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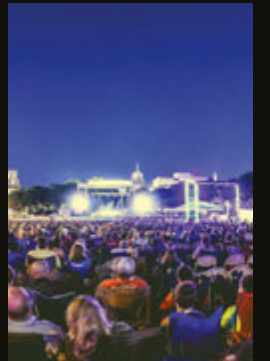
May 7-13, 2014

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MUSIC FINANCIALS

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in Lansing's biggest music festival
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Common Ground's darker side

Let me start with this: I like Lansing's Common Ground festival. City Pulse likes Common Ground.

Organizers consider it the highlight of the city's summer, and the crowds that attend – about 55,000 last year – agree.



MICKEY HIRTAN

Since the festival began in 2000, Lansing has spent more than \$1 million on Common Ground and it's worth it. Just like the ballpark. The city allocates tax dollars to subsidize minor league baseball, the Lansing Center and other small events.

Expenses, to be sure, but better characterized as investments in the quality of life – place making – which is reshaping the city, beginning to make it “cool.”

But there is something irregular in the way Lansing finances its share of the festival's expenses. It allocates its annual contribution to the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, a public and accountable entity, which in turn slides the money to Center Park Productions, a nonprofit organization which exists solely to run the festival. And do it very secretly.

Odder still is the role of LEPPA's president and chief executive officer, Scott Keith. Most of the time he runs LEPPA, which as City of Lansing entity is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act requirements of most public bodies. That is, until he transforms himself into the president of Center Park Productions, not a city agency. At this point, what he does and how Center Park Production operates is shielded from public scrutiny.

As a nonprofit, Center Park Productions must have a board of directors. In theory, Keith, as Center Park's president, works for the board. But not this board. It is stacked with senior LEPPA employees who work for Keith, among them his vice presidents for finance, administration, food and beverage, and sales and marketing. There is one “outside director,” a vice president of the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Considering the lack of transparen-

cy surrounding Center Park, wouldn't it be better to have some independent directors on the board?

At City Pulse, we had no idea that this was how Common Ground was structured. Our interest in the festival started with what we thought were simple questions: Is the festival profitable? And does the city really need to contribute to it every year?

This seems like a reasonable line of inquiry, the basic watchdog work that the public expects of news organizations. We posed the question to city officials, Mayor Bernero and others, and discovered that no one knew anything meaningful about the festival's finances. We asked members of the LEPPA board, including finance chairman Tim Kaltenbach, the same question and got the same “don't really know” answer. Kaltenbach, in fact, said he has never seen a financial report on Common Ground, which Keith denies. But that the two can't even agree on basic financial reporting illustrated the degree of secrecy surrounding the festival.

Keith, of course, knows. But he's not saying, because as president of Center Park Productions, he doesn't have to.

To be clear, there is no suggestion that there is anything dishonest or unethical happening at either LEPPA or Center Park Productions. The nonprofit shell, in fact, shields the city from liability if there were lawsuit. My suspicion is that the festival is well run and likely produces a small and reasonable profit for the Meridian Entertainment Group, the Old Town based company that actually runs the festival.

Kevin Meyer is president of Meridian Entertainment, which promotes festivals and other events throughout the United States and abroad. Common Ground is his hometown show. You want a nice event for the neighbors. Meyer's company has assumed tasks once done by the city in part because he says he can do them better and cheaper. He runs festivals year round; the city does it once a year.

Lately, Common Ground has scaled back slightly with fewer name acts and one fewer show days.

But it still gets some great acts and I hope for a successful festival with bigger crowds than last year. It would be great to add days and stages. There were some memorable shows at the old City Market stage across the river; Jimmy Cliff and his 11-piece reggae band was simply unbelievable.

But, honestly, so is the way the city finances its share of the festival. It needs to open the books and if there confidential information, make the case for non-disclosure. It would be devastating for Common Ground if it were discovered that the finances were mismanaged or even worse, money was being embezzled. Unlikely, of course, But then isn't it always shocking to learn that longtime, trusted employees have been skimming funds.

Just open the books. It's about time.

CityPULSE

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Lansing road repair price tag: \$166 million ... and up



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Annual symposium celebrates the work of eccentric Michigan author, judge



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Uncorked: World-class sommelier's Pinot Noirs are pure enchantment



**COVER
ART**

NO ACCESS by RACHEL HARPER



THIS WEEK

- Lansing Police Chief Mike Yankowski
- Imran Qureshi, Broad Art Museum guest artist
- Rigo Flores, co-owner of International Ring of Grapplers



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz
7 p.m. Wednesdays

**IMPACT
89FM**

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

UNCOVERING COMMON GROUND

A closer look at the financial triangle behind Common Ground Music Festival

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

This story began in April 2012, shortly after a source suggested City Pulse poke around the finances of Common Ground Music Festival — how it's paid for, what the city is on the hook for and what it gets in return.

It started as a fairly straightforward Freedom of Information Act request asking for festival budget details, staffing levels, artist fees and net and gross revenues. The request, delivered to the City Attorney's Office, was denied because "the City does not possess the records you seek."

City Pulse simply wanted to know: Is Common Ground profitable? And is a city subsidy necessary?



Keith

Next came a series of more requests that revealed a system of intentional secrecy to hide the way money — in this case, some of it public — is spent on Common Ground.

Also after that original request came resentment from the head of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, Scott Keith, that City Pulse would seek such information through the FOIA. After the original request, an arrangement between City Pulse and LEPFA, in which advertising was traded for tickets, was halted by LEPFA without a word.

Five more FOIA requests with the city and LEPFA were filed since April 2012.



Meyer

Some were denied because it wasn't clear which entity — the city or LEPFA, the quasi-governmental authority that helps organize Common Ground — owned the records.

City Pulse met with officials from the Bernero administration and festival organizers on multiple occasions. At one meeting last summer, a discussion about a City Pulse column with the headline, "Lansing balks at releasing finances for taxpayer-subsidized Common Ground Festival," devolved into a shouting match between my editor and Randy Hannan, Mayor Virg Bernero's chief of staff, in the city attorney's conference room. Hannan contended the city was cooperating with the paper's request for budget details all along.

But the months-long back and forth led to uncovering a unique arrangement between the city, which budgets about \$130,000 annually for Common Ground support,



Photo courtesy of Meridian Entertainment Group.

The 2003 Common Ground Music Festival, in its fourth year, featured acts like Hootie & the Blowfish, Joe Cocker, Meat Loaf and the Allman Brothers Band. Festival organizers say one million people have attended the festival since the first in 2000, bringing in over \$50 million in economic activity.

a tax-exempt entity called Center Park Productions run by Keith and the for-profit entertainment company, Meridian Entertainment Group.

To funnel money to Common Ground, the city established Center Park Productions, a 501(C)3 nonprofit subsidiary of LEPFA that exists solely to transfer money to Meridian. As a nonprofit, it isn't subject to the state's Open Meetings or Freedom of Information acts. Its five-member board of directors is self-appointed and made up of LEPFA officials. There has been no movement to include outsiders on its board. Keith said Center Park Productions compiles an annual report that he said is presented to LEPFA's finance committee, but he declined to release it to the public.

The chairman of the finance committee, former City

councilman Tim Kaltenbach, said he was unfamiliar with Center Park Productions.

As the festival enters its 15th year, details about the financial arrangement is no more clear to the public, and even to some indirectly involved in the festival, than it was in the beginning. Indeed, the festival has come to be one of the city's biggest gatherings of the year, and organizers say a growing percentage are coming in from outside of greater Lansing. No one is particularly disputing the financial benefits Lansing sees. There is also no suggestion of malfeasance.

But what is glaring is the lack of transparency the festival offers and the entirely unique model that keeps audited fi-

SORE OF THE WEEK will return next week!

See Common Ground, Page 6



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Common Ground

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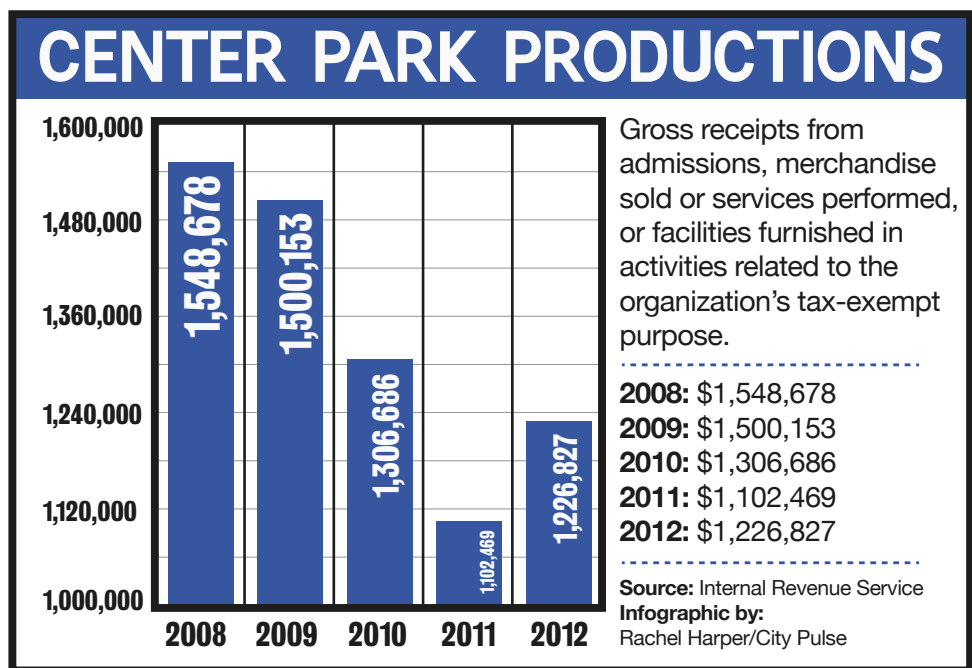
financial information for an entity run by public employees out of view of the public.

WHAT IS CENTER PARK PRODUCTIONS?

Outside of Keith, no one interviewed for this story had a strong sense of how Center Park operates or what exactly the city gets in return for spending \$130,000 a year supporting Common Ground. Economic spinoff is cited in the \$50 million neighborhood since it started in 2000. But it is unclear whether the festival would pack up and leave Lansing without the city's financial contribution.

"Common Ground is important to the city. It's synonymous with Lansing in the summer, a magnet that brings people from all over Michigan to Lansing," Mayor Virg Bernero said. But as for the financing: "In general, that's over my head. I leave entertainment things to the folks at LEPPA or the (Convention and Visitor's Bureau). I am paying attention to more important things like police.

