Telling: Lansing"

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 -
Saturday, Nov. 14; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15
\$15/\$10 veteran, student
or senior
Miller Performing Arts
Center
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
(517) 927-3016,
peppermintcreek.org

Max Rayneard, playwright and co-founder of the Telling Project, interviewed

eight military veterans and family members of veterans from the Lansing area about their experiences and wove their accounts into a fascinating and powerful collage of bravery, sorrow and pride. Combined with staging, lights and sound, the result is a must-see experience for veterans and civilians alike.

Part of the emotional power in "Telling: Lansing" comes from the fact that the stories are real and they're told by the people who lived them. Their experiences weave through every foreign war and conflict since World War II. Each story is rich with details, and many are stranger and more incredible than fiction.

Near the beginning of the production, Vietnam veteran Jim Dunn, who served as an artillery officer, talks about "calling in the artillery" for the first time and the experience of being shot out of the sky by enemy machine guns. Jason Evans, who served as a lawyer in the biggest military prison in Afghanistan, recalls the cultural whiplash of going from a desert war zone to meeting up with his wife for a two-week vacation.

"I went from Afghanistan to Disney World," he says.

Another important aspect is the theatrical format. The script moves like a play, complete with actors recreating memories from their own lives. A giant screen behind the actors displaying their pictures and letters gives the feel of a Ken Burns documentary on stage. Slick, yet sparing lighting and sound design from Joseph Dickson completes the illusion of being there. When Army and Navy veteran David L. Dunckel recounts his Humvee driving over an I.E.D., the sound of an explosion rips through the speakers, and the screen turns white. The effect gives the audience a taste of Dunckel's terror in that moment.

The combined experiences unfold chron-

ologically, starting with WWII and ending with the conflict in Afghanistan. Because the script isn't advancing a single narrative, each individual gets a chance to show how their experiences shaped them. (For the full experience, be sure to stick around for the talkback after every show.)

Most of the actors are brand new to the stage, but you can hardly tell. The stories are so rich and real that you forget they're reading a script. When Jodi Hancock remembers her father dying from cancer related to Agent Orange exposure just a week before she turned 13, it's clear she's back in her 12-year-old self again.

"He went in for exploratory surgery and they found cancer in every major organ of his body," she says, obviously holding back tears.

Director Blake Bowen keeps the staging simple and clear. There's no clunky blocking to trip up the actors, but their movement physically ties each story to the next. Most important, there's no preaching or politics to be found. Just honesty, humanity and an unbreakable sense of duty.

Leave the dead alone 'Ghost: The Musical' doesn't resurrect the movie's magic

By TODD HEYWOOD

A fantastic musical has songs that you want to learn, characters you keep thinking about long after the curtain falls and a magic that can transform a world-view. But when a musical fails, it usually fails spectacularly.

"Ghost: The Musical"

Owosso Community Players
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14; 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15
\$20/\$18 seniors and students/\$10 children 13 and under
The Lebowsky Center
122 E. Main St., Owosso
(909) 723-4003,
owossoplayers.com

Case in point, "Ghost: The Musical." This trite, easily forgotten musical played on Broadway for only 136 shows for a reason. It has nothing one expects from a breakout musical. The music, which should be front-and-center and drive the whole production, is bland at best. The lyrics are simplistic. The characters are one-dimensional and emotionally flat. That's a huge set of problems that the Owosso Community Players set about to overcome. Sadly, the group's efforts ultimately fall flat.

The story is pretty simple. Molly Jensen (Mary Mauer) is in love with Sam Wheat (Adam Woolsey) and vice versa. A tragic robbery gone bad leaves Sam dead. Sam's ghost, still roaming the earth, discovers a plot by his best friend, Carl Bruner (Joe Quick), to gain access to Sam's client's bank accounts. Apparently Carl had hidden drug dealers' cash

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Curtain Call

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in those accounts, and the bill had come due.

With a weak script that provides virtually no time for the audience to emotionally connect with Sam and Molly, the actors are left with the job of presenting a fully realized and blossoming romance before they ever set foot on the stage. Woolsey and Mauer fail spectacularly at this. What ought to sizzle as a playful, loving relationship instead plods about on the stage. Their emotional lives are completely flat.

Quick's Carl is so close to the stereotypical "bad guy" that you expect a moustache twirling hand gesture whenever he is on stage. While the three leads deliver uninspiring acting performances, they did deliver outstanding vocal performances — when they weren't being hampered by poor microphone work.

The only performance that makes this production worth the time is that of Jenise Cook as Oda Mae Brown, the psychic that Sam enlists to deliver his posthumous warnings about Carl to Molly. Despite having the worst technical support — her microphone cut in and out — Cook rooted her character in something authentic. Here was a real person, in extraordinary circumstances, responding as such. Her character was over the top, but you buy every second of it.

The chorus, under the musical direction of Nick Fredrick, also underperformed. They

were rarely in time with each other and often fighting to be heard over each other. This made Oda Mae's big song, "I'm Outta Here," crash and burn. Cook was not able to overcome the clumsy, unfocused chorus to deliver the powerhouse, show-stopping moment the number deserved.

Much of the blame for the show's shortcomings must fall at the feet of director Lyn Freeman. A stronger director, with a more deft hand, might have been able to push the actors for stronger emotional performances, demand the chorus work as one and cut out the technical issues which plagued the show.

Irish eyes are smiling 'The Colleen Bawn' brings Celtic charm to LCC stage

By TOM HELMA

Aye! Begorra! In Lansing Community College's latest theater production, faculty member Andy Callis deftly directs a talented team of artisans and actors through a rousing resurrection of the clunky 1860s era Irish melodrama,

"The Colleen Bawn"

LCC Theatre Program
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13-Saturday,
Nov. 14; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15
\$15/\$10 seniors and LCC
staff/\$5 students
Dart Auditorium
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showinfo

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Photo by Kevin W. Fowler

Actors Zach Riley (left) and Sarah Wilke play a couple caught between social classes in 19th century Ireland in "The Colleen Bawn."

"The Colleen Bawn," written by playwright Dion Boucicault.

Set designer Sara Perline both shrinks and restrains the massive, stretched-out Dart Auditorium stage, building a pair of three-story abstract edifices worthy of a Greek tragedy. Each side of the set reflects a separate social and economic class — and the gap between those classes.

The story line of "The Colleen Bawn" is, however, more Shakespeare than Greek tragedy. Duplicity and deceit are everywhere, and things are not entirely what they seem. Can love prevail and overcome class differences? (Of course it can. This is theater, after all.)

The singing and dancing, which kick off the show and are peppered throughout, are substantial, and the acting is crisp with great stage movement.

Sarah Wilke, as the titular Colleen Bawn, plays a woman of modest means marrying up to a higher social class. She is appropriately soft and demure, but also determined. Her upper class counterpart, Anna Chute (Hanna Feuka), displays a brusque and feisty haughtiness of character. Their contrasting characterizations balance each other well.

Supporting actors, complete with lilting brogues, bring a lot of texture to their roles, and creative costuming by Kate Hudson Koskinen captures the play's Irish spirit. Ian Whipp, in the role of the manservant Danny Mann, and Dustin Dikes, in the role of pettifogging attorney Mr. Corrigan, turn in noteworthy performances. Boris Nikolovski, in the role of Myles, sings, dances and acts with great animation, owning the stage. Choreographer Lauren Mudry shows an impressive knowledge of Irish dance, with several characters executing complex dance moves.

Callis has a knack for finding obscure, little known plays to bring to the LCC stage, providing educational experiences for both the audience and to the student perform-

ers. "The Colleen Bawn" is no exception. We all get to learn new things, as well as take in some good entertainment.

Unremarkable view Small-town charm falls flat in 'The View From Here'

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Sometimes theater companies pick plays based on logistics. Ixion Theatre's production of "The View From Here," by playwright Margaret Dulaney, feels like such a show. The content is broad and unchallenging, the cast is small and the set is simple. Add in a cast and crew of mixed skill levels, and the resulting production isn't bad, but it's not memorable.

