

FREE

# City PULSE

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November 4-10, 2015

## INGHAM COUNTY IT SCANDAL

Who knew what and when?  
Where does it end?

On Dec 9, 2013, at 10:08 AM, "Katie Haywood" <khaywood@isler.com> wrote:

Good morning everyone!

Thank you so much for RSVP'ing to our Detroit Lions Monday Night Football game on Monday, December 16th. We are very much looking forward to the game!

The party bus will be leaving IS's office (5975 Crossroads Commons) at 3:45 pm so we can load everyone up. We will have food and drinks provided on the bus, along with restaurant Stadium Bucks to be used at Ford Field. If you have any special dietary requirements or requests (gluten free, vegetarian, etc.), please notify me by Thursday the 12th so I can plan accordingly.

If you have any questions or need more detailed directions to our office, feel free to call me anytime at 616-940-5126.

We are excited to see everyone on Monday!

Thank you!

Katie Haywood  
Assistant Sales Manager  
(616) 940-5126

Bennett, Becky

From: Katie Haywood <khaywood@isler.com>  
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 1:42 PM  
To: Ashton, Michael  
Subject: RE: Detroit Lions Monday Night Football Game - Next Week!

Miss,

As we are driving right past the Lansing area to head to the game on Monday, I wanted to extend the offer to pick you up closer to your home area. The bus company said they can do a pick up en-route at any "park and ride" or similar location. If that's something you'd like to do instead of driving back and forth to Grand Rapids, just let me know where I can pick you up. I just need an exit number or address.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Katie Haywood  
Assistant Sales Manager  
(616) 940-5126

## GILBERT VS. BISHOP

8th District race shaping up as a watcher, p. 6

## DIM THE LIGHTS

East Lansing Film Festival kicks off its 18th year, p. 11

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Comedian Taylor De La Ossa pulls no punches

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Saxophone monster takes the stage with Lansing Symphony

**PAGE 14**



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AND WE THINK YOU DO.

HELLO, FELLOW GUN ENTHUSIASTS!

EEK! CALL THE POLICE!

TOM TOMORROW © 2015

## Where there's smoke Ingham County leading way on e-cig ban to minors

Ingham County is poised to become the first county in Michigan to ban the sale of electronic cigarette products to minors.

Until earlier this week, the proposed regulation had local e-cigarette retailers worried they would be lumped in categorically with all tobacco sellers, evidence of a larger debate as the growing “vaping” industry distances itself from traditional smoking practices.

Such a distinction has prevented statewide legislation from passing that would ban e-cigarette sales to minors — a policy virtually everyone agrees on. Michigan is one of only two states that don't ban the sales to minors, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote Tuesday on regulations that would ban e-cigarette sales to minors and require retailers to buy a license. A public meeting on the proposal is scheduled for 6 tonight at the Human Services Building, Conference Room A (enter through door 3) 5303 S. Cedar St.

Responding to vaping advocates' concerns, the county announced on Monday that it would offer “electronic smoking device” licenses to retailers only selling e-cigarette products instead of requiring them to buy a tobacco license.

Currently, anyone can theoretically buy and sell e-cigarettes in Michigan.

E-cigarettes vaporize nicotine to provide the user a similar high as from tobacco products without inhaling harmful substances that are proven to cause a myriad of negative health effects.

Efforts from a local state lawmaker to ban e-cigarette sales to minors statewide has stalled due to the disagree-

ment over whether e-cigarettes and nicotine are the same as tobacco. Categorizing e-cigarettes as tobacco — which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is trying to do — would subject them to taxes and ban them from being used in public spaces.

Vaping advocates, however, point out that they can be valuable smoking cessation devices and aren't nearly as harmful to public health.

“We're trying to prohibit the sales (of e-cigarettes) to minors,” said Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail, referring to the use of e-cigarettes' spiking among 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Vail is confident the new rules will pass and be in effect by Jan. 1.

The county would perform compliance checks to make sure retailers are following the rules, a policy Ingham County started for tobacco sellers in the early '90s that Vail said led to a major drop in sales to minors.

The licensing change this week shouldn't come as an endorsement that the county believes e-cigarettes are not tobacco, Vail said, but was made to “not ignore” concerned stakeholders.

“We're not taking a position one way or the other,” she said. “We heard very convincing points made on both sides. For me to sit here and come to the conclusion as to whether I want to declare (e-cigarettes) tobacco doesn't further the goal I'm try-ing to accomplish at this point.”

“We're seeing growing evidence that though the vapor product and all that goes with e-cigarettes ... is possibly less harmful than tobacco smoke, it doesn't mean that it's not harmful at all,” Vail added.

But industry advocates and state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, see it differently than those — including Gov. Rick Snyder — who want to call e-cigarettes tobacco.

In January, Snyder vetoed legislation whose sponsors included Jones to ban e-cigs, saying, “It's important that these devices be treated like tobacco products and help people become aware of the dangers e-cigarettes pose.”

Countered Jones: “I don't think you need to have a tobacco license to sell it. They are nicotine devices — many people use them to get off tobacco. The governor has sided with people that want to treat it like a cigarette and tax it. I absolutely disagree with that.”

The state Senate passed legislation re-introduced by Jones this session that would ban sales to minors.