"I am told that this is how festivals are done," Bernero added. "I will admit that I have not applied a mayoral microscope to it. But if it isn't broke, don't fix it. I'd have to be convinced that there is a problem to



look into it."

Kevin Meyer, who runs Meridian Entertainment Group, said the city's contribution is less than 10 percent of the festival's overall \$1.8 million budget — and the city gets a "world-class event" out of it. Meridian finds the artists to play, administers contracts and coordinates the overall production of the event. He said the festival would have to replace the revenue from somewhere else if the city didn't provide it. The arrangement also

shields Meridian Entertainment Group from disclosing the firms' profits and for what price acts are booked. "We're just barely breaking even," Meyer said.

"Or another municipality comes in to make a better deal," Keith said, suggesting that the city risks losing the festival without its contribution. As the head of both a public authority and a tax-exempt nonprofit, Keith said his roles "are not something I take lightly. The (Center Park) board, LEPPA board, mayor, City Council hold me in high regard that I'm doing the right thing. I am taking the high road, keeping it on the up and up," he said.

The inaugural festival in 2000 opened with a combination of regional and nationally touring acts with a decidedly modern and classic rock lineup. This year's festival, July 8-13, is a scaled back version compared to past years with a new emphasis on rock music geared toward a younger generation. Organizers say the event has attracted one million visitors over the past 14 years.

Each year, the city contracts with Center Park Productions. It outlines a series of services across multiple city departments that the city will provide, including information technology support, fleet services, electrical installations, plumbing and on-site medical and fire services. According to the contract, the city will also "provide financial assistance to (Center Park Productions) in the event that 'Common Ground' does not reach a breakeven point ... and must use reserves beyond capability to keep CPP from bankruptcy."

While the language requires the city to keep Center Park whole, "This provision of the contract has never been invoked," Hannan said in an email in August. "CG deficits in prior years have been carried forward and offset by surpluses in subsequent years, eliminating the need for the city to provide the referenced financial assistance. If this clause were invoked in the future, the City would require an audit of

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Common Ground

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CPP to verify the shortfall.”

According to the latest available financial information Center Park is required to file with the Internal Revenue Service, Center Park ended 2012 with a negative \$175,916 in net assets — a decrease by over \$93,000 from the year before. In 2012, Center Park brought in \$1.45 million in revenue but spent \$1.54 million. Roughly half of the revenue — \$788,714 — comes from ticket sales. Other revenue comes from contracts with sponsors or other parties who are obligated to provide money, trade or other services in exchange for marketing.

The organization’s mission is: “To promote and operate an annual summer event that provides a variety of entertainment and activities that enhances a positive community image, attracts visitors, and encourages unity and civic pride,” according to IRS tax filings.

The Center Park Productions board is made up of Keith; Greg Soleau, LEPPFA’s vice president of finance; Heidi Brown, LEPPFA’s vice president of administration; Paul Ntoko, LEPPFA’s vice president for food and beverage; and Gus Pine, the vice president of sales and marketing with the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitor’s Bureau who is contracted by LEPPFA to oversee sales and marketing. He said the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau is a Common Ground sponsor, but he couldn’t say how much financial support the group gives to the festival. Another Convention and Visitor’s Bureau employee, Tracy Padot, also could not specify the amount, but said it is “minimal.”

Keith said Center Park Productions is audited each year, but that report is “reviewed internally” and not available to the public.

Pine said the board meets three times a year. While Keith said an annual report is made for Center Park’s budget, Pine was unaware of one last week.

‘INTERESTING TRIANGLE’

Tim Kaltenbach, who chairs LEPPFA’s finance committee, said he, too, has never seen financial reports on Common Ground. Keith disputes that, and said those have been provided.

“The LEPPFA Finance Committee is briefed on the contract between LEPPFA and CPP; including any financial obligations or items pertaining to the LEPPFA audit,” Keith said in an email in response to Kaltenbach’s claim.

Kaltenbach said while the finance committee is briefed on ticket sales and “whether we’re making a profit or not making a profit,” he was unclear what role the city and LEPPFA plays specifically in funding Common Ground. Kaltenbach said he has served on the LEPPFA board for four years and chaired the finance

committee for the past two. As for Center Park Productions: “No, I don’t know anything about them,” he said.

Kaltenbach supports the city’s Common Ground subsidy, and did so when he was the city’s 4th Ward Councilman, because of the promotion it does for the city.

Local radio personality Tim Barron, who sits on LEPPFA’s board and is in line to take over as chairman next month, said the LEPPFA board “keeps a strict eye on every expense” related to the festival. He said he’s been told Center Park Productions

“I THINK A FULL EXPLANATION OF HOW CENTER PARK PRODUCTIONS OPERATES WOULD BE A FANTASTIC START. I PLAN TO PUSH FOR THAT THE FIRST DAY I’M CHAIRMAN.”

— Radio personality and LEPPFA board member Tim Barron

operates in an “intentional gray area” so it could be “a place the two entities (the city and Meridian Entertainment) could meet and sort things out that were from a charitable aspect, versus it having to be a city thing or a Meridian Entertainment thing.”

Barron said he has “no idea” about what goes into Center Park’s budget, saying LEPPFA and Center Park are separate entities.

Barron, at the end of the day, supports the city’s contribution to Common Ground because it brings people into the city who may not otherwise visit. But he thinks the arrangement might benefit from a little bit of sunlight.

“I think a full explanation of how Center Park Productions operates would be a fantastic start,” he said. “I plan to push for that the first day I’m chairman.”

Steve Schmader, president and CEO of the International Festivals and Events Association, called the arrangement an “interesting triangle” between the city, Center Park and Meridian Entertainment, particularly because the nonprofit is administered by a group of LEPPFA employees.

“That’s not terribly common. I can’t say I’ve heard of that.”

However, he said it is “not unusual at all” for cities to provide financial or technical support for festivals that draw people into the area.

“It’s always fascinating to me how people work with outside groups,” Schmader said. “The bottom line for all of them is that they’re all trying to do something good for the community in some way. ... We’re certainly flying the flag to say to cities to be very careful as you make those decisions. It

Wood said the Council was briefed each year on ticket sales, economic spinoff and expenditures incurred by the city. “Gradually those reports stopped coming to the Council,” she said, which happened during the Tony Benavides administration. Wood also said that the administration has promised to give the Council a Common Ground-specific presentation as part of the budget process, but that has not happened yet. At LEPPFA’s budget hearing last month, Councilwoman Jessica Yorke asked questions related to Common Ground financing, but Keith declined to discuss them at that hearing. Wood still needs to be convinced why the city subsidy is necessary.

“I don’t think we’ve had a clear understanding in my estimation as to why they’re not self-sufficient at this time,” Wood said. “\$130,000 might not seem like a great deal of money when you look at what the spinoff revenue is that generates from those dollars. But as I’m going down a street and see we could have used that to do some repaving on, I’m asking the question: ‘Why isn’t this group paying for it themselves instead of the city having to pay for it?’ We as politicians have to be able to answer that.”

Wood believes the arrangement as it exists today is “flawed” and that Center Park Productions, like other entities that contract with the city, should have to open its audited financials to the city.

“If you don’t want to open up, then you don’t want our dollars,” she said. “The minute that taxpayer dollars are being utilized for something, then we should have the availability for all records that have to deal with that.”

Associate publisher Mickey Hirten contributed reporting to this story.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County solicits proposals from experienced and qualified firms to enter into a contract for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive classification and compensation study. Details at: <http://pu.ingham.org>, Current Bids link, Packet #49-14.

CP#14_117

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from East Lansing Development LLC and Parkview Condos LLC, for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 270 and 300 West Grand River Avenue to demolish the existing buildings and construct a new, six-story, mixed-use building with approximately 5,000 square feet of non-residential space and a total of 160 studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments and the associated parking. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_118



Road woes

City of Lansing estimates \$166 million price tag to fix bad roads

Diane Cooke's Pontiac G6 took a beating from fallen trees during this winter's ice storms. But nothing prepared her for the destruction that the spring roads would bring to bear on her car. In a three-week time frame, she had to replace all four tires, plus her spare tire. She also had to replace two rims. The reason? The pothole-riddled streets in Lansing. It cost her over \$1,000 to fix her car.

Based on data presented to City Council last week, Cooke is unlikely to be alone in feeling the bite of bad roads. During a budget presentation, Chad Gamble who oversees the public services department, presented evidence that 61 percent of the roads in the city's neighborhoods were in poor condition, while just over 50 percent of the city's main roads were in poor condition.

The conditions are established under the Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating System developed by the University of Wisconsin Madison. It assigns a rating of 1 to 10 to each road based on the observable needs of the road for repair. One is the worst, while 10 is the best.

To fix just the poor-condition roads in the city's neighborhoods will cost \$166 million, Gamble told City Pulse in an interview.

To restore every road in the city to "nearly new condition" it cost will more than a quarter of a billion dollars.

Lansing is struggling to find the cash to pay for roads. The answer revolves around an antiquated funding system. The state charges a flat tax on gasoline. The funds raised on that tax are placed in a special road fund called an Act 151 that can only be used for road work. That tax has not been raised since Gov. John Engler was in office in 1997. At the time the tax was increased, the average gallon of gasoline was running about \$1.25 in Michigan. Today, despite average gas prices hanging in over \$3 a gallon, consumers still pay the same amount of money in taxes on a gallon of gasoline as they did in 1997.

Complicating this, people are driving fewer miles, with more gas-efficient vehicles, so they are actually buying less gasoline, resulting in even lower tax revenues.

On top of this, in order to conduct utility work — replacing water mains and the like — utilities have to cut into the roadway. The result is a "wound" in the road which takes a lot of attention and nursing from the city to heal, Gamble says. Right now, utilities pay a per square foot cost to cut into the roadway. The costs proposed for the next budget year would be \$90 a square foot for pristine condition main roads and \$46.5 for neighborhood roads. Lower grade roads would see fees of \$30 per square foot on main roads, and \$15.5 for neighborhood roads. Those fees, Gam-

ble says, allows the city to return to cut-out locations multiple times to conduct upkeep and prevent the location from causing increased damage to the roadway.

Those wounds are visible throughout Lansing. Anywhere the Board of Water and Light has done a lead line replacement, one can see large square patches of asphalt where the work that was done is sinking and cracking.

Things in the city could be much worse. In 2011, voters approved a special 4 mill tax levy to pay for public safety and road upkeep.

"Without the millage, we wouldn't have been able to function," Gamble said. "We would be on life support."

Gamble points out the millage is really only a stop gap response, with the real answer to be found in the state legislature. He is not hopeful lawmakers will find a resolution anytime soon.