Set somewhere in the mid-'80s in small-town Kentucky, Fern (Rachel Mender), a 30-year-old with self-diagnosed agoraphobia, runs a daycare for babies. When Fern wins a microwave oven from the local Super Krogers, with a condition that she must claim the prize in person, she must decide whether

"The View from Here"

Ixion Theatre
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14;
7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15
\$15

Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 775-4246,
ixiontheatre.com

to confront her fears or stay home. Eccentric neighbors Carla (Miranda Hartmann) and Arnold (Jeff Croff) and her younger sister Maple (Cassie Little) complete the cast, providing comic relief and guidance to Fern. As an actor, Mender never appears to be completely in the play. She delivers her opening monologue, and virtually every line, to the audience like a meta-confessional. It's not until the second act that you realize she's supposedly talking to the baby in the crib behind her. Her energy, timing and loose Southern accent are serviceable, but mugging to the audience means that she rarely connects with her fellow actors. The rest of the cast resists the urge to deliver every line to the audience, but they rarely gel as an ensemble.

As far as laughs, Hartmann and Croff get the best lines. Hartmann's Carla is like a servant for macabre news anecdotes, delivering lines like, "Did he call three times? Sign of a rapist," or "This reminds me about the story with this serial killer."

Hartmann's deadpan delivery of each morbid fantasy adds a welcome layer of dark levity. Croff's Arnold is just mopey and clueless, but Croff imbues his delivery with warmth and heart. Little gets a few moments to shine, particularly when Maple breaks out of her catatonic spell and screams.

The show's technical elements (not credited in the script) are distractingly low budget at times. The stage lights never completely black out, and they flip on and off like a wall switch, rather than fading in and out. A Cyndi Lauper mix plays on the speaker between sets, presumably to remind the audience of the '80s setting. But some of the props — like tabloid magazines with contemporary covers

— spoil the illusion of the period setting.

To her credit, director Sadonna Croff picked a script with broad humor and Midwest appeal. It's just simple and silly — and unremarkable.

Holiday habits 'Nuncrackers' brings early Christmas fun

By MARY C. CUSACK

Starlight Dinner Theatre knows its target audience, and director Jane Zussman knows how to please them. Its production of "Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical" is a perfect example of giving the people what they want: song and dance, laughs, a little interaction and some lightly bawdy humor.

"Nuncrackers" is one of the nine shows in the "Nonsense" series of musicals. Those who have seen other shows in the series will

recognize familiar characters, including Sister Mary Paul, aka Sister Amnesia (LeAnn Dethlefsen), who has a terrible memory but amazing luck with games of chance, and Sister Robert Anne, played by a highly animated Laura Croff, a straight-tawkin' Brooklynite.

In this installment, the sisters of Mount Saint Helen's Convent are taping a Christmas fundraiser for local cable television. The show is coming together nicely until a Nancy Kerrigan/Tanya Harding-type incident sidelines Sister Mary Leo (Missy Evelten), who has mastered the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy for their version of "The Nutcracker." All heck breaks loose, and shenanigans ensue as the sisters try to one-up each other's performances.

While an audience-participation Secret Santa gift-giving bit slows the action down a bit, the cast more than make up for it with a clever riff on home shopping networks. They

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Dinner and show: \$39/\$36 seniors and students/\$23 children
Show only: \$18/\$17 seniors and students/\$13 children
Sunday matinee (includes dessert bar): \$25/\$18 children
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3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517)-243-6040, starlightdinnertheatre.com

frequently.

The musical performances fall all over the emotional spectrum, from funny to tear-jerkingly poignant. “Twelve Days Prior to Christmas” falls on the hilarious end as Sister Robert Anne explains — indelicately — why the angel is on the top of the tree. In a tie for most heart wrenching song, Father Virgil shares his story about “The Christmas Box,” and Sister Robert Anne pines for her father in “All I Want for Christmas.”

While the characters of “Nuncrackers” are Catholic, the script is accessible and appropriate for people of all — or no — de-

ferences to balls (tee-hee-hee). The jokes are often predictable, but the cast’s commitment to the punch lines sell them nonetheless.

The bit that makes the entire show worthwhile is Father Virgil (Rick Dethlefsen) standing in for Sister Julia’s cooking segment. In full habit drag, Father Virgil mixes a noxious batter with rum as its main ingredient. The scene is a hoot as the ever-vigilant Virgil ensures quality control by testing the rum

nominations. In fact, the only offensive thing about the show is the timing. It is hard to get into the Christmas spirit so soon after Halloween. Perhaps a serving of Father Virgil’s fruitcake for dessert would help usher in the glad tidings and goodwill.

Better than the movie ‘Dirty Dancing’ delivers in Broadway adaptation

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Broadway productions often get a bad rap for adapting popular stories from the silver screen to the stage. Dramas and comedies are transformed into glitzy musicals that only vaguely resemble their source material.

“Dirty Dancing”

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11-Thursday, Nov. 12; 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14; 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.
Tickets start at \$38.
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com

By contrast, “Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story on Stage,” plays like the film itself, featuring story points, dialogue and even music cues matching the movie verbatim. Fans of the film can quote and sing along, but you don’t have to be a prior admirer to enjoy this

polished pop production.

Like the film, the stage production is a fantasy period piece set in the summer of 1963. Francis “Baby” Houseman (Gillian Abbott) and her family are vacationing in New York’s Catskill Mountains. But 17-year-old Baby is more interested in the

physically impressive and chiseled entertainment staff than playing horseshoes with the retirees. After meeting the head dance instructor, Johnny Castle (Christopher Tierney), Baby’s summer goes from uneventful to transformative.

Much of the story and structural integrity can be credited to playwright Eleanor Bergstein, who also wrote the screenplay. Virtually all of the musical follows the film beat by beat. This works especially well in Act I, where Baby’s dance training montage drives the plot. Act II slows down with extra scenes — mostly original to the stage production — that feel more like padding to justify the intermission.

As Baby, Abbott is impressively agile and convincingly young looking. It’s tricky to pretend to be bad at something when you’re not. But Abbott smoothly transitions within one song from stumbling amateur to semi-pro. She also shares genuine chemistry with costar Tierney. Despite unavoidable comparisons to Patrick Swayze, Tierney captures the bad boy animal charisma of the character — and has the dance moves to match.

While Tierney delivers all of his dance scenes with Abbott flawlessly, he really gets to shine with Jenny Winton as fellow dance instructor and the token “girl in trouble,” Penny Johnson. Their impressive routine can be credited to the show’s multiple choreographers: Kate Champion, Michele Lynch and Craig Wilson. But the moves also include nods to the film’s choreographer, Kenny Ortega. Like the film, the stage choreography is unapologetically erotic. Legs split and fly in the air, and hips gyrate and grind like a PG 13-rated Kama



Photo by Matthew Murphy

Actor Christopher Tierney shines as Johnny, dance instructor and Baby’s love interest, in the musical adaptation of “Dirty Dancing.”

Sutra.

Other technical elements, like projection screens, keep scenes moving swiftly. Instead of flying in cumbersome backdrops, digital screens flip from indoor and outdoor settings, instantly transitioning from grassy fields to sweaty night clubs. Similarly, the music incorporates pre-recorded songs with the live band. Songs like Otis Redding’s “These Arms of Mine” (from the film soundtrack), would not sound the same with a house band. Instead, the production maintains the vintage ambiance by imitating the sound of classic vinyl played over a transistor radio.

Overall, the production pays homage to the film without giving the sense that it’s just cashing in on nostalgia. Director James Powell’s staging feels obvious and natural. Some scenes, like Baby standing up to her father, actually play more powerfully than in the film. For once, the show’s tagline may be accurate: You might have the time of your life.



New noise Marvels’ ‘Drudge Attire’ embraces messiness

By MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM

While the indie rock outfit Marvels didn’t start in the capital city, the band has certainly blossomed since moving to Lansing almost two years ago.

Review

At a glance, Marvels appears to be a pretty standard alt-rock outfit, comprising guitarist/vocalist Matt Everett, guitarist Ernest Klingler, bassist Jake Hite and drummer Gin Everett. The band formed in Flint, but its noise-rock whims were mostly confined to the walls of

a basement practice space before the move to Lansing.