Joshua Hull, manager of Kalamazoo Vapor Shop in the Frandor Shopping Center, said he's “100 percent for” the proposed countywide rules to ban sales to minors. The store, which sells only e-cigarette products and not tobacco, has a policy not to sell to minors anyway, he said.

“Our main argument is we'd like it classified as a vapor license,” he said. “I don't think it should be considered



Photo by the-best-electronic-cigarette-review.com

See E-Cigarettes, Page 6



**Property:** Marshall-Adams Hall (Bacteriology Building)  
East Lansing

This impressive building is on Michigan State University's “Laboratory Row,” a portion of West Circle Drive that features some of the campus' oldest remaining buildings. It was constructed in 1902 to house the Department of Bacteriology and Hygiene. The building took its name from Charles Marshall, the initial department head, who began his tenure in 1897.

The stacked stone foundation splays outward, expressing the building's solid massing. Rising upward, it is an active composition of brick and limestone, particularly the elliptical window arches and the dentilated frieze.

The most impressive details are found at the main central bay, where a limestone Roman arch springs from rough stone imposts. The arch's individual tapered structural stones, called voisoirs, are visually extended into the brickwork to create a majestic entryway. Similarly, the oversized keystone reaches up to the entry's lower cornice. Far above, the entrance's form and details are echoed in the curved, parapeted gable.

When the bacteriology program moved to Giltner Hall, the building became the home of the Department of Economics. An extensive renovation was funded in 2002 by Mr. and Mrs. Randall Pittman, who graciously extended the building name to include Economics professor and former university president Walter Adams.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

“Eye candy of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

## 8th District campaign Bishop vs. Gilbert race rated an eye-catcher in Michigan

The way Mark Grebner of Practical Political Consultants sees it, Democrats have the same lethal attraction to Michigan's 8th Congressional District as moths do to candles.

The closer they get, the more likely they are to get burned.

Ingham County's congressional district isn't like the one Democrat Debbie Stabenow won in 1997. Republican-led legislatures have redrawn the 8th Congressional District into a 30-yard head start for their nominee, meaning only an appealing candidate running under appealing circumstances have a shot.

Actress Melissa Gilbert may be that right person in the right place. Michigan Democrats have the 8th Congressional District among the top 3 they're watching in Michigan, and it could move up considering how well Gilbert catches in her first bid for public office.

Known for playing Laura Ingalls Wilder on NBC's "Little House on the Prairie" from 1973-1983, the 51-year-old Los Angeles native moved to Livingston County in 2013 with her new husband, East Lansing native and actor Timothy Busfield.

Last year, she was visible in Mark Schauer's gubernatorial campaign, giving the Democrat \$1,000, filming a "public service segment" for him and showing up at a Flint campaign stop.

The political activity comes after the Los Angeles-born Gilbert served as president of the 100,000-member Screen Actors Guild from 2001 to 2005, earning her a spot on the national AFL-CIO Executive Council. Her visibility isn't unusual either.

Gilbert and Busfield quickly embraced their roles as Howell's resident celebrities — serving as grand marshals to the 2014 "Fantasy of Lights Parade" and promoting local small business through her book, "My Prairie Cookbook."

"I feel like I've found the home I was meant to have," Gilbert told WDIV in one of the few media interviews she's done since announcing her candidacy.

Her selectivity hasn't equaled light press coverage. CNN, USA Today, TIME and The Wall Street Journal are among the national outlets covering Gilbert's candidacy, creating a national buzz. Local Democrats hope that equals the campaign cash that will keep the deep-pocketed Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee interested.

Gilbert has raised \$200,372 since announcing on Aug. 11, a notable sum considering she started halfway through the July-September 3rd quarter federal reporting cycle. Alec Baldwin, Jennifer Garner, Rosie O'Donnell and Kiefer Sutherland are among actors who have kicked money her way.

Her first fundraiser was thrown by her mom in California, but Gilbert has since held an event at Begger's Banquet in East Lansing. She's received support from local types, like Ingham County Commissioner Brian McGrain, former Gov. Jennifer Granholm, attorney Steve Liedel and former 8th Congressional candidate Susan Grettenberger.

Democrats also hope Gilbert's timing will work in her favor. President Barack Obama won the 8th with 52.9 percent of the vote and Stabenow won it in her 2012 Senate reelection race with 54.2 percent. The 2016 campaign may turn out to be a big year for Democratic women with Hillary Clinton presumably at the top of this ticket and Michigan not voting for a GOP presidential candidate since 1988.

It's still a long shot.

U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, stepped in for Rep. Mike Rogers without



Gilbert

much drama in 2014, beating Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing, 55 to 42 percent. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee sniffed around the 8th District for a few months, but with Democrats suffering heavy losses nationally, the D.C. dollars needed to win competitive races went to protect incumbents elsewhere.

A former Michigan Senate majority leader, Bishop recently told the Lansing Rotary Club he was the freshman class' member on the House Republican Steering Committee, a notable honor.

Outside of his legislation like a mobile workforce bill, Bishop is lobbying behind the scenes to get a direct flight to Washington, D.C., back to the Lansing airport, said adviser Stu Sandler.

"I was down in D.C. last week and there is definitely a view that Bishop is in a strong position to win re-election," Sandler said.