"It boggles my mind. I understand they don't want to raise taxes wily nilly, but this is guaranteed to go into one fund," Gamble says.

He points to the catastrophic failure of the I-35 bridge in 2007 in Minnesota. The collapse was, in part, due to poor upkeep. The failure resulted in the deaths of 13 people.

"I hope it doesn't take something like that to get them to act," says Gamble of the legislature.

And Gamble feels Cooke's pain. His family had to replace the windshield in their van recently because a piece of road flew off the highway and cracked it. The cost? About \$300.

"They may not know it, but they are paying for the conditions of the roads," Gamble says of taxpayers. "One way or another, they are paying for it."

— Todd Heywood



Enbridge, WKAR and Earth Day

Jeffrey Insko has a massive pipeline running through his backyard. He is reminded of this every time he looks out into his backyard and sees the scars left by Enbridge Energy's pipeline replacement crews. And that reminder led to anger when he saw WKAR television and radio partnered with Enbridge for an Earth Day fundraiser to plant trees.

"I also find it unfortunate that WKAR couldn't find a native Michigan sponsor for this program, turning instead to a company that continues to wreak havoc in the state almost four years after the Marshall spill," he says.

Insko, who lives in Oakland County, runs the Line 6B Citizens Blog, which

is dedicated to tracking the activities of Enbridge. The Marshall spill happened in July 2010, when over 1 million gallons of thick toxic metal-laced oil was released from the Lakehead Pipeline 6B. The company is still removing oil from the river, and has already spent over \$1 billion to clean up the spill.

After the spill in Marshall, the pipeline company announced plans to replace the entire line from Griffin, Ind., to Sarnia, Ontario. Replacement meant going across the state, clear cutting swaths of land, and digging down into the ground parallel to the current route of the line. The new line is expected to be brought online this month, and will double the capacity of oil running across southern Michigan.

But properties owners, like Insko, were left with denuded properties and botched land purchase agreements. Insko says he can't determine how many trees Enbridge still needs to replace from the 6B replacement project. And Enbridge has no idea right now either, says Jennifer Smith, a spokeswoman for the company.

This despite Enbridge's much touted 2009 Neutral Footprint Program. The program promises to replace every tree removed for Enbridge related construction programs. Internationally, the project claims the company has removed just under 600,000 trees, and planted just over 800,000 trees. At the very end of the project explanation, Enbridge notes tree planting will happen within five years of a tree's removal.

Enter WKAR. The public broadcasting station decided to host a fundraiser and Earth day event this year for a second time. The goal was to get donations to WKAR, while assisting the Michigan Arbor Day Foundation's plant a tree initiative. To promote the event, WKAR officials approached local businesses to become sponsors. Lake Trust Credit Union and Enbridge each bit at the offer, handing over \$2,500 to sponsor the event. In exchange they were featured together in a television spot saying that Enbridge and Lake Trust would plant a tree for anyone who donated to the public broadcasting station. Well, actually, Arbor Day Foundation would plant the tree.

Bob Kolt, a spokesman for WKAR, says the stations are obligated to accept the sponsorships of any business that approaches it. Asked whether WKAR would accept the donation of a white nationalist organization such as the KKK or the neo-Nazis, he said no.

"They shared the vision of the project," Kolt said of Enbridge and the reason WKAR accepted its sponsorship.

Tamara Hicks-Syron of Lansing has been a long-time donor to WKAR programming. But the Enbridge sponsorship program may change that for her.


"Unless there's a good explanation or a huge apology admitting this wasn't the right thing to do, then yes, I will be withdrawing my support," she said.

— Todd Heywood


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ARTS & CULTURE

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SPLASHES OF DIALOGUE

BROAD GUEST ARTIST GETS EAST LANSING TALKING

By **ALLANI ROSS**

“Can I go here?”

A young woman walking through East Lansing’s Ann Street Plaza earlier this week stopped short of a maroon blotch splattered across the pavement. It looked like a giant splash of blood, about 12 feet long and 3 feet

wide. She looked around. A man nearby waved her forward.

“**Fragmented**”

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“It’s OK, you can walk on it,” he said. “It’s art.”

She gingerly tread on it; what looked like shapeless red blobs at first took shape into flowers, feathers and scales up close. She thanked the man with a wave and contin-

ued on. What transpired between the two could be called a conversation — at least it was enough to make the woman pause and talk to a stranger. And for the piece’s artist, Imran Qureshi, that’s good enough.

“Art is supposed to start a dialogue,” said Qureshi, 42, a world-renowned experimental mixed-media artist. “Whether it’s an actual dialogue between two people or a symbolic one between a piece of art and its surroundings. Art is something that’s supposed to lead to something.”

Qureshi’s mural, “Fragmented,” is a series of about two dozen abstract paintings spread around the ground, benches and alley walls of Ann Street Plaza. By no means was it pre-conceived. When a careless delivery driver drove his truck over a segment that hadn’t

dried, Qureshi incorporated the tread marks into the piece.

“I think it says a lot about our relationship with technology, how indifferent we’ve become to the world because of it,” Qureshi said. “He didn’t even look at the ground — he just kept going.”

“Fragmented” continues two blocks over in an area across the street from the Broad Art Museum, where he has an exhibit — “Imran Qureshi: The God of Small Things” — that opens on Friday. Last year the Pakistani-born artist was named the Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year. He has showcased his miniature paintings and created installations in museums in Sydney, Dubai, London and New York. He also dabbles in video work and theatrical performance, but won’t cop to any one medium.

“I like ambiguity,” he said.

In addition to being Qureshi’s splashy debut, “Fractured” is the first stroke of East Lansing’s new Public Mural Art Project. The program is designed to turn aspects of natural urban erosion into miniature artworks. A horizontal crack along a wall can become a tight rope; a bent bollard can be transformed into a giant stubbed-out cigarette.

“It’s part of a continuum that goes from a tiny painting on a crack in a wall to a building that competes with the best museums in the world,” said East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett. “It ties the Broad to the city and the city to the Broad.”

Qureshi typically works with watercolors on paper, but for his exhibit, that style was



Allan Ross/City Pulse

Imran Qureshi’s (left) massive public ground mural, “Fragmented,” is splattered across pavement, walls and park benches in downtown East Lansing, stretching from Ann Street Plaza to a section of pavement across the street from the Broad Art Museum.

something he thought was “too organic” for the Broad’s soaring steel architecture.

“When I was asked to do this exhibit last year, I didn’t know anything about the Broad or East Lansing — I said yes because I was excited about (museum architect) Zaha Hadid,” Qureshi said. “But when I saw the building last fall, I thought that bringing my previous work wouldn’t be a good idea. It made me want to create something new that would make the space talk.”

For his exhibit, Qureshi made two original paintings that are designed to be displayed at angles to each other that mimic the interior façade of the Broad.

“The (Broad’s) windows looked like an opening book to me, so I made these to echo that feeling,” he said. “But these are much smaller, of course. It’s like father and son.”

But it may be easy to overlook the molehill for the mountain in that gallery; Qureshi has also created a massive mound of crumpled paper that takes up most of the room’s floor space. It’s another of Qureshi’s emerging trademark works, a piece he’s created in

previous intallations. Over 20,000 copies of images from Qureshi’s “Fragmented”-like mural atop New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art were printed on semi-glossy 24-by-33-inch paper, wadded up by a team of volunteers and tossed into a pile last week.

“I use pictures of my own art to depict change,” he said. “It’s a connection to my previous art, but it’s also doing something new in an organic way.”

Qureshi’s pieces are artworks in their own right, but they could also be considered a single evolving exhibition, incorporating traditional and nontraditional media, trekking onward both temporally and geographically. Today’s sidewalk mural is fodder for tomorrow’s crumpled paper mountain, which may become next week’s film project. Who knows? The whole thing could become a play one day.

“I’m not trying to force anything — I’m just letting my art emerge and talk to me” he said. “It’s a little narration. When it comes naturally, it has more life. It’s about you and your dialogue with yourself.”

Courtesy photo

Singer Cecile McLorin Salván is one of the performers at the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival. Also appearing are trumpeter Benny Benack III and the Planet D Nonet, who will perform a tribute to Sun Ra.



Sonic boom East Lansing Jazz Festival pushes the envelope

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

From the U.S. Air Force’s crack big band to the far-out signals of avant-garde spaceman Sun Ra, East Lansing’s Summer Solstice Jazz Festival has announced a stellar lineup that thrusts the 18-year-old event into new layers of the stratosphere.

In recent years, the event skyrocketed to national stature under the aegis of

artistic director Rodney Whitaker and his stellar MSU jazz studies program. This year, it’s breaking another sound barrier or two.

Two of jazz’s top young artists, singer Cecile McLorin Salván and trumpeter Benny Benack III, will headline a broad mix of straight-ahead, big band, blues, Latin and chamber jazz on two stages June 20-21 at East Lansing’s Parking Lot 1, 230 Albert Ave., and Ann Street Plaza.

This year’s event will take advantage of East Lansing’s newest cultural jewel, the Broad Art Museum: Kozmic Picnic, a tribute to Ra’s outer space jazz

by Detroit’s Planet D Nonet, will be held in the museum’s sculpture garden on Saturday, June 21. It’s the first time avant-garde jazz has joined the festival lineup, but the advent of a major contemporary art museum in East Lansing put the planets into alignment.

In a masterstroke of logistics and multi-genre programming, Chicago’s raucous Lowdown Brass Band will lead a New Orleans-style second line march from the Broad Museum to the epicenter of action in downtown Lansing at the Ra tribute, complete with flashing strings of beads and spinning parasols.

See Solstice, Page 11

May 15 - June 15, 2014

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by Norm Foster

Directed by Lynn Lammers

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Courtesy photo

Pianist Andrew Hsu, 19, performed a Schumann piano concerto at the Lansing Symphony's season closer last week.

Blissed out

Pianist Andrew Hsu had the audience belly up and purring at symphony closer

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A chic-looking young woman drags her working-class dad to the symphony. Squinting at all the musicians and instruments on the stage, he squirms in his seat and demands, "Who am I supposed to root for?"

OK, I made up that New Yorker cartoon, but it's condescending enough to seem real.

The point is, nobody had any problem figuring out whom to root for at Wednesday's Lansing Symphony season finale.

Pianist Andrew Hsu, all of 19 years old, didn't just play the shoes off the Schumann piano concerto — he tinkered with it like a happy motorhead tuning up a red 1970 Mustang. His joyful absorption was so complete he may as well have been alone in his garage with a beer on the toolbox and a pizza on the way. He folded the concerto into an origami flamingo, had it for breakfast, married it and buried it. He made it fun.