The band recently released its latest EP, “Drudge Attire,” a lo-fi soundscape of fuzzed-out guitars, punchy drum beats and distorted vocals. The mood of the album is reminiscent of the underground emo/post-hardcore scene of the late ‘90s, featuring relaxed chord progressions and simple backing elements like thin bass lines and high-pitched riffs to complete the sound. Muddy and mildly cacophonous, the texture of the instrumentation contrasts the overall simplicity of the song structure, and reinforces its authentic blue-collar roots.

“Our music is a mess,” said Everett, laughing.

The six-track EP dropped on Oct. 4 after

three intense months of recording, mixing and mastering, done by the band with producer Ian Tinnin.

“All of our music is self-released, and releasing it is quite the process,” said Everett. “It’s a very collective effort.”

“Drudge Attire” was recorded using just a Tascam 16-track digital recorder and a variety of basic dynamic microphones — typically used for live performance rather than recording. All of the guitar tracks and most of the vocal tracks on the album were recorded using a tube preamp, a device that gives the sound a warm, natural tone. Each of these elements contributes to the lo-fi charm of the final product.

Shortly after moving to Lansing, Marvels snatched up the opportunity to perform as an opener for popular indie-garage band Wavves. The band also began to actively seek out shows, landing gigs with local promoter Fusion Shows as well as performing in small DIY venues hosted by independent music collectives like Tape Hiss Music. Upcoming shows include a performance at Port Huron’s SchwonkSoundStead, a recording space and concert venue.

“It’s a labor of love,” said bassist Jake Hite.



“Drudge Attire”
Marvels
2015, independent release
marvels.bandcamp.com

“We would love to share our music with more people.”

Marvels plans to continue on its current path, playing shows in the area and collaborating with other local artists.

“Local artists need local support,” said Everett. “We’re stuck with this. As long as we’re here, this is what we’ll be doing.”

Old man in a garage band

'Skin Music' shows Hinrichsen's poetic versatility

By BILL CASTANIER

Lansing-based poet Dennis Hinrichsen doesn't miss a beat in his new book, "Skin Music," sometimes cutting with the precision of a scalpel, other times shape-shifting like an amoeba in the collection of 24 poems.

Poetry reading/publication party

With Dennis Hinrichsen and Kathleen McGookey
3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15
FREE
MICA Gallery
1210 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 371-4600,
micagallery.org

"Skin Music" is Hinrichsen's fifth collection of poetry. It proves that his retirement from Lansing Community College in 2013, after teaching for nearly three decades, has been good for him. It's also good for poetry readers.

The poem "Dialysis" describes his mother's dialysis treatment with both lyricism and scientific precision. This

comes easily for Hinrichsen, who spent the first 10 years of his writing career as a technical writer. Hinrichsen said poetry has been part of his life since high school, when he walked away from a deadly car accident which killed several others.

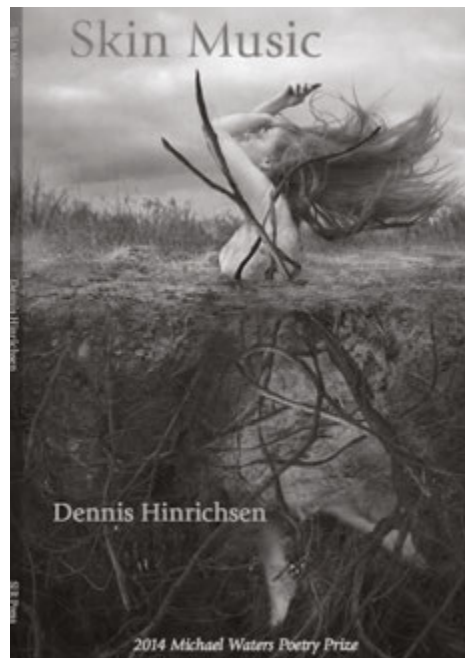
"I was known as the car accident boy," he said. "This was before any grief counseling. I came to poetry out of wound."

He wrote extensively about the car crash in his second book, in what he calls the "car accident poems."

"I went back to a high school class reunion where I was still called car crash boy," he said. "I had evolved so much, but they didn't see it."

His life experiences often find their way into his poems, from his recent bout with cancer to his reflections on a neighborhood child molester. His second collection of poetry, "Kurosawa's Dog," explores his complex relationship with his father.

"You translate your experiences into art with horizontal and vertical energy," Hinrichsen explained.



Courtesy Photo

Dennis Hinrichsen's latest collection of poems, "Skin Music," covers a wide variety of styles and topics.

Hinrichsen didn't just jump into poetry. His first choice as an undergrad at Western Michigan University was math, but he quickly transferred into creative writing.

Talking with Hinrichsen on a recent afternoon in Old Town turned into a beautiful lesson in poetic construction, in all its often brutal and beautiful forms. Poetry that appears to run hither and thither across the page becomes more understandable when he describes it. And when he compares the writing of poetry to writing song lyrics, a light bulb comes on.

"In music and poetry, if you say something three times it means something," he said. "Say it four times, and it leaves you wondering."

Hinrichsen said he was asked to teach song lyric writing several times at LCC, but always said no. He finally relented and found it to be an eye-opening experience, especially as it related to his own poetry. He compares music theory to a poet's techniques: improvisation, phrasing and rhythm all work together in both disciplines. To better understand music, Hinrichsen began playing the guitar.

"It completely changed how I thought about my own work, he said. "Finally, you figure it out and then you retire."

Hinrichsen cited the energetic opening riff of the Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up," and explained that poetry can elicit that same reaction. Continuing the rock music comparison, Hinrichsen compared his writing evolution to that of a rock group that starts out as a garage band.

"You are full of energy, risk and wildness. You are not just repeating the same old thing," he said. "You should be in a garage band when you're 75. That would be success."

Hinrichsen, who also earned a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Iowa, said poetry has changed dramatically during his career. He credits online magazines and other digital formats for the diversity of voices in poetry today.

"Growing up, poetry was monolithic. Mostly older guys dictated what would get published," he said. "Today there are 100,000 voices and democratizing outlets."

A Nov. 8 New York Times front page article on the future of poetry complements his observation. The article follows several poets whose careers have taken off on the web and

social media. One poet, Tyler Knott Gregson, sold more than 120,000 copies of his book, "Chasers of the Light," after being discovered on the web. Traditionally released poetry books often sell in the low thousands, even if the author a national award winner.

Hinrichsen said that his writing is firmly grounded in his Midwestern upbringing, and he cites Phil Levine and Richard Wright as a few of his muses. His lead poem in "Skin Music," "Variations on the Death By Drowning of the Poet Paul Celan," has a certain kinship with Walt Whitman and Allen Ginsberg.

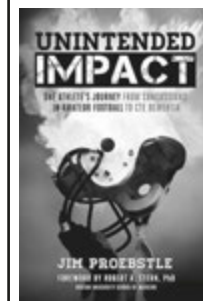
Hinrichsen will make an appearance 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Old Town's MICA Gallery where he'll be joined by fellow poet Kathleen McGookey. The two will read and discuss their poetry. Hinrichsen said that he enjoys opportunities to perform poetry live, something that has become less common in the modern literature scene.

"You're the writer, P.T. Barnum and the bookstore all rolled up," he said.

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

MSU Football Alum
JIM PROEBSTLE presents
Unintended Impact

Thursday, November 12 @ 7pm
Meridian Mall location



Jim Proebstle, a member of MSU's legendary 1965 national championship football team, will talk about his book *Unintended Impact: One Athlete's Journey from Concussions in Amateur Football to*

CTE Dementia, which details his own brother's story.