The 8th District's 55 percent Republican base tells Grebner that even if Clinton wins Michigan in a blowout, Gilbert needs 65 percent of the ticket-splitters to go her way to knock off the first-term incumbent.

At least at this early stage, both the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee are keeping an eye on the developing race.

Bishop is in the Republican Patriot Program, which essentially sets fundraising, public appearance and messaging expectations for around 20 potential vulnerable incumbents.

Democrats hit Bishop on his participation because the GOP asked their incumbents to write out their "legislative strategy" in their three-page agreements, a clear mingling of political and professional duties. But Bishop has dodged the commotion by saying he didn't fill out an answer to that question.

Democrats scored a Detroit News story in August on Bishop's temporarily using federal money to pay for his chief

of staff's D.C. lodging, which is allowed under the House rules. They see his political connections to Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Moroun and his family as being questionable based on how he sided with the billionaire during his time in the Senate.

"Melissa Gilbert is the right person to take on Congressman Mike Bishop, who has a record of taking campaign cash from special interests and billionaire families like the Morouns and then doing their bidding, and who since coming to Congress has voted to slash funding for students paying for college, privatize Medicare, all while charging taxpayers for his staffer's luxury Washington apartment," said DCCC spokesperson Sacha Haworth.

But Republicans may be holding the biggest club in this race.

Gilbert and Busfield are paying more than \$470,000 to settle outstanding federal and state liens by 2024, a circumstance she claims was caused by the poor economy and her acting role requests drying up.

"As a woman of a certain age, the roles were becoming fewer and farther between but my salary was being compressed," she told WDIV.

Her financial disclosure statement showed her making around \$70,000 last year for acting and appearances and another \$79,000 so far this year. She did report at least \$60,000 in credit card debt. But with between \$818,000 and \$1.7 million in reported total assets, NRCC spokesman Chris Pack has been asking, "Why does Gilbert need 8.5 years to pay back (what she owes)?"

Gilbert's personal finances make her an easy political target, especially when her husband donated \$5,400 recently to her campaign.

"Melissa Gilbert and her husband need to pay their taxes, not give thousands to their own campaign to help secure a government paycheck," said Michigan Republican Party Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel. "Families across the 8th district work hard to pay their taxes. Gilbert needs to do the same."

—Kyle Melinn/MIRS



## E-Cigarettes

from page 5

tobacco because, realistically, it's not. There are so many different chemicals in one cigarette while (e-cigarettes) have four main ingredients."

While the countywide regulations banning sales to minors are likely to pass, the debate at the state level has not receded.

A coalition of health organizations signed on to a letter this year encouraging lawmakers to reject Jones' bill because "they are about protecting tobacco company profits."

"Electronic cigarettes are in no way a safe substitute to smoking, but current legislation (SB 231) would give them the kind of special treatment that would undermine Michigan's fight against smoking and tobacco-related diseases," Kevin McFtridge, a spokesman for the Michigan State Medical Society, said in

an email.

Jones said it's "doubtful" that if his bill reaches Snyder's desk again that the governor nor would sign it.

"We're at a standstill unless I can get the House and Senate to overrule him," he said, "and that's a possibility."

—Andy Balaskovitz



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## 'Rare incident' Officials say apple cider at St. Johns mill safe to enjoy

LANSING—Apple cider seekers shouldn't be deterred this fall by what one expert is calling a unique, isolated incident of tainted cider in St. Johns.

"The recent events at Uncle John's are very unusual and very rare for our apple cider industry in Michigan," said Bob Tritten, an MSU Extension fruit educator who has worked with cider mills for nearly 30 years. "Cider has had a safe track record over the last 15, 20, years and this is an isolated incident."

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development issued a consumer advisory for Uncle John's Cider Mill on Oct. 27 after finding Shiga-toxin producing E. coli bacteria during a random department inspection.

Although the department's investigation had not yet been completed, Uncle John's began selling cider again on Oct. 28, citing other lab tests that came back negative for E. coli, according to a company statement posted on Facebook.

Potentially 1,200 gallons of cider produced on Oct. 17 and sold in jugs or as a component in other products were contaminated with the toxin, the department advisory stated.

"I think people should enjoy cider just fine," department Communications Director Jennifer Holton said. "This is not an endemic issue. It was 1,200 gallons produced on one day and it was sold during a limited time frame."

At this time, no cases of E. coli illnesses have been reported, Holton said.

Tritten said given Michigan's nearly 120 cider mills, the estimated gallons produced each year in the millions and the few past cases of contamination, the scale of the consumer advisory is sizable

only in relative terms.

"I have never seen an incident of this scale, and I'm not saying that it's a big incident — it's relatively small in terms of our industry — so it truly is rare," he said.

Rebecca Crane, co-owner of Crane's Pie Pantry Restaurant and Winery in Fennville, said the last time she remembers an incident involving E. coli in cider was 20 years ago.

"Any time there's a health scare with food and the public, it's a huge concern with all of us," said Crane, whose family has pressed cider since 1968. "We do not want to produce a product that makes anyone sick in any way."

Tritten said nearly 20 years ago a national juice producer had an incident of E. coli in its cider that resulted in stricter regulations of the industry.

Ed Hahnenberg, owner of Hahnenberg Farm Market and Cider Mill in Lake Leelanau, said a number of precautions can prevent E. coli in unpasteur-

ized cider.