Applying ineffable skills beyond soloists twice or thrice his age, Hsu had the audience belly up and purring with pleasure within 30 seconds. Without pretension, angst or apparent desire to prove anything, he glided along with a liquid touch, totally engaged, creating the rare illusion that he was making it all up as he went along. The orchestra responded with equal spontaneity and springiness. At the beginning of the second movement, Hsu volleyed a bouncy little phrase back and forth with the strings, beaming and shaking his head with pleasure, as if they were all jamming in that garage with

the beer and pizza.

Not that Hsu made light of the job. Schumann's bouts of despair and declarations of passion were there, not to be wallowed in, but to be plopped and fizzed into the sheer joy of making music. It was the lightest heavyweight performance an LSO soloist has delivered in a long time.

Hsu got an instantaneous standing ovation as soon as the concerto was over, but he wasn't through yet. He didn't take the easy way out for an encore. He tore through the furious fugue from Samuel Barber's piano sonata, a vortex of spiky melody that wheels, burns and bites back at itself like hellfire.

Hsu's second standing O was the third overall that night — and it wasn't even intermission yet. The first spontaneous audience eruption came in response to the evening opener, Christopher Theofanidis' "Rainbow Body." This was an IMAX performance masterfully rendered in 3-D by maestro Timothy Muffitt, with primordial growls from bassoon and cello in the background, smeared notes oozing in all directions, and a luminous medieval melody, superbly played by the LSO strings, shimmering in the center.

Sudden, whip-like outbursts from the woodwinds lashed just short of your nose. Long pedal points — bottom-dwelling notes sustained about as long as sperm whales dive for giant squid — rumbled under the seats. After a series of struggles rendered in primary-color movie-score style, the serene melody, based on music by medieval visionary Hildegard von Bingen, rematerialized, like the Good Witch of the North, inflated to purple-faced intensity by every mother's son in the orchestra to climax in a shamelessly orgasmic major chord. The crowd went wild, but no smoking was allowed.

After all that pleasure, I'd love to report

See Hsu, Page 11

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Hsu

from page 10

that the evening's (and the season's) crowning glory, Brahms' Fourth Symphony, went off without a hitch, but that was not quite the case. It's petty to point out the random clams that slip out in nearly any orchestral performance, but when the number exceeds three man-eaters — as it did among the brass players in the first movement — it's hard not to notice. For the rest of the night, the brass couldn't completely shake a detached, loud-voice-at-the-party intrusiveness.

Solstice

from page 9

Slightly closer to Earth, the 18-piece Airmen of Note, the top U.S. Air Force big band, will make its first visit to the festival this year. Formed in 1950 to pick up where Major Glenn Miller's Army Air Corps dance band left off, the Airmen comprise one of the last touring big bands in existence.

For the past three years, a co-sponsorship with the Wharton Center helped the festival snag rising stars such as bassist Esperanza Spalding and vocalist Cyrille Aimee, both of whom returned to perform at Wharton. This year, the principal snag is idiosyncratic vocalist Salvant, who combines the conversational coolness (and sexy-nerd glasses) of Blossom Dearie with the off-handed sultriness of Billie Holiday and the time-stretching command of Sarah Vaughan.

The other young catch is Benack, an ebullient trumpeter-singer and winner of just about every competition in existence, named by Wynton Marsalis as one of the next generation of jazz greats.

A new flavor at the festival this year is 10-piece Latin ensemble Aguankó, led by Mexican drummer-composer Alberto Nacif

However, all forces rallied to nail down the third movement's best-day-of-your-life exultation. The stage was set for one of music's most inexorable steamrollers — the last movement, in which the same eight notes ratchet upward and upward, gathering torque like Archimedes lifting the world, until there is nothing left but empty space.

Neither rushing nor dragging the weight entrusted to him, Muffitt should have his juggernaut operator's license renewed after guiding this monster home. The orchestra's grasp definitively caught up with its reach, breathing Brahms' mighty answer to death into tender air before closing the lid on an ambitious and memorable season.

and Cuban percussionist Pepe Espinosa. To thicken the stew of styles, Detroit's Thornetta Davis will represent for blues and R&B.

With combos small, medium and large, the roster of jazz musicians on the festival's two stages this year runs into the hundreds. As usual, the cream of local jazz performers will be on hand, from the salsa sounds of Orquesta Ritmo to straight-ahead combos led by top saxophonist Diego Rivera and guitarist Neil Gordon. Vocalist Sunny Wilkinson, blues/funk specialists Root Doctor, the LCC Faculty Jazz Quartet and another big band, led by MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease, are also on the slate.

In addition to flexing his star drawing power, Whitaker is also making sure the festival digs deeper roots into the community. An education stage will showcase units such as the MSU Community Music School Jazz Orchestra (directed by Whitaker), the LCC Jazz Band, the East Lansing High School Jazz Band and an ad hoc combo made up of Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan (JAMM) scholarship recipients. If all that doesn't fill up the longest days of the year, nothing will.

The East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival is presented by the City of East Lansing, MSU's College of Music and the Wharton Center. For a full lineup, go to eljazzfest.com.

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This issue — tied to a new exhibit at City Hall organized by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing — will be well read.

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Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

May 7-14

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fireworks displays excite the eyes and lift the spirit. But the smoke and dust they produce can harm the lungs with residues of heavy metals. The toxic chemicals they release may pollute streams and lakes and even groundwater. So is there any alternative? Not yet. No one has come up with a more benign variety of fireworks. But if it happens soon, I bet it will be due to the efforts of an enterprising Aries researcher. Your tribe is entering a phase when you will have good ideas about how to make risky fun safer, how to ensure vigorous adventures are healthy, and how to maintain constructive relationships with exciting influences.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Free jazz is a type of music that emerged in the 1950s as a rebellion against jazz conventions. Its meter is fluid and its harmonies unfamiliar, sometimes atonal. Song structures may be experimental and unpredictable. A key element in free jazz is collective improvisation -- riffing done not just by a featured soloist, but by the entire group of musicians playing together. To prepare for your adventures in the coming days, Taurus -- which I suspect will have resemblances to free jazz -- you might want to listen to music by its pioneers, like Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus, and Sun Ra. Whatever you do, don't fall prey to scapabodiddillywiddilydoobapaphobia, which is the fear of freestyle jazz.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Apple and Exxon are the most valuable companies in America. In third place, worth more than \$350 billion, is Google. Back in 1999, when the future Internet giant was less than a year old, Google's founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page tried to sell their baby for a mere million dollars. The potential buyer was Excite, an online service that was thriving at the time. But Excite's CEO turned down the offer, leaving Brin and Page to soldier onward by themselves. Lucky for them, right? Today they're rich and powerful. I foresee the possibility of a comparable development in your life, Gemini. An apparent "failure" may, in hindsight, turn out to be the seed of a future success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "You can't have your cake and eat it, too" is an English-language proverb. It means that you will no longer have your cake if you eat it all up. The Albanian version of the adage is "You can't go for a swim without getting wet." Hungarians say, "It's impossible to ride two horses with one butt." According to my analysis, Cancerian, you will soon disprove this folk wisdom. You will, in effect, be able to eat your cake and still have it. You will somehow stay dry as you take a dip. You will figure out a way to ride two horses with your one butt.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I know this might come as a shock, Leo, but . . . are you ready? . . . you are God! Or at least godlike. An influx of crazy yet useful magic from the Divine Wow is boosting your personal power way beyond normal levels. There's so much primal mojo flowing through you that it will be hard if not impossible for you to make mistakes. Don't fret, though. Your stint as the Wild Sublime Golden Master of Reality probably won't last for more than two weeks, three tops. I'm sure that won't be long enough for you to turn into a raving megalomaniac with 10,000 cult followers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In your imagination, take a trip many years into the future. See yourself as you are now, sitting next to the wise elder you will be then. The two of you are lounging on a beach and gazing at a lake. It's twilight. A warm breeze feels good. You turn to your older self and say, "Do you have any regrets? Is there anything you wish you had done but did not do?" Your older self tells you what that thing is. (Hear it now.) And you reply, "Tomorrow I will begin working to change all that."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Over a hundred years ago, the cattle industry pressured the U.S. government to kill off wolves in Yellowstone National Park. By

1926 the wolves had all but vanished. In the following decades, elk herds grew unnaturally big, no longer hunted by their natural predator. The elk decimated the berry bushes of Yellowstone, eating the wild fruit with such voracity that grizzly bears and many other species went hungry. In 1995, environmentalists and conservationists got clearance to re-introduce wolves to the area. Now the berry bushes are flourishing again. Grizzlies are thriving, as are other mammals that had been deprived. I regard this vignette as an allegory for your life in the coming months, Libra. It's time to do the equivalent of replenishing the wolf population. Correct the imbalance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I have no problem with you listening closely to the voices in your head. Although there might be some weird counsel flowing from some of them, it's also possible that one of those voices might have sparkling insights to offer. As for the voices that are delivering messages from your lower regions, in the vicinity of your reproductive organs: I'm not opposed to you hearing them out, either. But I hope you will be most attentive and receptive to the voices in your heart. While they are not infallible, they are likely to contain a higher percentage of useful truth than those other two sources.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Kangaroo rats live in the desert. They're at home there, having evolved over millennia to thrive in the arid conditions. So well-adapted are they that they can go a very long time without drinking water. While it's admirable to have achieved such a high level of accommodation to their environment, I don't recommend that you do something comparable. In fact, it's probably better if you don't adjust to some of the harsher aspects of your environment. Now might be a good time to acknowledge this fact and start planning an alternate solution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Those who control their passions do so because their passions are weak enough to be controlled," said writer William Blake. I think you will challenge this theory in the coming weeks, Capricorn. Your passions will definitely not be weak. They may even verge on being volcanic. And yet I bet you will manage them fairly well. By that I mean you will express them with grace and power rather than allowing them to overwhelm you and cause a messy ruckus. You won't need to tamp them down and bottle them up because you will find a way to be both uninhibited and disciplined as you give them their chance to play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Would you please go spend some quality time having non-goal-oriented fun? Can I convince you to lounge around in fantasyland as you empty your beautiful head of all compulsions to prove yourself and meet people's expectations? Will you listen to me if I suggest that you take off the mask that's stuck to your face and make funny faces in the mirror? You need a nice long nap, gorgeous. Two or three nice long naps. Bake some damn cookies, even if you've never done so. Soak your feet in epsom salts as you binge-watch a TV show that stimulates a thousand emotions. Lie in the grass and stare lovingly at the sky for as long as it takes to recharge your spiritual batteries.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dear Pisceans: Your evil twins have asked me to speak to you on their behalf. They say they want to apologize for the misunderstandings that may have arisen from their innocent desire to show you what you had been missing. Their intent was not at all hostile or subversive. They simply wanted to fill in some gaps in your education. OK? Next your evil twins want to humbly request that you no longer refer to them as "Evil Twin," but instead pick a more affectionate name, like, say "Sweet Mess" or "Tough Lover." If you promise to treat them with more gentleness, they will guarantee not to be so tricky and enigmatic.