Robert B. Campbell presents
Classic Ships of the Great Lakes

Tuesday, November 17 @ 7pm
Meridian Mall location



Join us for a talk and signing that is part of the greater MSU exhibit and series of presentations: "Iron Hulls and Turbulent Waters: Ore Boats, Workers and Great Lakes Shipping." Photographer Robert B. Campbell will present his recent release, *Classic Ships of the Great Lakes*.

for more information visit
www.SchulerBooks.com

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Sat., Nov. 14
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. * \$3.00 (free with student ID)
University Quality Inn
3121 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI, (just north of Frandor)
for more information Curious Book Shop 332-0112 *

OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, November 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Story Art Time. Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2, Travel Bugs 2. French immersion class for toddlers, kids. 5:15 p.m. for ages 2-4. 6:15 p.m. for ages 6-9. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info

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

Dream Analysis Class. Lesson covers fundamentals. 8-9:30 p.m. Unity of Greater Lansing, 240 Marshall St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

Dr. Robert Melillo Lecture. Presentation on neurological disorders in kids. Call to register. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 253-8405, brainbalancecenters.com

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Teens After School. Programming for teens

See Out on the Town, Page 24

Not your mother's festival



Courtesy Photo
Singer/songwriter Cheryl Wheeler headlines Friday at this year's Women in the Arts Festival.

November 13-14

East Lansing's Women in the Arts Festival turns 30 this year, and it's inviting the community to help them celebrate.

"We've been looking forward to this for a very long time," said Julia Haan, a member of the festival's organizing committee.

For 30 years, East Lansing has played host to the Women In The Arts Festival, a two-day showcase that honors women in the creative arts community and displays the work of regional female artists, performers and poets. To celebrate the anniversary, festival organizers have put together what they hope will be their largest event yet.

"This festival has become so important for performance and creative artists in the area," Haan said. "With this being our 30th year, we really wanted to do something to honor them."

This year's festival will boast one of the festival's largest artist markets, with over 40 booths featuring everything from paintings and photographs to jewelry and glassware. In addition to the artist booths, festival organizers have allocated space for Lansing area nonprofits that focus on serving women. The festival's Sistrum Café serves up meals and snacks both days of the festival.

"One thing I really wanted to accomplish this year was to make more

connections with artists, galleries, studios and anyone in our region with an appreciation for these kinds of works," Haan said. "I'm excited about the nonprofit partnerships as well. Being able to give these organizations space will hopefully give them some visibility to women who may not have known they were available"

Each year, the Women in the Arts Festival committee puts together an array of local and national musical talent to provide the entertainment for the weekend. This year, the committee teamed up with local folk music promoter the Ten Pound Fiddle to co-produce the weekend's concert stages. New England-based singer/songwriter Cheryl Wheeler headlines the Friday night main stage.

"I am very much looking forward to performing," said Wheeler. "Any time I have played a women's festival, there has been such a different vibe, some sort of energy running through the crowd and attendees. I just really like the feel of a women's festival show."

Since 1986, Wheeler has turned out a signature blend of intellectually driven folk ballads and humorous social critiques. Wheeler's fans have even given names to these two facets of her performing persona: "Poet Cheryl" and "Comic Cheryl."

"The world being a hilarious place, it always made sense to have a little

light-heartedness in my performances, especially when engaging the audience," Wheeler said. "I never wanted to feel different from anyone at my shows, like I was on some higher level than the audience. So sharing stories on stage and talking to fans really helps break down that barrier."

Taking the stage Saturday afternoon are four Michigan-based groups: Scary Women, a rock 'n' roll quartet out of Lansing; Sistrum, a Lansing women's chorus and co-sponsor of the festival; Kate Peterson, a Lansing resident and half of the nationally recognized folk duo Nervous But Excited; and Jane of Arc, an acoustic indie-pop duo from Ferndale.

Saturday's slate of entertainment concludes with a showing of "The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls." The documentary tells the story of entertainers Jools and Lynda Topp, comedic country singing lesbian twin sisters.

Women In The Arts Festival

Friday night concert with Cheryl Wheeler, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 (Artist market opens at 5 p.m. and festival café opens at 5:30 p.m.) \$20/\$18 Ten Pound Fiddle members/\$5 students

Saturday events (see web for full schedule) 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 \$5

Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadom Road, East Lansing witafestival.com

— KEVIN McINERNEY

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

STEFANIE HAAPALA AT MAC'S BAR



FRI. NOV 13TH

Stefanie Haapala

Friday, Nov. 13 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, \$8 adv., 7 p.m.

East Lansing-based singer/songwriter Stefanie Haapala headlines Friday at Mac's Bar, openers are Michigander, Peter J. Hochstedler and Signature Mistakes. Haapala, an MSU student, began writing indie-folk tunes in high school. "I grew up listening to James Taylor, Jackson Browne and Van Morrison," Haapala said. "But my biggest influences have been the people I have met along the way. Lansing really helped shape my sound and ultimately became the backdrop for the music I create today." Over the years, her live gigs have evolved from a stripped-down solo set to a fuller lineup. "Today, I play with two or three other members. We are coming into a more amped up live set." Haapala has released a string of singles and EPs that are available at stefaniehaapala.bandcamp.com.

THE JONESTOWN CROWS VIDEO RELEASE PARTY



SAT. NOV 14TH

Jonestown Crows

Saturday, Nov. 14 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$12, \$8 adv., 7 p.m.

Progressive doom-grass band the Jonestown Crows perform Saturday at the Loft. The gig is a video release party for its song, "Whiskey River Ride." Openers are All Ends Black and Tell Yo Mama. The Jonestown Crows' vocalist/banjo player Jebadiah Halfhand said the band's dark Americana sound is powered by a diverse record collection. "My personal influences are Type O Negative, Opeth, Faith No More and the Goddamn Gallows," he said. "But everyone in the band adds their own influences — Tool, Hank 3, Clutch, Those Poor Bastards, Johnny Cash and Hank Williams." As for the band's live show? "It's high-energy, foot-stomping, sacrilegious mayhem," Halfhand said. "We make it a point to show any crowd our views on the absolute evil and futility of organized religion and to press the fact we're all going to die — very, very soon."

NATHAN BELL & MARVIN BELL AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



FRI. NOV 13TH

Nathan Bell

Friday, Nov. 13 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington, Lansing. All ages, \$15, 7 p.m.

Pump House Concerts gets out of the Pump House for an evening to present Tennessee-based Americana songwriter Nathan Bell and his poet father Marvin Bell at the Robin Theatre. The duo trades songs and readings. Nathan Bell said this is an atypical gig. "Normally I play as a solo and occasionally with a band," he said. "I will present my songs with guitar, voice and harmonica. My father will read his poetry, and we will alternate, using similar themes for each song and poem." Nathan Bell is an acclaimed roots-music wordsmith, while his father served two terms as Iowa's first poet laureate and has penned 23 books. "These new books by Marvin Bell are sending poetry into new and original territory," wrote critic Judith Kitchen of the Georgia Review. "Bell has redefined poetry as it is being practiced today."

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic, 7 p.m.	The Hoot and Hollers, 8 p.m.	Goth Night, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistar, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Alistar, 7 p.m.	Darin Lerner Jr., 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Chris Lasko, 7 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Bob Schultz, 8:30 p.m.	Rush Clement, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Good Question, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Copper, 2874 E. Lake Lansing Rd.		Rachel Curtis, 6 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.		
Darb's, 117 S. Cedar St.		Mark Sala, 9 p.m.		
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			Jake Stevens, 10 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 10 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke w/Jamie, 9 p.m.		Kamikaze Karaoke, 9 p.m.	DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9:30 p.m.	Still Rain, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Mark Sala, 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Bless the Fall, 6 p.m.	Big Something, 8 p.m.	The Jonestown Crows, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Saul, 7 p.m.	Stefanie Haapala, 7 p.m.	Highly Suspect, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Stella, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.	Greg Nagy, 9 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			4GB, 8:30 p.m.	4GB, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Life Support, 7 p.m.	Lisa and the Backbeats, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Legendary Pat Bailey, 6 p.m.	New Rule, 7 p.m.	Wiseguys, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				Life Support, 7 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	The Rotation, 8:30 p.m.	The Rotation, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel, 410 S. Clippert St.			Love and Theft, 9 p.m.	