These include washing the fruit with disinfectants and not using fallen, rotten or too bruised apples, Hahnenberg said.

In 2014, an Ellsworth man received a two-to-four-year prison sentence for blatant negligence of safety standards in making apple cider, according to the department.

Although the man, James Ruster, sold his cider at a local farmers market, he was not licensed to do so and was told he fell short of safety standards, but he continued to sell anyway, the department stated.

Ruster's contaminated cider hospitalized two children and two adults with E. coli.

"It is unfortunate that it takes a case like this to point out the potential for harm from producing food items in an unsafe manner," department Director Jamie Clover Adams said at the time.

—Michael Kransz  
Capital News Service

## Digital Age dilemma Newspaper stories go viral but revenue does not

Although I use it liberally for research and reporting, I still marvel at how the Internet has changed journalism.

A few weeks ago I wrote a column about the presidential ambitions of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and how his surly temperament, in



MICKEY HIRTEN

my view anyway, would make him a terrible chief executive. I based this on my Vermont newspaper dealings with him and the experience of others.

Let's remember I wrote this for City Pulse, a small alternative weekly newspaper in Lansing. In the mid-Michigan market, it does very well. We have about 50,000 readers a week, almost all of them local.

But what happened with the Sanders column is a reminder that local is, well, no longer local. To date this column has nearly 70,000 page views on the City Pulse web site, 24,000 Facebook shares and has attracted about 800 comments.

Frankly, it's amazing. The column literally was read across the globe, discovered and shared, debated, praised and vilified. The same thing happens with the columns and articles written by my friends at the Lansing State Journal who report on MSU sports. The Spartans have a worldwide following, befitting the strength of the athletic program, and the university's inter-

national footprint. Graham Couch's take on the Spartans columns about this weekend's game against Nebraska will be read in China. My column was accessed by readers in Australia and Germany.

All very nice, I guess, but for whom?

The challenge for journalism is that while overall readership is growing, the organizations that provide the best reporting — that is, newspapers — are failing. Consumers, and I'm no different from anyone else on this, are reluctant to pay for news or information. If it's free, people are willing to read what I have to say about Sanders. But experience suggests that most of them wouldn't pay a penny for it. And it's that way for most of what's digital.

Always playing catch-up in the digital world, many newspapers in the country finally started charging for the news they published online. Print subscribers got digital access along with their morning newspaper; there were separate charges for those who only wanted online content.

But with rare exceptions, digital subscriptions have been a disappointment and seem unlikely to replace the steady erosion of print subscribers. The Lansing State Journal, for example, has just a couple of thousand digital-only subscribers, hardly enough to stem declines. Average Monday-Friday print circulation for the second quarter 2015 was 28,640, according to data provided by Allied Audited Media, which tracks this information for the industry and advertisers. It also had about 3,000 readers for its e-edition, the printed newspaper page in digital form that some subscribers prefer.

But here's the real issue. The newspaper reported in its annual postal filing that it had just 2,017 paid digital

subscribers.

Why? First of all, digital subscriptions cost money. Then there is the modest size of the potential audience. Lansing is a small market. Sure, there is interest in local news, but it's pretty much confined to Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties, which together have a population of about 470,500.

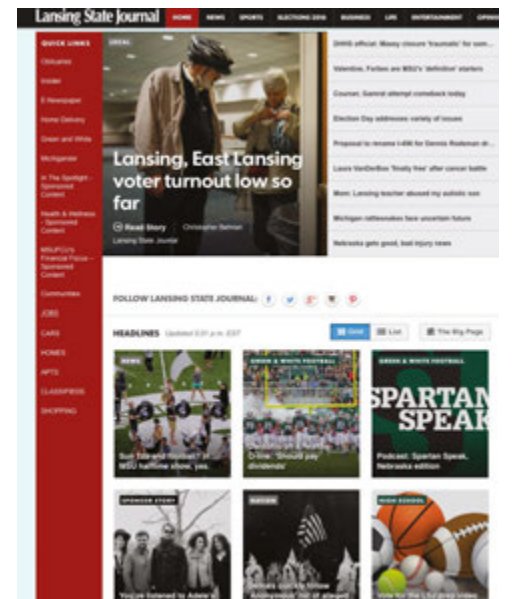
Compare that with one of the most successful digital news providers, The New York Times. In October, it passed the 1 million digital-only subscriber threshold. But it has a national and international audience for its extraordinary news coverage. Relatively speaking, the LSJ has better penetration in its market than the Times has in its. But that doesn't translate into revenue. And unlike newspapers like the State Journal which have slashed their news staff, the Times still employs about 1,300 journalists, despite periodic job cuts.

Paid digital circulation also is hurt by incredibly porous paywalls, Facebook and Twitter links. And there is free competition from local television stations and news organizations like MLive, which has chosen not to charge for digital content. But it's not doing that well, either.

This is just a long way of saying online content is basically free and that if I am going to write about Bernie Sanders I shouldn't expect to get anything from the people who read it. That is, except abuse.

It started with my youngest son, who said, "Dad, you just don't get it." Let's just say there are a lot of zealous Sanders supporters with time on their hands.