Art Gallery **CONFIDENTIAL**

Particular art Lansing-area art galleries offer candy for eye and brain in May

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

It's not uncommon for an untrained eye to question the skill involved in an abstract work of art. Overlooking any subtext or form, some people may snicker to themselves that a child could produce such a piece. But "Reductive Uncertainty" at (SCENE) Metrospace, one of many opening exhibits at Lansing's First Sunday Gallery Walk last weekend, features highly conceptual prints and sculptures by a cyclotron physicist — hardly child's play.

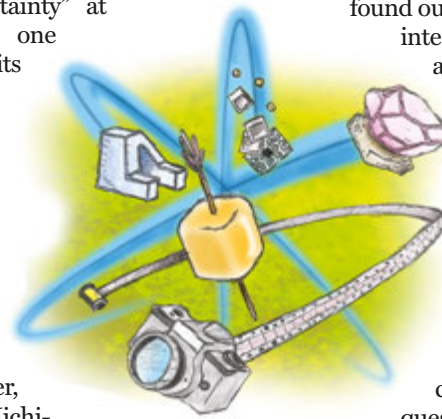
"The pixel level is like the atomic level," said Matthaeus Leitner, artist and physicist at Michigan State University's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. "Its more about experiencing a presence. Location can't be defined anymore — it's all about probability."

"Reductive Uncertainty" is the first exhibition for the Austrian-born Leitner, who condenses photographed images into what he calls "unrecognizable" artwork. Through Leitner's lens, a simple sunset becomes a wash of warm pixelated color.

The theme of presence is carried over into his sculpture as well. Simple shapes are welded out of aluminum, where faces meet at a hardened array of boiling edges. Leitner prefers aluminum to deliberately create this effect.

"Its imperfect," he said. "Whimsical."

The pairing of academia and art aren't necessarily exclusive to the campus of MSU. Old Town's MICA Gallery welcomed "KIEL-



Jonathan Griffith/City Pulse

WAHL" over the weekend, the culmination of a two-year collaboration between artists Dylan Wahl and Jefferson Kielwagen.

"There's eye candy and brain candy," said the Brazilian-born Kielwagen of his conceptual exhibition. "Brain candy is better. The viewer holds the idea for longer."

Kielwagen and Wahl both have ties to MSU; Kielwagen was in the graphic design program and Wahl is in engineering. Kielwagen said he found graphic design "frustrating," and wants to pursue the success he's found outside of it. Wahl, however, intends to keep engineering as his vocation and moonlight with his creativity.

The pieces in "KIEWWAHL" deal with perception and identity. Visitors are encouraged to partake in "Gay Cheese," a column in the center of the gallery upon which a platter of cheese cubes is meant to conjure questions of the self before and after it is consumed.

The north wall of MICA is adorned with various patterns defaced at their centers with bold, black circles, while the south wall is home to "The Absence of the Artist is Present," a series of photographs from all over the world illustrating that the artist can only be present in one place at a time, but his absence can be anywhere simultaneously.

"KIELWAHL" also includes various sculptures and video installations, including "Unboxing," a pairing of YouTube mockery and intellectual ideals that Wahl said is "like an orgasm."

A couple of doors down at the Creole Gallery, artists were celebrating their academic careers' end at the Lansing Community College Class of 2014 Photography Exhibition. Works included portraits, landscapes and food.

Included in the show was fine art photographer Libby Parker. Hailing from Jackson, Parker's black-and-white work featured strong focal points accented by skylines with diminished but resilient sunlight. Also included in the show was studio and fashion photographer Alyssa LaFrance. LaFrance's works included tight shots of elegant subjects staring back at the viewer in a gaze that walks the line of plaintive and sensual.

"It's my dream to work for Vogue Magazine," LaFrance said. "I used to tear pages out of Vogue as a kid and hang them on my wall."

Of all the facets of art, photography may seem the easiest, but LaFrance makes a strong argument otherwise.

"It takes a lot more work than what ends up on that wall," she said. "You take 200 pictures and there are only two that actually work."

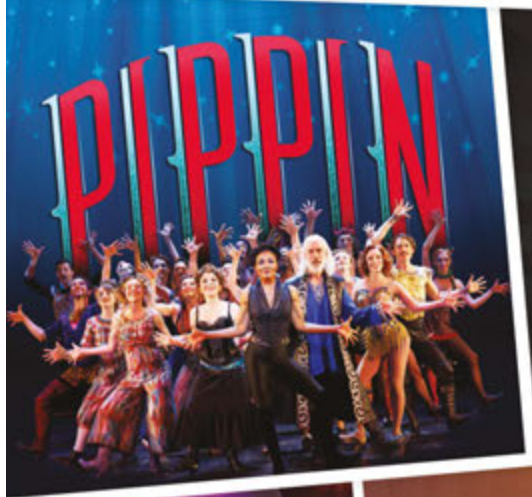
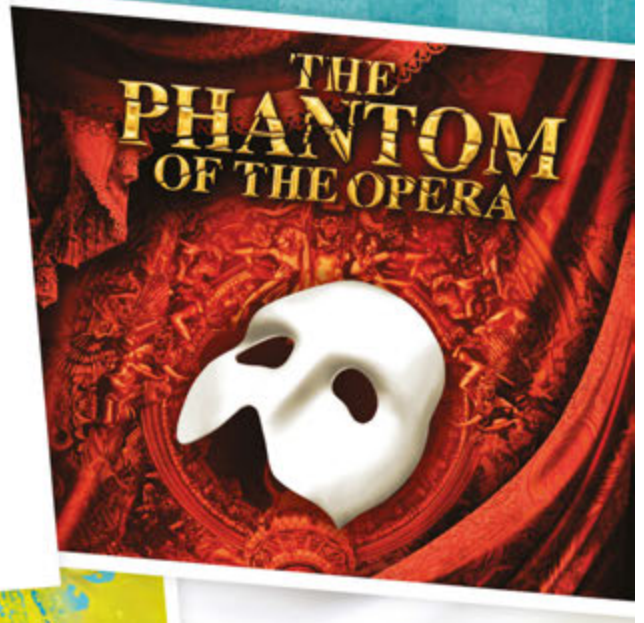
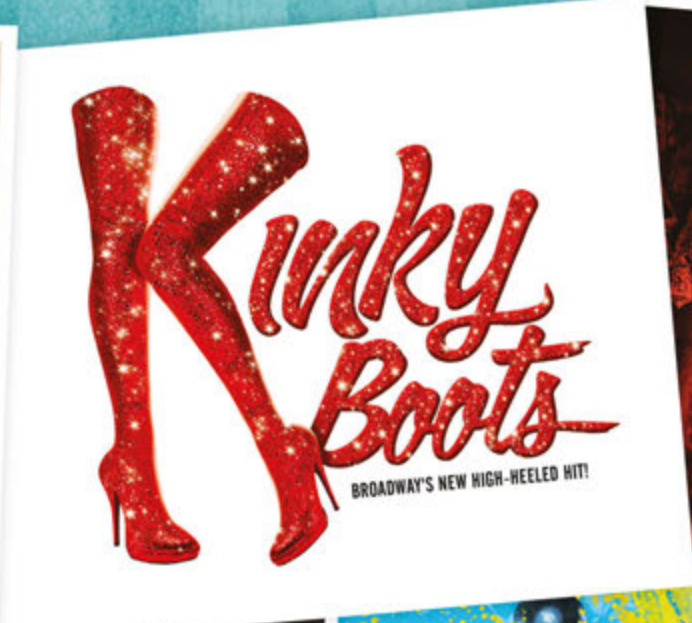
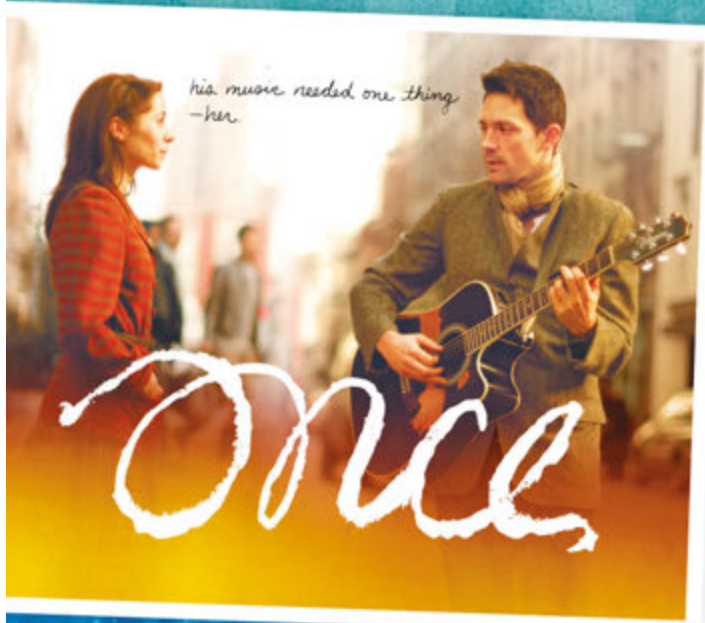
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DAVID SEDARIS Sunday, October 26, 2014

David Sedaris, the celebrated NPR humorist and bestselling author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, invites you to an evening of captivating conversation and social satire. With sardonic and incisive wit, Sedaris has proven to be one of the world's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human experience today. Sedaris has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. Join David Sedaris for an evening of hilarious brilliance!



THE HOT SARDINES Sunday, February 8, 2015

"One of the best jazz bands in New York today." –*Forbes Magazine*

The Hot Sardines have a unique musical recipe: hot jazz and sultry standards from the '20s, '30s, and '40s, sprinkled with rich New Orleans sounds, a dash of '40s Paris flavor, infused with vibrant musical surprises that captivate audiences. Steeped in salty stride piano and the music Louis Armstrong, Django Reinhardt and Fats Waller used to make, The Hot Sardines make straight-up, foot-stomping jazz. (Literally! Tap dancer "Fast Eddy" Francisco serves as the band's second percussionist.) They invoke the sound of nearly a century ago, yet stay right in step with the current age. Hot jazz has taken New York and other cities by storm, and it's coming to Wharton Center!