Out on the town

from page 22

in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

THEATER

Dirty Dancing. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Song and Poetry: An evening with Nathan and

Marvin Bell. Singer-songwriter and poet share work. 7 p.m. FREE. RCAF Auditorium in Snyder-Phillips Hall, on the corner of Dormitory Road and Bogue Street, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690.

ARTS

Courage Ablaze: The Women and Children of Congo. Art installation opens. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, ow.ly/UiOSm.

214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

Tarot Study Group. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Shamanic Healing and Education Clinic. Shamanism talk and demos. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

Celebrate Recovery. For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6:00 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

Conversational Spanish. Spanish practice group. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517)

See Out on the Town, Page 25

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18-22 >> 'A ROOM WITH A VIEW' AT MSU OPERA THEATRE

Based on the 1908 novel by E.M. Forester, this romantic/comic opera tells the story of a young English woman vacationing in Italy who is torn between social convention and her heart. This contemporary adaptation of the classic novel features a score by Robert Nelson and libretto by Buck Ross. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Thursday, November 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Branding Toolkit for Business. Workshop on business image. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room

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



Moo

A super sweet fellow! He loves people and is always ready to snuggle.

Sponsored by: Ioana Sonea



Dobby

A tiny little sweetheart! He's a gentle boy who enjoys playing with other small dogs (small children are not recommended because he is quite small and fragile.)

Sponsored by: Dale Schrader



Dilbert

A shy old man looking for a quiet, loving home where he'll feel safe and secure. He's just a gentle old soul looking for someone who wants a big lovebug of their own!

Sponsored by: Golden Harvest



Solar

A sweet girl with a playful personality. She loves attention, especially if it comes in the form of someone tossing a mouse for her.

Sponsored by: Linn & Owen Jewelers



Duchess

A typical pittie puppy. She loves running, bouncing, playing, and giving kisses.



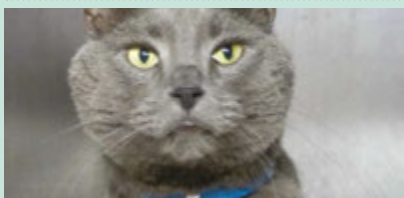
Okemos
1802 W. Grand River
517.349.8435

Dewitt
12286 U.S. 127
517.669.8824

Lansing
5200 S. MLK
517.882.1611

6201 W. Saginaw Hwy.
517.323.6920

Charlotte
515 Lansing Road
517.541.1700



Sweetie

a handsome boy. He can be a little shy at first, but normally warms up quickly.



Adopt a pet and get a \$10 Foods for Living gift certificate-with paperwork

STORE HOURS

Mon 8am - 9pm

Tue 8am - 9pm

Wed 8am - 9pm

Thu 8am - 9pm

Fri 8am - 9pm

Sat 8am - 9pm

Sun 9am - 8pm

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East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 324-9010

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35 — \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call by December 3: 999-5061 Now!! Adopt a pet on this page & Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ

WITH GUEST

David Maraniss

Author of "Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story"

Photo: Larry D. Moore CC BY-SA 3.0

MY18TV!

10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

Out on the town

from page 24

347-2021, cadl.org.

Genealogical Society Meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 676-7140, icgsweb.org.

H.E.R.O. Class- Indoor Horticulture. Home improvement class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. glhc.org.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

EVENTS

Hearing Screenings. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Huge Rummage and Bake Sale. In gymnasium. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Emanuel Lutheran School, 1001 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Ladies Figure Skating. Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East

Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.
Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center. Call ahead to reserve meal. 12-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

One on One Life Coaching. Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

The Art of: Parma. Presentation on Italian food. 6-8 p.m. \$45/\$35 members. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

The Straight Dope on Marihuana Legalization. Free lunch and forum about proposed marihuana policy. 12 to 2 p.m. FREE. Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (734) 542-8001, ow.ly/UiQAY.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Author David Maraniss Visits CADL. Historian

discusses latest book on Detroit. Registration required. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Kinawa Middle School, 1900 Kinawa Dr., Okemos. cadl.org.

MUSIC

Music at the Mansion. Circulo Trio debuts new classical piece. 7 p.m. \$10. Turner-Dodge House, 100 North East St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

THEATER

Telling Lansing. Veterans' stories shared. 8 p.m. See web for prices. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

Dirty Dancing. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Friday, November 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Palette to Palate. Painting class. \$32. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

ACTION Fall Craft Project @ MSC. Candy corn button art. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1-3. French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4), 10:30 a.m. (0-2) & 5:15pm (ages 4-6). \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Bringing Organ Donation Awareness to our Faith Communities. Lunch included. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 26



Holiday Bazaar

Date: Thursday, November 12th
Time: 11:00am - 3:30pm

Avoid the crowds and join us for food, fun and friends. Shop early for the holidays. Many vendors will be here. Featuring baked goods, homemade arts & crafts and other treasures.

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eastlansingseniorliving.com



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For Mackerel Sky's 25th Anniversary
Our joint celebration with the Kauffman Studio Open House was such fun!
We are grateful for your participation and enthusiasm.
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SHARPER FOCUS WIDER LENS
THE CHINA EXPERIENCE
AN MSU EXPLORATION OF ARTS & CULTURE

Seeing China

7 p.m., Monday, November 16
MSU Union Ballroom

Free and open to the public

Featuring TED-style talks from the following MSU faculty:

- Howard Bossen, Ph.D., School of Journalism and MSU Museum
- Andrea Louie, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology
- Jiaguo Qi, Ph.D., Department of Geography and Center for Global Change & Earth Observation
- Simei Qing, Ph.D., James Madison College
- Pamela C. Rasmussen, Ph.D., Department of Zoology and MSU Museum

Moderated by Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Ph.D., Honors College



Out on the town

from page 25

\$15. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (248) 701-2323.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Plate? Will-planning workshop. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Leslie Branch, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

EVENTS

Huge Rummage and Bake Sale. One-day sale. \$1.50 per bag. In gymnasium. 9 a.m.-noon. Emanuel Lutheran School, 1001 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Two Small Pieces of Glass. Program on the

history of the telescope. 8-9 p.m. \$4. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Are You Afraid of the Dark? Transmedia Horror Club. Grades 6-12 share favorite spooky media. 4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Minecraft Game Night. Ages 8-15. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

MSU Safe Place: Relationship Violence and Stalking. 12:30-2:30 p.m. MSU Federal Credit

Union, Corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 351-0417, msu.edu/user/msucclub.

Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon the Planetarium Show. 10 p.m. \$4/\$2 members. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

StoryTime. Ages 2-5 years enjoy stories and songs. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

Twilight Trek. Nature walk and bonfire. 7-8:30 p.m. \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, ow.ly/UiYz5.

ARTS

30th Annual Women in the Arts Festival.

Vendors and live music. 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$5.

Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing.

THEATER

Dirty Dancing. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$38.

Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Telling Lansing. Veterans' stories shared. 8 p.m. See web for prices. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

All of Us Express: Through the Looking Glass. Family theater. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580, allofusexpress.org.

Ghost: The Musical. Well-known movie in musical form. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. ow.ly/U3Nh4.

The Colleen Bawn. Magical Irish matchmaking melodrama. 8-10 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

The Nonsense Nuncrackers. Comedic holiday show. 6:30 p.m. See web for prices. Starlight Dinner Theatre, Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13-15, 17-22 >> 'STAGE DOOR' AT MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

MSU's Department of Theatre opens one of its largest productions of the season, "Stage Door," Friday night. The collaborative artistic effort brings together multiple departments across campus. The production centers on the Footlights Club, a rooming house for actresses in 1930s New York. The cast of 32 students worked with MSU faculty to learn about gender roles and the show business environment in the 1930s, and MSU advertising students designed period-accurate Broadway and Hollywood posters for the production. Sunday's production will feature a pre-show discussion with director Rob Roznowski at 1:15 p.m., and the Nov. 19th show will feature a post-show discussion. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 2 p.m. Sunday; 2 p.m. matinee Saturday, Nov. 21. \$17/\$15 seniors and faculty/\$12 students. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14 >> OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

As part of its ongoing "From Sepia to Selfies" photography exhibit, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing hosts David Olds, veteran photojournalist of 40 years, for a lecture on the evolution of news photography. Olds will discuss the history of wire services, as well as his personal experiences covering major news events in Michigan. Olds worked for a several prominent publishers, including the Lansing State Journal and United Press International. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Lake Michigan Room, Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 282-0671, michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

AMERICAN FIFTH

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SATURDAY, NOV. 14 >> GRAND LEDGE FALL FEST

Alcohol aficionados and fall fanatics are invited to Grand Ledge's third annual indoor seasonal beer and cider festival, Grand Ledge Fall Fest. Guests can sample from a selection of nearly 100 craft beers and ciders, with a heavy focus on seasonal flavors like Oktoberfests, pumpkin beers, porters and stouts. A full list of offerings is available on the festival's website. The festival includes live music provided by Mark Warner, who performs a wide array of classic hits. One regular admission includes 15 3-ounce samples, and additional samples can be purchased. Designated driver tickets are available for \$10. 4-10 p.m. \$35. The Anderson Center, 3543 Jefferson Highway, Grand Ledge. grandledgefallfest.com.