There was some support for my observations from the other side of the spectrum. Geoffrey Norman, reporting for the conservative Weekly Standard, excerpted much of the Sanders column under the headline "Bernie the Humor-



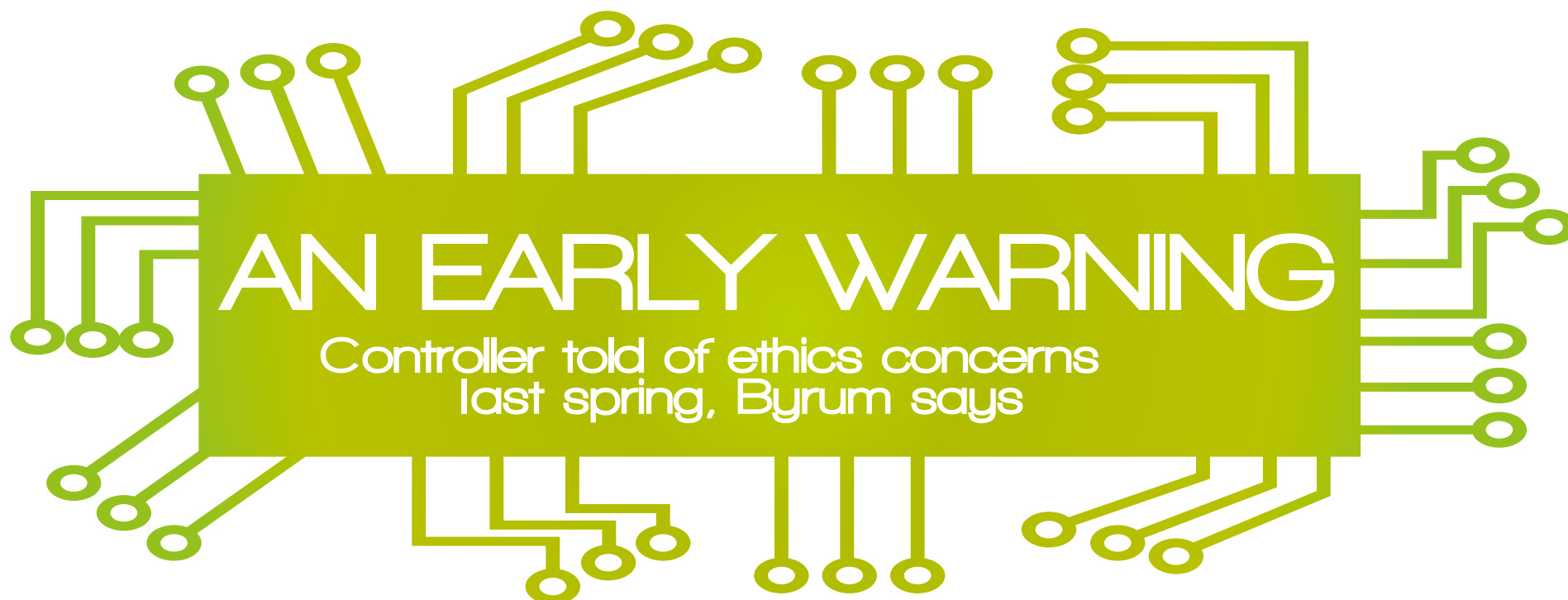
The web dilemma: The Lansing State Journal has a robust website with many visitors, but few paid subscribers.

less." It really wasn't an anti-Sanders piece. Although my observations were pointed, Norman acknowledged that the political landscape, liberal and conservative, seems to reward recalcitrance.

He wrote:

"Bernie Sanders has been noted, above all, for his consistency. He doesn't change his mind. Ever. Except, maybe a little on gun control. And his inflexibility is considered a virtue among politicians. Especially this season, given his opposition."

Of course, what he didn't mention was that I agreed with many of Sanders' positions but didn't feel he was the person to put them in play. His performance during the Democratic debate didn't alter my view, although he came across more reasoned and less strident than I had expected.



Stories written by Todd Heywood  
and edited by Mickey Hirten

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum said the county's top appointed official was warned about allegations of improper vendor and staff relationships in the county Information Technology Department in April — but took no action until City Pulse requested documents that revealed the extent of the ethical breaches in that department.



Byrum

County Clerk Barb Byrum said she told Controller and Administrator Tim Dolehanty in an April 28 meeting attended by Republican County Commissioner Robin Case Naeyaert that she was concerned about rumors of unethical conduct by officials in the IT department. She also complained about the department's poor response and performance of the department.



Dolehanty

Confirming the meeting in GOP caucus room in the county's historic courthouse, Naeyaert said, "I did not follow up on it be-



Ashton

cause I believed that the controller heard those concerns and was taking action. It's all been played very close to the vest."

Dolehanty denied being at the meeting, adding, "nor do I recall any such conversation on April 28," he said in an email. "All issues presented to me by the Clerk were by way of Email."

For his part, Dolehanty has contended he knew nothing of the allegations of wrongdoing until last month when the county began processing a Freedom of Information Act request from City Pulse. Those documents were flagged over ethical breaches, and Dolehanty fired Michael Ashton, the county's chief information officer, within a day after City Pulse obtained the documents. Ashton was dismissed from his \$110,824 a year job for violating the county ethics policy.

That policy states: "The County's employees, directors, appointed or elected officials, volunteers, or agents shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, gifts, consulting fees, trips, or anything having a monetary value in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) from a vendor, potential vendor, from the family or employees of a vendor, contractors or parties to subcontracts."