2CELLOS Sunday, February 22, 2015

"Go and see them live, because it really is astonishing!" –Elton John

Young Croatian cellists Luka Sulic and Stjepan Hauser, the 2Cellos, have broken down the boundaries between genres, from classical and film music to pop and rock. Internationally famous YouTube sensations, these classically trained, award-winning cellists have been featured on *GLEE*, *The Bachelor*, and *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. They are equally impressive playing Benedictus as they are rocking out to AC/DC, Michael Jackson, Guns N' Roses, and U2. Don't miss an eclectic rocking evening performed by masterful musicians. This is NOT your typical cello recital!

2014 - 2015 SEASON



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA April 1-12, 2015

Following an acclaimed sold-out tour of the U.K., Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* comes to Wharton Center as part of a brand-new North American Tour. Hailed by critics as "bigger and better than ever before," this *Phantom* features a brilliant new scenic design, new choreography, new staging and Tony Award® winning original costume design, and lighting design. The production boasts many exciting special effects including the show's legendary chandelier, new scenic and lighting designs, new staging and choreography. The beloved story and thrilling score – with songs like "Music of the Night," "All I Ask Of You," and "Masquerade" – will be performed by a cast and orchestra of 52, making this *Phantom* one of the largest productions now on tour.



KINKY BOOTS May 26-31, 2015

Kinky Boots is the exhilarating Broadway musical that will lift your spirits to new high-heeled heights! Winner of six Tony Awards® including Best Musical, this inspirational story follows a struggling shoe factory owner who works to turn his business around with help from Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Together, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible...proving that, when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world.

Inspired by a true story, *Kinky Boots* features a joyous, Tony® winning score by Cyndi Lauper, direction and Tony® winning choreography by Jerry Mitchell and a hilarious, uplifting book by four-time Tony® winner Harvey Fierstein. Come join the sold-out audiences who've discovered why – sometimes – the best way to fit in is to stand out!

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"I'm super excited for a few things – of course, whenever a Tony Award® winning best musical comes to Lansing, I'm thrilled. Yay *Kinky Boots*. My family is from Ireland and I've traveled there several times, so I'm really excited to see *Once*. The music is beautiful and it's such a unique show. But really, I'm MOST excited to see *Annie*. When I was in second grade, *Annie* was my first community theater production ever and launched my life-long love of theater. Can't wait to relive "It's the Hard-knock Life" from the audience!" – Kate Snyder

"I had the chance to see *Once* on Broadway last fall and I LOVED it. And because we only had time for

one Broadway show on that trip, I missed my chance to see *Kinky Boots*, so having both of those shows as part of the new Broadway season at Wharton Center is really exciting. After seeing videos from *2CELLOS* popping up all over social media, I'm thrilled they're coming to East Lansing for a live show. Those are two seriously talented musicians who play with such ferocity – I can't wait for that." – Robin Miner-Swartz

"I'm excited for the *Hot Sardines*, they're a new jazz band but with an old style that is really hot right now. Also excited to take my kids to the Act One family shows, like *Fly Guy*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, and *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. We read all of those

books with the kids, and it will be great to bring them to see the live production. It's a great time out with the family, and the kids will love it." – Greg Walthorn

"The 2014-15 Broadway at Wharton season again looks to be spectacular, with many favorites returning, as well as some newcomers. Even though I've seen *Phantom* at least 10 times, I'm especially excited to see the new, revised version, which I haven't seen yet. Of the new shows, *Kinky Boots* is top on my list, having heard such rave reviews. *Annie* is a perennial favorite as well, so looking forward to seeing its return. Overall, a very good mix of shows. Great job as always!" – Jessi Wortley Adler

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The big grapple

Flying high with Lansing-area pro wrestlers

By RICH TUPICA

You don't need to be a pro wrestling fan to know who Hulk Hogan, the Rock and Batista are, but the Mysterious Movado, the Soul Shooters and Jack Thriller are probably flying under your radar. You may not have heard of them, but for Lansing-area pro wrestling fans, they represent a novel way to watching suplexes and burning hammers being thrown instead of on Monday Night RAW — they perform live locally about once a month.

Those wrestlers are part of the International Ring of Grapplers, a local pro wrestling company that's rumbled through 16 independent wrestling events since its inception in 2012. While it doesn't have grand arenas and pyrotechnics, the gritty DIY vibe keeps things interesting.

"Our motto is 'think global, slam local,'" said the group's co-owner, Rigo Flores. "We want to bring wrestling into smaller cities like Leslie and Holt so fans don't have to drive two hours to go to Detroit."

Last week, the group held its latest slugfest at the new entertainment venue, Think Live Music, 1200 Marquette St. on Lansing's northwest side. The event was called "Welcome to the Mayhem," and featured good guys versus bad guys grappling it out with highflying, pro wrestling antics.

The next show, "Friday the 13th" is, appropriately enough, Friday, June 13, back at Think Live Music. For more information, go to facebook.com/theirog.



Photos by Nicole Rico

- 1 The Great Akuma (right) smack talks "The American Hero" Roger Lanier
- 2 The IROG's Lansing home is Think Live Music on Marquette Street. Here the referee oversees the Old Timer Jeff King v.s. Rick Vidol match.
- 3 The Great Akuma chokes out Roger Lanier on the ropes.
- 4 Roderick Street, who portrays a crooked cop in the ring, prepares to swat Chase Matthews.



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Anatomy of a writer

Annual symposium celebrates the work of eccentric Michigan author, judge

By **BILL CASTAINER**

In his three years as a Michigan Supreme Court judge in the late '50s, John D. Voelker wrote an impressive 100 opinions. One of the most titillating was "People v. Hildabridle" in 1959, which involved a Battle Creek-area nudist camp. Voelker, who died in 1991, was decidedly offbeat, said his good friend and fellow fly fisherman and attorney, Frederick Baker.

"It's that eccentricity that makes Voelker's decision so noteworthy," Baker said.

"Most (of his decisions) have a glimmer of the human being who wrote then within the text. You don't find that anymore. Today the court cranks out monstrosities that are pretentious and scholarly and that want to impose a philosophy."

The case may have faded into legal oblivion except that Voelker, writing under his pen name Robert Traver, had released his novel, "Anatomy of a Murder," one year earlier. The book became a New York Times best seller, remaining on the list for 65 weeks — 29 of which in the number one slot — and spawned the hit Jimmy Stewart movie of the same name.

Phil Greasley, a former University of Kentucky English Professor and MSU graduate, will discuss Voelker's decision and its literary merits with MSU English Professor of James Seaton at 9 a.m. Saturday at the 44th meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. Clothing is required.

The movie in some ways mirrored Voelker's legal opinion in Hildabridle: Both confronted community standards of decency. "Anatomy of a Murder" was banned in Chi-

cago for its frank sexual content, and the Hildabridle case was controversial in its views on what constitutes indecent exposure and personal liberty.

"Voelker's legacy is worth preserving especially as it delves into human thought," said Greasley by

phone from Lexington, Ky. He writes in a shared draft of his presentation that Voelker's writing emphasizes "life's moral complexity, the gray areas of law and the ironies and hypocrisies that mark our lives."

"(Voelker's legal opinions) reflect the



Bill Castainer/City Pulse

The film "Anatomy of a Murder" was based on the book by Michigan Supreme Court Judge/author John D. Voelker, who will be discussed at the Writing in the Midwest symposium this weekend. Some of the locales where the story is based have become tourist attractions.

identical values, concerns and principles that are included in his literary writing," Greasley writes. "(He) consistently sought to maximize personal freedom and to minimize governmental intrusion on private lives."

Baker said that his favorite line of Voelker's is, "If eccentricity were a crime, then all of us were felons." (Baker says he especially likes the double subjunctive.)

Voelker resigned from the Supreme Court to write another literary legal novel, "Laughing Whitefish," which explores Native American treaty rights and a woman's real fight to get compensation from iron ore companies. In tendering his resignation to Gov. G. Mennen Williams, Voelker wrote, "While other men can write my legal opinions they can scarcely write my books. I am sorry."

In addition to his legal novels Voelker wrote several nonfiction books on fishing, including "Anatomy of a Fisherman."

Also on the program is John Beck from MSU's School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. His presentation, "Struggle and Tragedy: Recent Fiction and the 1913-14 Michigan Copper Strike," focuses on a wave of novels published in the last two years that uses the strike as either a focus or backdrop. With its classic fight between a radical trade union and the "benevolent paternalism" practices on the Keweenaw, the story is primed for dramatic retellings. Violence visited both sides in the dispute, culminating

in the false cry of fire at a crowded strikers' Christmas party at Calumet's Italian Hall that resulted in a stampede that killed 74, most of whom were children.

Many of the novels are by relatively unknown authors; an exception is "Red Jacket" by Joseph Heywood, who departed from his popular contemporary "Woods Cop" series to feature a protagonist who involves himself in the strike.

This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the John D. Voelker Foundation, which provides scholarships to Native Americans. Baker said Voelker wanted to "live life as his own," and that's one reason the native Yooper was drawn back to the Upper Peninsula.

Baker said it was the little things that mattered to Voelker. He recalls a trip to visit Voelker with a mutual friend. Baker said Voelker drove them deep into the woods until they got to a stand of trees, including two birch trees that he described as "being twined together like lovers."

"They were very important to him," Baker said. The area was set be clear-cut, and Voelker filed a lawsuit each year to stop the cutting. Baker said Voelker made a promise to file a suit every year until he died.

"They will be alive as long as I am alive," Voelker told Baker. After Voelker's death in 1991 at the age of 87, the trees were cleared.

True to his word, he'd kept them alive as long as he could.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, May 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

College Planning. Learn about financial aid, tuition costs and more. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Together, Let's Jam! Music therapy class for all ages. 6:30 p.m. \$5/CADSA members FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Job Search Techniques. Workshop. 9:15-10:30 a.m. St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org.

Appreciative Inquiry. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

Senior Games. Mah jongg/pinocle. 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. ow.ly/wpw5X.

Bridge Lessons. Learn to play modern bridge the easy way. 12:30-2:30 p.m. \$60. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.

EVENTS

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place.

Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice.

Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale, Lansing. crisisrhc.com.