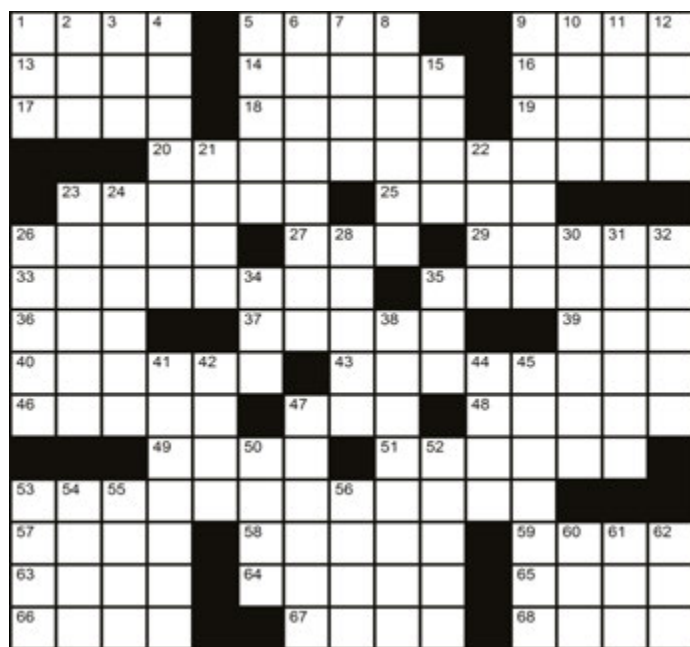
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"The Bridged Version"—something is, uh, missing.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Scrabble play
- 5 "___-daisy!"
- 9 Pronounce indistinctly
- 13 Burn cooler
- 14 Orange or lime, e.g.
- 16 Ending with soft or spy
- 17 "Hercules" character who got her own show
- 18 Locale of Universal Studios Japan
- 19 Slight advantage
- 20 "Please have a solid weave, rope!" wish?
- 23 On the upswing
- 25 L1k3 t415 t3xt
- 26 He announced he wouldn't run in 2016
- 27 "In medias ___"
- 29 It's never been done before
- 33 Levy for being stealthy?
- 35 "I couldn't care less!"
- 36 "This ___ ripoff!"
- 37 Menzel of "Wicked"
- 39 Miles ___ gallon
- 40 Flood-prone areas
- 43 Clothes that don't need people?
- 46 New Jersey county
- 47 "Your post is the best of all," online
- 48 "World's busiest airport"
- 49 "What ___ can I say?"
- 51 Pitchman's pitches
- 53 Dock where everything happens so fast?
- 57 Dunkable dessert



- 58 Knock for ___
- 59 Caldecott Medal winner ___ Jack Keats
- 63 50-50 share
- 64 "Talking in Your Sleep" singer Crystal
- 65 Pond hopper
- 66 "Frozen" snowman
- 67 Word after "going twice..."
- 68 "Sorry I broke your priceless Ming vase"
- e.g.
- 7 Bacon quantity
- 8 Yahoos
- 9 Get overly concerned
- 10 Countess's title
- 11 "Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon" coverers ___ Overkill
- 12 Oboe mouthpiece
- 15 Ben's role in "Pearl Harbor"
- 21 Sty squeal
- 22 Certain mortgage, informally
- 23 Some hair conditioners
- 24 Archetypes
- 26 Record following?
- 28 Be
- 30 Invalidate a law
- 31 Paints without care
- 32 ___ Haute, Indiana
- 34 "___ the season to be jolly"
- 35 ___ Harbour, FL
- 38 Survey results between stories
- 41 Seeing red
- 42 Auto shaft
- 44 Pate de ___ gras
- 45 Cabbie's question
- 47 Guys
- 50 Hitch in a plan
- 52 Brought (in), as music
- 53 Area below Greenwich Village
- 54 Mountain range between Europe and Asia
- 55 Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya
- 56 Duncan toy
- 60 Frenzied situation
- 61 Kanye's forte (other than self-promotion)
- 62 Super Bowl high-lights?

Down

- 1 Ear buildup
- 2 Approval from a f' tbol fan
- 3 Harry's friend at Hogwarts
- 4 Jordan River's outlet
- 5 2011 NCAA champs
- 6 Ph.D. candidate,

Out on the town

from page 26

Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Saturday, November 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Employment Series: Resumes and Cover Letters. Job hunting workshop. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston, 201 School Street, Williamston. cadl.org.

Gymnastics for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 3-3:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 977-7096.

Michigan Genealogical Council & Archives of Michigan: a Day with Paul Milner. Lecture on British Isles ancestry. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$55. Michigan Historical Center Forum, 702 Kalamazoo St., Lansing. mimgc.org.

Tai Chi at Allen Market Place. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Zumba for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 2-2:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 721-1868.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

EVENTS

Books and Bagels. "Flora & Ulysses" by Kate DiCamillo. For grades 4-6. 2 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

CADL Adventurer's Role Playing Game Club. Call to register. Ages 13-18. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason, 145 West Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

Homemade Musical Instruments. Age 5 and up. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville, 1379 East Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

15 Amazing Science-Superhero Edition. Hands-on experiments. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster, 200 North Foster St., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Second Saturday Science. Hands-on experiments. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Second Saturday Supper. Dinner and dessert. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8/\$4 kids. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com.