Dolehanty said in an interview Monday that the county does not have the "time or resources" to investigate "rumors." This past week, additional documents obtained by City Pulse using Michigan's Freedom of Information Act have revealed a deeper pattern of favors to IT department staff from county technology services contractors. A criminal investigation of their actions by the Ma-

### County committee asks legal advice for possible ethics reforms

Ingham County commissioners asked its attorneys Tuesday night to determine what policy issues need to be addressed in order to more readily detect unethical conduct by county employees.

County Services Committee members made the request in light of the dismissal of Michael Ashton, the chief of the Information Technology Department. Ashton was let go for ethics violations after emails sought by City Pulse revealed he was taking sports tickets and attending outings at the expense of vendors.

The committee will meet again Nov. 17 to review resolutions to extend the county's employee ethics policy to vendors and contractors. Commissioners have also asked for proposed updates to the ethics policy. Such updates would clarify questions such as whether the \$25 gift limit is for a single gift or cumulative.

Also on tap for that meeting is a review of a resolution adopting a clear whistleblower policy. Right now the county does not have such a policy, only statements that retaliation against employees who file complaints or raise concerns is unacceptable.

son Police Department has begun.

Byrum acknowledged that she had no evidence of wrongdoing at the time she raised her concerns.

"The fact is that we are all responsible for how taxpayer money is being spent and to make sure it is being spent properly," Byrum said. "When concerns are brought forward, they need to be investigated promptly and thoroughly, not pushed aside. When that happens, we're doing a disservice to the taxpayers."

Case Naeyaert said she can understand how Dolehanty may have not taken action on Byrum's complaint. She said the revelations came in the middle of a heated, months-long campaign by the clerk to address a series of serious technology-related issues. Some of those issues were costing taxpayers money and disrupting the operation of the clerk's office, Byrum said.

The Republican lawmaker from Mason said in the midst of such an acrimonious situation, she can understand how an administrator — not just Dolehanty

— could dismiss "rumors" of improper conduct.

But as Byrum tells it, the technology infrastructure at the county was in shambles.

New phones purchased earlier this year for \$1.6 million from Cisco through Wyoming Mich., based contractor ISI didn't work. Staff in the clerk's office couldn't forward incoming calls to other departments. The phones sometimes simply stopped working altogether. Voicemail that was being sent to emails stopped being forwarded, started again, then stopped.

And while the new voice-over-Internet phones were running amuck, new fax systems installed in the clerk's office weren't accepting faxed orders for death certificates from funeral homes, harming the work flow in the office.

A technical glitch on the website resulted in credit cards being declined to pay for death certificates — costing the



# CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

**Sheriff's Department and Mason PD both rely on county IT services**

While Ingham county leaders have begun an internal investigation into violations of the county's ethics policy by the former chief information officer, the criminal review already has encountered potential conflicts of interest.



Stressman

Following an interview with City Pulse 10 days ago, Ingham County Administrator Tim Dolehanty made a decision to refer emails and other documents related to Michael Ashton's acceptance of junkets for him and his staff to luxury boxes and tickets to various professional sporting events in Detroit to law enforcement.

He originally referred the matter to the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, which declined to review the matter. "I just thought it was better to have another agency do the review," Undersheriff Alan Sypke said in a phone interview. "I think it is better not to have one department of the county investigating another."

He said that while he was certain a fair review could be done by his department, he didn't want any outcome to be

painted as favoritism.

So, he referred the case to the Mason Police Department. "It happened in Mason," Sypke said.

The problem? Mason also has conflicts. The Police Department receives all its technology support from the county. Case in point: The email address for Chief John Stressman is Mason\_PD@ingham.org.

Stressman said his department pays county information technology staffers to provide email services, work on in-car laptops and maintain the city's body cams and in-car recording technologies. He said he is negotiating with the county for a flat fee, rather than the current arrangement, which has the city paying a rate for each computer or email maintained by the county. He said the costs were under \$10,000 a year, but declined to be more specific, citing the ongoing negotiations.

"I think that we can investigate this fairly and equitably," Stressman said. Sypke said he too had confidence that Mason Police would conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation.

Dolehanty said he did not necessarily see the relationship between Mason and the county as a conflict of interest, but he said he was unaware before City Pulse brought it to his attention that the county and the city were negotiating a new contract. That, he said, gave him pause.

Mason's police chief acknowledged a "casual relationship" with Ashton. He said he has not reviewed the documents. He said he did not want it to "taint the investigation."

To avoid any such implication, he said the investigation is being handled by Detective Robert Mentink. Mentink obtained the documents from Stressman in a sealed envelope. Mentink does not have any specialized training in financial crimes, but Stressman said he was certain he would know to find "the necessary resources" to assist in the investigation.



The Mason Police Department will investigate ethics violations by the Ingham Co. IT department, even though the Police Department uses the county's IT services, as Police Chief John Pressman's business card shows.

## Warning

from page 8

county money and taxpayers frustrations.

Add to all that frustration outdated computer programming — the office was operating on Windows XP until earlier this year — and outdated computers and the image emerges of a crippled office responsible for the county's most important public documents, such as death and marriage certificates and concealed weapons permits.