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

Senior Discovery Group. Coffee and conversations. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Spring Salad Luncheon. Includes sauerkraut, brats

See Out on the Town, Page 22

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 9-10 >> MIGHTY UKE DAY FESTIVAL

The ukelele may be a staple in Hawaiian culture but it also has solid ties to Michigan. For example, "Waikiki," one of the classic hapa-haole songs, was written by Andy Cummings in Michigan in 1938. And Gibson Guitar (now Heritage Guitar) in Kalamazoo manufactured ukeleles that are now highly sought-after by collectors and uke enthusiasts worldwide. Ben Hassenger created Mighty Uke Day Festival four years ago, a two-day ode to the uke featuring concerts and play-alongs. Headliners Sarah Maisel and Craig Chee will perform on ukulele; there will also be additional performances, community jams and other activities. Events are free, with concert tickets sold a la carte. Several locations around Lansing's historic Old Town district. (517) 896-4025, mightyukeday.com. (For a full interview with Hassenger, go to lansingcitypulse.com.)

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 9-11 >> 'TELLING LIVES' AT RIVERWALK



In Faye Sholiton's comedic drama "Telling Lives," an elderly woman writes her memoir, sending unintended ripples through her family. Her daughter seeks the truth in her mother's words and her granddaughter, an aspiring playwright, wants to appropriate the memoir for her own endeavors. One woman's memoir eventually proves to be revelatory to three generations of women. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$12/\$10 students, seniors and military. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-9812. (Continues Friday-Sunday, May 16-18.)



FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 9-10 >> 'NONSENSE: THE MEGA MUSICAL' AT STARLIGHT DINNER THEATRE



For those who enjoy a side of playful blasphemy with their roast beef, Starlight Dinner Theatre presents the musical comedy "Nonsense: the Mega Musical." When a spell of botulism strikes the Order of Little Sisters of Hoboken, killing most of them, the remainder of the convent puts together a revue packed with comedy, song, and dance to raise money to bury their dead, who are being stored in the convent freezer. Long-time fans of the "Nonsense" series can expect a few surprises as seven additional cast members have been added to the lineup, as well as a new musical number. Dinner before the show is catered by Creative Catering and features (fittingly) roast beef — botulism-free, of course. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show. \$36/\$31 seniors and students/\$23 ages 12 and under. Show only: \$18/\$13 seniors and students/\$13 ages 12 and under. Starlight Dinner Theatre, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040, starlightdinnertheatre.com. (Continues Friday-Saturday, May 16-17.)



SATURDAY, MAY 10 >> 3RD ANNUAL PETALS AND VINES FESTIVAL

At the 3rd Annual Petal and Vines Festival, Woldumar Nature Center will get in the spirit with a night of appreciation for Michigan's beauty and booze. A variety of local brews and wines will be on hand, including selections from Sandhill Crane Vineyards, Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale, BAD Brewing Co. and more. There will also be food, live music and games, all held on the verdant grounds of the Woldumar Nature Center. The price of admission gets you dinner, a Woldumar pint glass and four tastes of beer or wine. Additional drink tickets will be available. Tickets for admission must be purchased in advance. 4-9 p.m. \$30. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030, woldumar.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 10 >> BOOK TALK WITH AUTHOR ROSALIE RIEGLE

The Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing will host a book talk and signing with author Rosalie Riegle. Riegle was a professor of English and women's studies at Saginaw Valley State University and a co-founder of the Saginaw Valley Peace Watch. She will discuss her two latest oral histories, "Doing Time for Peace: Resistance, Family, and Community," and "Crossing the Line: Nonviolent Resisters Speak Out for Peace." Both works are collections of Riegle's experiences with peacemaking individuals throughout several eras of war. 2 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 515-563



MONDAY, MAY 12 >> BEER AND CRAVINGS POPCORN PAIRING

To celebrate American Craft Beer Week, I'm a Beer Hound and REO Town Pub are holding the first of three beer and popcorn pairings. Each event will feature popcorn from Old Town's Cravings Gourmet Popcorn and beer from a different craft brewery. First up is Colorado-based New Belgium Brewing Co. The event is casual and done in the style of traditional beer dinners. 7-10 p.m. \$20. REO Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-4863.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

SAT. MAY 10TH



JESSICA HERNANDEZ & THE DELTAS AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$10/\$8 adv., 8 p.m., Saturday, May 10.

Detroit native Jessica Hernandez is known for her Motown-influenced rock 'n' soul. She also strays into jazz and blues territories, even blending in hints of Latin, surf rock and '60s girl group melodies. The band, which plays the Loft with openers Chemical Edge and Everyday Junior, released its debut EP, "Live at the Magic Bag," in 2009. A year later the group dropped "Weird Looking Women in Too Many Clothes." The past two years have been exciting times for the band. In 2012, the Deltas played SXSW and Bonnaroo and last year it signed to the Instant Music label and recorded the "Demons" EP with veteran Mexico City producer and musician Milo Froideva in El Paso, Texas.

OGREFEST AT MAC'S BAR

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$15 adv., 2 p.m., Saturday, May 10.

The 8th Annual Ogrefest features a mishmash of Michigan metal, including locals Genocya, Sauron and Cavalcade. Also making some noise are Konkeror, Saprogenic, Failed, Ifing, Dead Hour Noise, Hedorah, Boreworm, Dark Winter, American Gothic, Traitor, Bullpig and Pan. The event is organized by David Peterman, vocalist/guitarist of Satyrasis, a local thrash/death metal band performing at the event. Satyrasis formed in 2003 and released its debut disc, "Creation of Failure," in 2008. Peterman said when he's booking Ogrefest, there's really no set type of band. "I put any band that I dig on there, even if it's not metal," he said. "There isn't one of them that sounds exactly like the other. I try to be as eclectic as circumstances allow."

SAT. MAY 10TH



ENEMY PLANES AT MORIARTY'S

Moriarty's, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 9 p.m., Sunday, May 11.

Minneapolis-based indie band Enemy Planes headlines a free show at Moriarty's Pub on Sunday; opening are Back Pocket Hymnal and the MTVs. Enemy Planes is known for its poignant lyrics and magnetic alt-rock melodies. The band's bio says it "drifts effortlessly between melancholy and menace, hypnotic and hysteric, heartache and euphoria" — what the band calls a "tripnotic" sound. The band formed in 2012 and began touring rigorously, with dates at SXSW, Summerfest and CMJ. The group also warmed up stages for the Meat Puppets and the Hold Steady. Last year the group released its debut music video, "We Want Blood." It was shot on historic Coney Island shortly after Hurricane Sandy. The band's tune, "No Strings," is a free download at enemyplanes.com.

SUN. MAY 11TH



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LIVE & LOCAL

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The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 6 p.m.	Mark Lavengood Bluegrass Band, 8 p.m.	The Stick Arouns, 9 p.m.	Jake Simmons, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Updraft, 9 p.m.		DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Roux, 9 p.m.	Roux, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Joe Hertler, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.
Fireside Grill, 6591 Lansing Rd.			Don Middlebrook, 8:30 p.m.	3rd Degree, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Mighty Uke Day, 7 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Stan Budzynski, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	The Rotations, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			The Kicking Sticks, 8 p.m.	Jessica Hernandez, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Golf Clap, 9 p.m.	Rick Chyme, 5 p.m.	Ogrefest, 2 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band, 10 p.m.	Pat Zelenka Project, 9:30 p.m.	Harvestmen, 9:30 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Velocity Shift, 8:30 p.m.	Velocity Shift, 8:30 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Bear Creek Brothers, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Dave Floyd, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Late Edition, 9 p.m.	Late Edition, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Pat Zelenka, 7 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Drew Baldrige, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 20

and more. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$8. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330. liederkrantzclub.org.

Whisker Wednesday Baby Shower. Free cat adoptions, half off dog adoptions. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 242-7440. ac.ingham.org.

Wind Farm Tour. Taking reservations for June 7. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25. (517) 285-4150 to sign up.

MUSIC

New Horizons Band Performance. Part of community enrichment and engagement concerts. Noon. FREE. Holt Senior Care Center, 5091 Willoughby Road, Holt. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Marshall Music Open Jam. Join other local musicians and get heard. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

marshallmusic.com.

Thursday, May 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin Class. Learn the language of the first people from this region. 7-9 p.m. Donation. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

Craft Night Social. Work on a project, create a quill

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Get Two Rooms, You Two"--well, it's more than one.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Words before Congress or contrition
- 6 Language spoken in "Airplane!"
- 10 Capital by a fjord
- 14 Food at cook-offs
- 15 Coloratura's performance
- 16 Red-bearded god
- 17 *Wrestler, at times
- 19 "Animal House" chant
- 20 Ending for mountain or musket
- 21 Tattoo parlor supply
- 22 Cement smoother
- 24 Pinter products
- 26 Check a melon, say
- 27 Oscar the Grouch's pet worm
- 30 Replied sheepishly?
- 33 "Nerd Do Well" author Simon
- 36 Soft powder
- 37 Non-protruding navel
- 38 Masi of "Heroes"
- 39 *Tedious detective duty
- 41 Spleen
- 42 Mot ^ rhead head Kilmister
- 44 Cornhusker's st.
- 45 ___ chai
- 46 "Don't get any ___"
- 47 It's America's fifth-largest, according to FDIC data
- 49 Ominous forecast



- 51 Snarls seen from a helicopter
- 55 Othello's finale?
- 57 Part of a rose
- 59 OMG or LOL
- 60 Circle of light
- 61 *Karate class feat
- 64 Billy and Stephen's brother
- 65 Event with booths
- 66 "30 Rock" executive producer Michaels
- 67 Escritoire, for one
- 68 Part of iOS
- 69 Furry Endor dwellers
- Down**
- 1 Had sore muscles
- 2 Merriment
- 3 Crown
- 4 Prehistoric
- 5 Of a daughter or son
- 6 Ten beater
- 7 Bugs
- 8 Contend
- 9 Google ___
- 10 Armchair partner
- 11 *Tremble in fear, maybe
- 12 Expensive seating
- 13 Spoken or sung
- 18 Like some inspections
- 23 Inventor of a six-color fad
- 25 Chop suey additive
- 26 Babe Ruth rival
- 28 Selleck sleuth
- 29 Actor Cary of "Saw"
- 31 Dublin's country, to residents
- 32 Monopoly card
- 33 ___ Sci
- 34 Got (by)
- 35 *Nintendo's yearly concern
- 39 Spray brand
- 40 Like the "21 Jump Street" movie
- 43 Andy Griffith series
- 45 Comedian Barinholtz
- 48 Surefooted
- 50 Judicial garb
- 52 "In ___" (Nirvana album)
- 53 Engage in a recent fad (not owling)
- 54 "___ alive!"
- 55 Herring type
- 56 Like some electrical plugs
- 57 Drains
- 58 Pace for a pony
- 62 Acne-fighting brand
- 63 Squabble

TIPSY BY DESIGN

Courtesy Photo

Old Town's newest art gallery, Tippy by Design, opened last week, specializing in custom hand-painted stemware. Courtesy photo.