MUSIC

Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 29

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Nov. 11-17

ARIES (March 21-April 19): UrbanDictionary.com defines the English word "balter" as follows: "to dance without particular skill or grace, but with extreme joy." It's related to the Danish term "baltre," which means "to romp, tumble, roll, cavort." I nominate this activity to be one of your ruling metaphors in the coming weeks. You have a mandate to explore the frontiers of amusement and bliss, but you have no mandate to be polite and polished as you do it. To generate optimal levels of righteous fun, your experiments may have to be more than a bit rowdy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've arrived at a crossroads. From here, you could travel in one of four directions, including back towards where you came from. You shouldn't stay here indefinitely, but on the other hand you'll be wise to pause and linger for a while. Steep yourself in the mystery of the transition that looms. Pay special attention to the feelings that rise up as you visualize the experiences that may await you along each path. Are there any holy memories you can call on for guidance? Are you receptive to the tricky inspiration of the fertility spirits that are gathered here? Here's your motto: Trust, but verify.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): English model and TV personality Katie Price has been on the planet for just 37 years, but has already written four autobiographies. "You Only Live Once," for instance, covers the action-packed time between 2008 and 2010, when she got divorced and then remarried in a romantic Las Vegas ceremony. I propose that we choose this talkative, self-revealing Gemini to be your spirit animal and role model. In the coming weeks, you should go almost to extremes as you express the truth about who you have been, who you are, and who you will become.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A flyer on a telephone pole caught my eye. It showed a photo of a nine-year-old male cat named Bubby, whose face was contorted in pain. A message from Bubby's owner revealed that her beloved pet desperately needed expensive dental work. She had launched a campaign at gofundme.com to raise the cash. Of course I broke into tears, as I often do when confronted so viscerally with the suffering of sentient creatures. I longed to donate to Bubby's well-being. But I thought, "Shouldn't I funnel my limited funds to a bigger cause, like the World Wildlife Fund?" Back home an hour later, I sent \$25 to Bubby. After analyzing the astrological omens for my own sign, Cancer the Crab, I realized that now is a time to adhere to the principle "Think globally, act locally" in every way imaginable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): How well do you treat yourself? What do you do to ensure that you receive a steady flow of the nurturing you need? According to my reading of the astrological omens, you are now primed to expand and intensify your approach to self-care. If you're alert to the possibilities, you will learn an array of new life-enhancing strategies. Here are two ideas to get you started: 1. Imagine at least three acts of practical love you can bestow on yourself. 2. Give yourself three gifts that will promote your healing and stimulate your pleasure.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): To activate your full potential in the coming weeks, you don't need to scuba-dive into an underwater canyon or spelunk into the pitch blackness of a remote cave or head out on an archaeological dig to uncover the lost artifacts of an ancient civilization. But I recommend that you consider trying the metaphorical equivalent of those activities. Explore the recesses of your own psyche, as well as those of the people you love. Ponder the riddles of the past and rummage around for lost treasure and hidden truths. Penetrate to the core, the gist, the roots. The abyss is much friendlier than usual! You have a talent for delving deep into any mystery that will be important for your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Normally I charge \$270-an-hour for the kind of advice I'm about to offer, but I'm giving it to you at no cost. For now, at least, I think you should refrain from relying on experts. Be skeptical of professional opinions and highly paid authorities. The useful information you need will come your way via chance encounters, playful explorations, and gossipy spies. Folk wisdom and street smarts will provide better guidance than elite consultants. Trust curious amateurs; avoid somber careerists.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some athletes think it's unwise to have sex before a big game. They believe it diminishes the raw physical power they need to excel. For them, abstinence is crucial for victory. But scientific studies contradict this theory. There's evidence that boinking increases testosterone levels for both men and women. Martial artist Ronda Rousey subscribes to this view. She says she has "as much sex as possible" before a match. Her approach must be working. She has won all of her professional fights, and "Sports Illustrated" calls her "the world's most dominant athlete." As you approach your equivalent of the "big game," Scorpio, I suggest you consider Rousey's strategy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you were embarking on a 100-mile hike, would you wear new boots that you purchased the day before your trip? Of course not. They wouldn't be broken in. They'd be so stiff and unyielding that your feet would soon be in agony. Instead, you would anchor your trek with supple footwear that had already adjusted to the idiosyncrasies of your gait and anatomy. Apply a similar principle as you prepare to launch a different long-term exploit. Make yourself as comfortable as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here's how Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" begins: "Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot." The preface I'd write for your upcoming adventures would be less extreme, but might have a similar tone. That's because I expect you to do a lot of meandering. At times your life may seem like a shaggy dog story with no punch line in sight. Your best strategy will be to cultivate an amused patience; to stay relaxed and unflappable as you navigate your way through the enigmas, and not demand easy answers or simple lessons. If you take that approach, intricate answers and many-faceted lessons will eventually arrive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Confederation of African Football prohibits the use of magic by professional soccer teams. Witch doctors are forbidden to be on the field during a match, and they are not supposed to spray elixirs on the goals or bury consecrated talismans beneath the turf. But most teams work around the ban. Magic is viewed as an essential ingredient in developing a winning tradition. Given the current astrological omens, I invite you to experiment with your own personal equivalent of this approach. Don't scrimp on logical analysis, of course. Don't stint on your preparation and discipline. But also be mischievously wise enough to call on the help of some crafty mojo.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Slavery is illegal everywhere in the world. And yet there are more slaves now than at any other time in history: at least 29 million. A disproportionate percentage of them are women and children. After studying your astrological omens, I feel you are in a phase when you can bestow blessings on yourself by responding to this predicament. How? First, express gratitude for all the freedoms you have. Second, vow to take full advantage of those freedoms. Third, brainstorm about how to liberate any part of you that acts or thinks or feels like a slave. Fourth, lend your energy to an organization that helps free slaves. Start here: <http://bit.ly/liberateslaves>.

Out on the town

from page 27

Anything Goes Fall Show. Musical variety show. 6:30 p.m. \$10/\$12 at door. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 242-9207, ow.ly/UqJz9.

Deacon Earl @ Lansing City Market. Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

THEATER

All of Us Express: Through the Looking Glass. Family theater. 2 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580, alofusexpress.org.

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 8 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Ghost: The Musical. Well-known movie in musical form. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. ow.ly/U3Nh4.

The View from Here. A woman must overcome her fears. 8-10 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

The Nonsense Nuncrackers. Comedic holiday show. 6:30 p.m. See web for prices. Starlight Dinner Theatre, Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

The Colleen Bawn. Magical Irish matchmaking melodrama. 8-10 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Riverwalk Saturday Night. Variety show. 8-11 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Telling Lansing. Veterans' stories shared. 8 p.m. See web for prices. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

Dirty Dancing. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets from \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Sunday, November 15 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop. Class for making seasonal decorations. Call to register. 1-4 p.m. \$65. Grove Gallery Co-Op, 325 Grove St., #A, East Lansing. (517) 333-7180.

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third

floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, cadl.org.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Perfect Little Planet. Show on the planets. 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$4. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

MSU Friendshop Family Activity Day. Thanksgiving-themed craft and activities. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. Making traditional Christmas decorations, followed by potluck dinner. 2-5:30 p.m. \$2/FREE kids age 5 and under. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing.

Swiss Steak Dinner. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10/\$4 kids. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330.

MUSIC

Got to Make it to Memphis! Fundraiser for Blues Brawl winners Stan and Ben. 4-8 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Mid-Michigan Folkgrass Jam @ Woldumar. Jam open to all. 2-6 p.m. Suggested donation: \$4/\$2 seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382, re-news.net/mmb.

Anything Goes Fall Show. Musical variety show. 3-5 p.m. \$10/\$12 at door. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 242-9207, ow.ly/UqJz9.

Acoustic Lunch: Jen Sygit. 12:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

THEATER

The View from Here. A woman must overcome her fears. 7-9 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

Telling Lansing. Veterans' stories shared. 2 p.m. See web for prices. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

Dirty Dancing. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 8 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 29

SUNDAY, NOV. 15 >> LANSING MODEL RAILROAD CLUB ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

Train enthusiasts are in for a treat this weekend as one of Michigan's largest model railroad shows chugs into East Lansing. Free to kids under 12 and Boy/Girl Scouts in uniform, the show promises to be a "trainload of fun for everyone." Visitors can learn about the art of building a model railroad empire at how-to sessions hosted by experts from the National Model Railroad Association. There will also be a wide range of items for sale, including railroad memorabilia, toys, new and vintage model trains and more. Free parking is available. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$6/FREE for children under 12 and Boy/Girl Scouts in uniform. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 449-0370, lmrc.org/trainshow.



PUNK TACO/LOS RANCHEROS/EAST TOWN FLATS

Image courtesy: Krieger Klatt Architects.

Punk Taco, which broke ground this week near Frandor, will focus on the “three Ts,” tacos, tamales and tequila.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Thanks in part to Metro Lansing’s vibrant Hispanic community, local diners have no shortage of choices for reputable Mexican cuisine. And coming soon to a scene already full of Cancuns, Aztecos, and Amigos are two new south-of-the-border restaurants, albeit ones with decidedly different pedigrees.

The first out of the gate is **Los Rancheros**, set to open next weekend at 727 E. Miller Road on Lansing’s south side. Manager Gregorio Lozana said he and his cousin, owner Juan Cruz, are aiming for an “upscale, elegant” ambiance. They’ve spent the last couple of months overseeing the renovation of the 5,000-square-foot building, previously home to Barley’s American Grill.

“We like the location — there are a lot of Latino people in the area,” Lozana said. “We think there’s a good future here.”

Original plans called for Los Rancheros to transform into a nightclub on weekends, but Lozana said that he and Cruz decided to focus on the food for now. He said the restaurant will lean heavily on authentic Mexican fare and will have a full liquor license.