Bryum sent numerous emails about the lack of responsiveness to her technology woes to elected and appointed officials. It was against that backdrop that she raised concerns about rumors of allegations of improper relationships with contractors by county IT staff.

The conversation among the GOP commissioner, Byrum and Dolehanty occurred just days after Byrum sent an email to Ingham County Commissioner Chairman Brian McGrain, and County Services Committee Chairman Victor Celentino raising concerns about the "favored" status of an IT vendor.

Concerns were raised by Byrum following two separate meetings at the county. One dealt with recording equipment and technology upgrades for the circuit court; the other was about upgrading the technology and hardware to record and video county commission meetings. The meetings were supposed to be between circuit court staff and county clerk staff and the county's technology department, represented by Ashton.

But also participating in the meetings was a county contractor, Carousel Industries, which provides video and other services and was representing Palo Alto Networks, which was seeking to sell fire-wall services.

That a contractor was present at these sessions seemed unusual to Byrum.

The meetings were preliminary discussions about technology upgrade needs for both departments, and no request for proposals had yet been developed for the projects.

She followed the meeting with an email raising concerns that there had been no competitive bidding and that no vendors other than Carousel Industries had been contacted for either project.

See Warning, Page 10

### Bennett, Becky

**From:** Foess, Vincent  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:49 PM  
**To:** Ashton, Michael; Chain, Frank  
**Subject:** RE: golf

If you and Frank want to attend this year, I can stay and manage the shop...

**From:** Ashton, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:12 PM  
**To:** Foess, Vincent; Chain, Frank  
**Subject:** FW: golf

We in (Vince this is the one we did last year)

Michael E. Ashton  
CIO-Ingham County  
Phone: 517-676-7373

**From:** Chad Ordus [mailto:cordus@isigr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:06 PM  
**To:** Ashton, Michael  
**Cc:** Robert D. Offenbaker  
**Subject:** golf

You in again? Would love to see if you can bring your IT team

Thanks

Chad David Ordus  
CSE, VSP, AER, DCSE, MPSS  
Sales Manager  
P (616) 940-5115



A newly released email shows an exchange between the fired IT director, Michael Ashton, and a deputy, Vincent Foess, after a contractor invited Ashton and his team to participate in a golf outing. Foess was elevated to interim department director with a \$20,000 a year raise after Ashton was dismissed.

# Warning

from page 9

“The similarity in these two situations is concerning to me as to why this vendor seems to be so favored,” Byrum wrote in an April 23 email to McGrain and Commissioner Victor Celentino, chairman of the county services committee. County services oversees county operations, including facilities and information technology issues.

Dolehanty called Byrum’s pointing toward the April 23 email “disingenuous.” He said he saw the presence of the vendor, which is also a preferred vendor through Michigan’s purchasing program MIDEAL, was not an uncommon or inappropriate action.

“I saw that as the department trying to address her concerns as quickly as possible,” McGrain said.

In a phone interview last week, McGrain said the reference to the vendor relationship raised by Byrum could easily have been lost in the “pages of emails” she was sending to both himself and Celentino to address her technology issues.

Byrum said that Dolehanty “has the responsibility to investigate these concerns, especially when they are brought to him by an elected official.”



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Ingham County Controller and Administrator Tim Dolehanty (left) meets with the Ingham County Board of Commissioners’ Public Services Committee, chaired by Victor Celentino (right) to discuss ethics issues.

# MORE FUN AND GAMES

Documents reveal more contractor-paid outings for county IT staff

Newly released documents from Ingham County show a more extensive web of “favors” taken by its Information Technology Department deputies who took gifts from contractors and sought to mask a junket by calling it a “product reviews.”

Former IT deputy Vincent Foess, now the county’s interim chief information officer, and another deputy, Frank Chain, participated in a contractor-paid golf outing in 2014, documents indicate.

In 2015, Foess attended a similar event sponsored by technology vendor ISI, which based in Wyoming, Mich. Ingham County Controller/Administrator Tim Dolehanty said Foess was docked eight hours of vacation time for being out of the office that day. He said Foess had filed a verbal complaint to attending the outing with his former boss, Michael Ashton, who he said ordered him to participate. Ashton was fired last month for violating the county’s ethics policy.

That policy states: “The County’s employees, directors, appointed or elected officials, volunteers, or agents shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, gifts, consulting fees, trips, or anything having a monetary value in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) from a vendor, potential vendor, from the family or employees of a vendor, contractors or parties to subcontracts.”

ISI has been responsible for technology hardware such as laptops and servers, as well as handling the county’s switch to CISCO Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone services earlier this year. ISI has a contract with the county for \$1.6 million.

County emails, obtained using Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act laws, also indicate that Chain, the IT Department’s project manager, joined Ashton in attending a Red Wings event hosted by Comcast in March of this year. While Foess was copied on the emails about the event, he did not attend.

The emails reveal Chain and Ashton attended the event with their sons. In the emails, Ashton tells Chain not to “broadcast” that the event was free. When Chain emailed to confirm they were going to attend, Ashton

said to call the event a “product review.”

There are also emails between Chain and Comcast related to his home Internet services. It is unclear from the context what Chain was seeking or why he used the county’s business contact to assist him.

Reached by phone Tuesday, Chain referred all questions to Dolehanty. Foess did not respond to an email inquiry.