By ALLANI I. ROSS

Old Town gained a new art gallery last week, bringing the number of art-related businesses within a three-

block radius to roughly 800. But **Tippy by Design** has a few things going on to differentiate it

from the others. Notably, the retail side of the business is focused on a particular type of work: Hand-painted wine glasses.

"I found my calling," said owner/operator Linda Savage. "I like to drink wine and I like to paint."

Savage opened Tippy in the Lansing City Market in Christmas 2012. She said business was good enough to warrant the move to Old Town, taking over the former digs of By the Riverside, 1209 Turner St., which closed earlier this year. Her friendship with an architect/artist in Michigan State University's master of fine arts degree program gave her the idea to go the brick-and-mortar route.

"I thought it would be a great place for him to make his art, for me to sell my art and to do some teaching as well," she said. "There's a lot of possibility here."

Savage said she started painting when she was a little girl with her father, Terry Savage. She said her father did a lot of commercial work in the Lansing area in the 1970s, including the sign on the side of Jim's Tiffany Place downtown. His creative output inspired her career.

"He was an Old Town artist before there was an Old Town," Savage said. "I thought opening the store in this neighborhood was a beautiful way to honor him."

Tippy specializes in stemware, mugs and tabletop items. Savage said she sells some pre-painted glasses and gift baskets — especially during the holidays — but mostly does custom requests. She started with wine glasses and bottles and branched out to include items such as beer mugs and a hookah painted to look like the "I Dream of Jeannie" bottle.

"I painted winking eyes on glasses to match it," Savage said. "The client was very happy."

She specializes in human figures, but said she can do just about anything a client wants.

"They're really popular for birthday and bachelorette parties," she said.

Art classes are another facet Savage plans to focus

on. Summer classes start next week, with half-off specials for people who sign up for 20 classes (\$150).

"We're also planning to hold after-hour events, painting in the park and street art," she said. "We'll have older artists mentoring young adults, who teach young artists. Kind of a pay-it-forward thing."

The gallery will also be home to Savage's nonprofit group, Greater Lansing Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

"We teach young artists in music and visual arts how to do the marketing side of that craft," Savage said. "If they want to go professional, marketing is the most challenging aspect. You have to have time to do that and still do art."

She said there are six people in the program now, ranging in age from 16 to 25. That side of her workday is designed to handle a lot of growth.

"If it expands, we'll just have to find a bigger location, she said. "It's a good problem to have."

Tippy By Design

1209 Turner St., Lansing 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (or by appointment) (517) 927-6576 facebook.com/tipsyinoldtown

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

			6	3	4			
					7			8
				2				9
1								
	6				2	3	8	
	2		9				4	7
			1					
6				3				1
8			4		7	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 25

Out on the town

from page 22

box, make a dance shawl or do a peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

Be your Berry Best. Learn about strawberries. 10:30-11:45 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

Sign Language Classes. For ages 12 and up. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 492-6149.

Resumes/Cover Letters. Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon. St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org.

AFP MI Capital Area Chapter Luncheon. With Joe Wald. 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. \$25/\$15 members. University Club MSU 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 853-6787. afplansingmi.afpnet.org.

Senior Games. Bingo, partner bridge and euchre. 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. ow.ly/wpyo6J.

Current Events. Group discussion. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Genealogy Club. Conducted by Mike Lenkowski. 2 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. ow.ly/wpyo3.

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

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

Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous. Held in room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

EVENTS

Genealogy Meeting. Presentation with Diane Oslund. Meeting follows. 7 p.m. FREE. Vevay Township Hall, 780 Eden Road, Mason. (517) 676-7140. heldd@sbcglobal.net.

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

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

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

YPAAL Happy Hour. Meet and network with other local professionals. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

Family Education Days. FREE event for families about nutrition. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City

Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.com.

Student Organic Farm Farmstand. Featuring local organic food. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 230-7987. msuorganicfarm.com.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

[REVOLUTION] at Tavern. Electronic music, 21-up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Friday, May 9

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Marketing a Food Business. Learn about marketing your food or farm business. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3923. allenmarketplace.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. Call (517) 483-1921 to register. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. See Facebook for details. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Undie Campaign. Discount for donating new underwear. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations. Curvaceous

Lingerie, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 881-8466. curvaceouslingerie.com.

MUSIC

Sistrum Chorus Spring Concert. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 advance. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. sistrum.org.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Mason Orchestras Concert. Italian-themed music. 7:30 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Chippewa Middle School, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-4800. masonorchestras.org.

Velocity at the R-Club. Food, drinks, music and dancing. 8:30 p.m.-midnight, FREE. R Club, 6409 Centurioun Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-7440. rclublansing.com.

THEATER

"Telling Lives." An aging woman pens her memoir, questions unfold. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Nonsense The Musical." Dinner 6:30 p.m., Show 7:30 p.m. \$36-\$31/\$18 show-only. Starlight Dinner Theatre, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

Saturday, May 10

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.

Tai Chi in the Park. For beginning and experienced tai chi practitioners. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

EVENTS

Mother's Day at the Market. Discounts & free activities in honor of mothers. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

lansingcitymarket.com.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

3rd Annual Pests and Vines. Beer and wine celebration. 4-9 p.m. \$30. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Book Talk on War Resistance. Author discussion. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 515-5634. peaceedcenter.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Wildflowers for both sun and shade. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 887-0596. wildoneslansing.org.

Letter Carrier Food Drive. See web for details. All day. about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalco-food-drive.htm.

All-Day Shape-Note Sing. Loaner songbooks. Potluck lunch. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos. (517) 381-1321. fasolamichigan.org.

MUSIC

Sistrum Chorus Spring Concert. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 advance. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. sistrum.org.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Deacon Earl at City Market. Live blues, reggae and more. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

"Telling Lives." See details May 10. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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Michael S. Brenton/City Pulse
Emmanuel Kemiji was the 12th American to pass the master sommelier examination. His winery, Miura Vineyards, is heavy on Pinot Noirs.

Miura magic

World-class sommelier's Pinot Noirs are pure enchantment

By MICHAEL S. BRENTON

What happens when Emmanuel Kemiji, a world-class sommelier, establishes a winery and gains access to fruit from California's most highly regarded Pinot Noir vineyards? Miura Vineyards happens.

The U.S.-born Kemiji was raised in Europe and educated at the University of California, Davis, the mecca of American viticultural and oenological education. Emmanuel was the 12th American to pass the master sommelier examination, the gold standard for wine knowledge, recognition, service and education. As the director of wine and spirits for the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., he refined his palate by sampling tens of thousands of wines, ultimately deciding to establish his own Napa-based winery focused on producing wine from the most difficult of grapes, Pi-

not Noir. Emanuel led a sampling of several of these wines during his recent visit to MSU's State Room.

First up was the 2009 Talley Vineyard Pinot Noir, from the Arroyo Grande Valley in southern San Luis Obispo County. The grapes are predominantly Pommard and Dijon clone; unlike most California vineyard land, the soil has a good dose of limestone, a trait shared with the Burgundy region of France, from which Pinot Noir originates. Like the other Miura Pinot Noirs, winemaking techniques lean toward the non-interventionist Burgundian style. Grapes ferment only on their natural yeast with little or no fining and filtering. The Talley Vineyard Pinot Noir is concentrated, showing a full nose, long finish, good depth of flavor and minerality.

Next was a wine from one of California's most famous and sought after Pinot Noir sources, Garys' Vineyard, named after owners Gary Pisoni and Gary Francioni. The vines in this vineyard have their roots in budwood from Burgundy's world-famous La Tâche vineyard, and the quality shows. Coming from a cooler vineyard site, the Garys' is a bit lighter than the Talley. It presented with delicate and more

See Miura, Page 26



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Miura

from page 26

nuanced flavors in perfect harmony.

The 2009 Silacci Vineyard Pinot is harvested from a vineyard owned by Robert Silacci, a distant cousin of Pisoni and uncle of the winemaker at Opus One. (California winemaking and grape-growing can be a small world.) The Silacci Vineyard is one of the northernmost in the Santa Lucia Highlands, closer to Monterey Bay, and a much cooler site. Grapes grown in cooler sites ripen more slowly than warmer site grapes and tend towards lower alcohol, enhanced aromatics and higher acidity. Grapes from warmer sites, meanwhile, tend to develop more ripeness, leading to higher alcohol, more body and more fruit intensity on the palate. The Silacci was very Burgundian, reflecting a delightful bouquet with both a delineated flavor profile and viscosity on the palate.

Miura also makes a couple of Pinot Noirs that were not tasted, including a Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir from the Santa Lucia Highlands and the Williams Ranch Vineyard from the Anderson Valley in Mendocino County, the coolest viticultural area in California. Expect the Anderson Valley Pinot to be more Burgundian, a bit lighter, more aromatic and tighter, demonstrating elegance rather than power.

Miura also has a Syrah program marketed under the Antiquv2s label. Syrah is one of the oldest known grape varieties, thought to have its origin in ancient Persia. The two Syrahs are from Garys' Vineyard and Pisoni Vineyard. These wines are more Northern Rhone-style than Australian-style, keeping in mind that Syrah and Shiraz are different names for the same grape.

In the Santa Lucia Highlands, the meager amount of Syrah that is grown has an extraordinarily long growing season before being picked, often in late October or early November. The resulting wine, as exemplified by the 2007 Pisoni Vineyard, is big, concentrated and complex, with a fine acid backbone and overtones of black pepper, dark fruit, earth and bacon fat.

The single vineyard Miura Pinot Noirs are extremely limited production wines, only 111 to 435 cases for the 2009 vintage; expect pricing to be around \$55 per bottle. The more readily available Monterey County Pinot (3,895 cases) should be priced around \$25, while the limited production Syrah should be available at around \$35. Most won't be on wine shop shelves, but can be ordered by wine merchants through Ken Dagg at Classic Wine Distributors of Wixom.

In Vino Veritas.

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintner's Club. His column appears monthly. You can email him at brenton@lansingcitypulse.com.)



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- Harry H. Hepler, H Inc.

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In 1998, GM announced that they would pull out of Lansing. In response, a team of government, business, labor, education, and other community leaders came together with a campaign to “Keep GM”, convincing GM to instead invest in Lansing. This model of regional collaboration works.

Now a group of Lansing filmmakers are creating a feature documentary to tell the story of what happened in Lansing and how this model can be used to address other issues. What happened here matters not just to the people of our region but also to other communities across the United States facing similar challenges.



Make History. They did.