Meanwhile, the area’s other new Mexican restaurant will have sensibilities that are a little more rebellious. Dig this name: **Punk Taco**.

“I loved punk (rock) when I was a kid, and it just seemed like the name fit our concept,” says Sam Short, a partner in Punk Taco’s management group, the Potent Potables Project. And what might that concept be? “Tacos, tamales

and tequila. Everything people love about Mexican (restaurants).”

The group broke ground on Punk Taco this week near Frandor Shopping Center. It will be a new construction, built on the site of a former gas station across the street from **Ya-Ya’s Flame Broiled Chicken**. Short said that there will be two distinct elements of Punk Taco.

“One part will be dedicated to sit-down dining and another part dedicated to carryout orders,” Short said. “And we’ll have coolers stocked with craft beer ready to go, so you can grab a six-pack while you’re in line. It’s going to make a lot of people happy.”

Punk Taco will be the fourth project on Potent Potables Project’s slate, which started two years ago with the refurbished **Zoobie’s Old Town Tavern**. It continued with **Cosmos**, which opened earlier this year, followed by the **Creole**, 1218 Turner St., which starts serving dinner Nov. 20.

“Creole has been open for drinks for a couple months, but it’s taken us a little longer to get food going than we thought,” Short said. “We wanted everything to be perfect, so we didn’t want to rush.”

Executive Chef Dan Konopnicki, who is currently finalizing Punk Taco’s food items, stocked Creole’s menu with simmering N’awlins staples, including gumbo, jambalaya and étouffée. It will be the third Cajun restaurant to open in Lansing this year, following **Nola Bistro** and **Jumbeaux**. It will be joined on Dec. 1 by the **Creole Coffee Co.**, Creole’s sister breakfast joint/café. Opening next door to the Creole, Creole Coffee Co. will feature classic Cajun items

like shrimp-and-grits and beignets. In a way, it seems inevitable that Creole cooking would come to this space.

“Before (the late) Robert Busby turned this into the Creole Gallery, this was home to the Creole Cigar Co.,” Smith said. “Robert was paying tribute to the building’s history when he named it, and now we’re paying tribute to Robert.”

Flats gets Strange

The other big news this week was the Gillespie Co.’s announcement that it would level part of the 2000 block of Michigan Avenue to make way for a \$6 million, mixed-use development project, the **East Town Flats**. Owner Scott Gillespie completed his purchase of the block earlier this year, and had previously hinted about building a combined retail/living space there. Following the evacuation of Emil’s Restaurant, which closed last month after an historic 87-year-run, Gillespie said the plans changed drastically.

“The three (westernmost) buildings are functionally obsolete, so we made a decision early on that they would come down,” Gillespie said. “But when Emil’s became available, we went back to the drawing board.”

Gillespie had just finished restoring the three easternmost buildings on that block, home to **Wild Strawberry Florist**, **Local Tattoo** and **Original Okinawa Karate Dojo**, so he knew those were in good shape. That leaves only the building occupied by Capital City Homebrew Supply.

“The building just wasn’t that well maintained,” Gillespie said. “It’s suffered a lot of water intrusion and the brick is blowing out. I talked to (Homebrew Supply owner Todd Branstner) and tried to find him a space. He found a great location where I think he’s going to do very well.”

On Jan. 3, Capital City Homebrew Supply will open at 621 E. Michigan Ave., its fourth location in three years. Branstner did not return a call for comment.

The 11,500-square-foot ground floor will accommodate five to eight businesses, including **Strange Matter Coffee Co.**, which was announced as the first tenant.

“I’d been looking to do some expansion, and I wanted to stay on the east side, so this worked out perfectly,” said Strange Matter owner Cara Nader. “I’m glad I got to meet Scott. He would try to have meetings here, but there was never enough room. One time I told him I wish we had more space, and then he said he could make that happen.”

Nader’s move is loosely scheduled for spring 2017, when East Town Flats is complete. Gillespie hasn’t said who else is in discussions for occupancy, but is trying to stay in tune with the neighborhood.

“I was born and raised on the east side, so I feel a great responsibility to the neighborhood,” Gillespie said. “And I’m listening to what the neighbors say. Do they want a yoga studio? More restaurants? Whatever goes in there, I want to make sure that I’m staying true to the east side spirit.”

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Follow the green brick road

Emerald City Provisioning a bright spot on Michigan's west side

On the west side of the state, it's really hard to find open provisioning centers or safe access points. And when you do find them, they tend to only stock cannabis flowers.

I think it's unfortunate that medicines, oils and extracts, which many doctors and patients claim to have the best medicinal effect, are not available. And just because shops are few and far between does not mean there are fewer patients. In fact, many patients on the west side of the state are regularly driving an hour or more for their medicinal marijuana.

Late last month, I took a road trip to visit a friend in Grand Rapids. But halfway there, I realized I had not packed enough meds for the day. I decided to make the best of the situation and visit a new store in the area. I had heard good things about Emerald City in Nunica and decided I'd check out its selection.

Emerald City Provisioning

Noon-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday
11999 Cleveland St., Suite A, Nunica
(616) 837-0517, emeraldcity.us

Finding the shop was easy. It was clearly marked with a sign, and parking was plentiful. The front door leads into a huge lobby that still felt welcoming, despite its size. It was clean, with beautiful decor and seating. I was greeted and the store policies were explained to me, then I filled out the necessary paperwork to be put into the shop's system.

Once I was in the green room, I sat at an elevated desk to view the selection. The desk is a thoughtful feature; patients don't have to bend or stoop to see the display. The left side of the display housed the \$15 per gram selections, and on the right were the \$10 per gram strains. I counted 25 different strains in total.

I asked several questions of the budtender, and I was pleased when he answered with thoughtful and accurate answers. I smelled several of the jars and was impressed by many.

I chose the Green Love Potion strain, which smelled like a bouquet of herbal relief with hints of pepper, spice and lavender. It had a great trim job and beautiful coloring.

I had somehow overlooked a store exclusive called Thanksgiving Feast. Luckily, the budtender was nice enough to include a gram of this strain because he knew I had traveled a long way. I thanked him and went on my way.

Back in the safety of a proper smoking area, I started with the Thanksgiving Feast strain. As I broke it up and rolled my joint, I was only slightly impressed by the smell. Once I lit the joint, however, this strain immediately became one of my favorites. The first hit tasted of clearly of cranberries, but almost every inhale after that tasted like turkey breast. The exhales even tasted like Thanksgiving stuffing. I wish I had picked up more of this delightful treat.

Next up, I opened the Green Love Potion and started rolling the joint. It is a strain I don't find often, but I enjoy it almost every time. This sample lived up to my expectations. Its sweet taste



Steve Green/City Pulse

Emerald City Provisioning in Nunica features a spacious, inviting lobby.

was on point. The ash burned white, meaning a good flush, and, most important, the relief I usually find with this strain was there. It relieved my stress and melted away my muscle pain and spasms.

Steve Green, who writes this column every two weeks, uses marijuana to prevent seizures. He has no business ties to any dispensaries or products.

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TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2015 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.

Bon appétit!

TOP 5 NEW RESTAURANT

#1 COSMOS

Old Town pizzeria known for its adventurous pizzas and duck fat fries
611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 897-3563
thecosmoslansing.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#2 BLACK CAT BISTRO

Cozy East Lansing bistro known for its upscale, locally sourced cuisine
115 Albert Ave., East Lansing
(517) 580-3821
blackcatbistroel.com
11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily

#3 LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE

City Pulse readers recommend the bacon-wrapped sirloin and parmesan-crusted asparagus at this chain steakhouse
5796 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing
(517) 703-9041
longhornsteakhouse.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#4 GOOD TRUCKIN' DINER

REO Town diner known for its breakfast omelets and burritos and specialty burgers
1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
(517) 253-7961
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; closed Monday

#5 LOU & HARRY'S (DOWNTOWN)


Sandwich shop known for its gyros and Greek specialties
119 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 708-7212
facebook.com/louhaslansing
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 3 p.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday




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