Dolehanty said Monday he had not yet had an opportunity to review the new cache of documents which were released on Friday. He declined to discuss what if any impact the new emails would have on what he referred to as an ongoing internal investigation related to breaches of the county’s ethics policy.

As a result of Ashton’s dismissal, Foess went from making \$76,732 as the deputy

chief information officer, to \$96,643 as the interim CIO.

As City Pulse reported last week, Michael Ashton, the former chief information officer of Ingham County, was fired from his post — where he made \$110,824 a year — because he had taken at least eight substantial gifts of tickets and travel junkets to attend professional sporting events.

The new documents also revealed that Ashton used his position and the county’s relationship with ISI to purchase a Google Chromebook for his son. County officials said paperwork related to that purchase shows Ashton paid for the computer on his own, but it was shipped — along with four others Chromebooks purchased for county use — to the county. The new documents did not show what he paid for the laptop computer versus the retail rate.

Dolehanty said he would be reviewing that purchase and trying to “untangle” it as his investigation continues.



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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER



# SCREEN DREAMS

## EAST LANSING FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF 18TH YEAR

A legal dispute over a mummified leg. A conversation with a piano genius. The outbreak of a deadly virus. The birth of freestyle skiing. A Latina chef learns to make sushi. These are just a few of the diverse scenes that will grace the silver screens at the 18th annual East Lansing Film Festival.

### East Lansing Film Festival

Nov. 5-12  
See web for locations and schedule  
(517) 980-5802, eff.com

The festival kicks off Thursday with an opening reception followed by a showing of "Uncle John." The reception, as well as a post-showing afterglow party, will feature actor John Ashton ("Beverly Hills Cop" and "Midnight Run"), lead actor in "Uncle John."

The rest of the festival features dozens of films stretched out across two locations over almost a week. City Pulse takes a look at some of the festival's intriguing options.

Reviews by ALLANI ROSS

## FEATURES

### "FINDERS KEEPERS"

82 MIN., 2015

If you didn't follow the media hoopla surrounding John Wood and Shannon Whisnant in the mid-'00s, you didn't really miss anything: Just an obese redneck (Whisnant) fighting for his right to own a mummified severed leg that he found inside a barbecue smoker he bought at a storage unit auction. The leg had belonged to Wood, a second-generation daredevil who lost the limb in an airplane accident in 2004.

The story went viral, and the leg's true ownership was debated worldwide by mainstream news media, muckraking TV newsmagazines and the emerging social media webiverse. Newscasters struggled to keep straight faces, and the two were written off as tragicomic goofballs.

But in the documentary "Finders Keepers," filmmakers Bryan Carberry and J. Clay Tweel masterfully reveal the real tragedy — as well as the comedy — behind the story. It's a profoundly human tale, which far surpasses the seeming tawdriness of the subject matter. It incorporates the perils of living up to high parental expectations (Wood was hoping to turn his leg into a memorial to his father, who died in the plane crash), the resentment bred by societal stratification, the system of addiction enabled by the health care industry and the new breed of fame spawned by reality TV.

The best personality-driven documentaries do two things: They explore previously unrecognized quirks of the human condition, and they do it in a way that utilizes too-good-to-be-true stories that are actually true. "Finders Keepers" does both.

### "KEEP IN TOUCH"

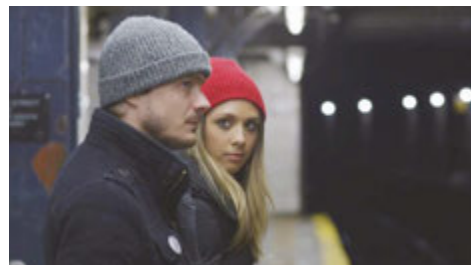
105 MIN., 2015

Once you get past its unbelievable premise, "Keep in Touch" is actually kind of a sweet movie — creepy, but sweet. And at least the music is good.

On the worst day of his life, Colin (Ryan Patrick Bachand) finds out that he's being boxed out of the startup he co-founded, his fiancée is breaking up with him, and — oops — he nails a construction worker with his car. He does a stretch in prison. The day he gets out, he discovers that Annie, the girl he grew up with and his first love, died in a car accident. When she was 15. And everyone in his life knew this but him. That's the unbelievable part.

The creepy part comes when Colin hunts down Annie's little sister, Jessie (Gabbi McPhee), who's living as a singer/songwriter in Brooklyn. He ingratiates himself into her life — even meets her father — without telling her who he is. It doesn't make much sense, but once the music starts, all is forgiven.

McPhee wrote and performed most of the soundtrack herself, giving the film a "Once"-like sensibility. And overall, the acting is exemplary, including solid supporting turns from Jill Eikenberry ("L.A. Law") as Colin's mother, Sarah Nealis as his fiancée, and James Colby as Colin's probation officer.



## SHORTS

### "M-THEORY"

15 MIN.

A fairly engaging short with above-average special effects and a nifty premise: Two scientists unwittingly invent time travel and are instantly tasked by a mysterious person from the future to abandon their research. It ends rather abruptly, but raises some questions that would be interesting to see answered in a feature-length film.



### "MOTHER"

11 MIN.

On his deathbed, a young drug addict recalls the times he was mean to his mother — now his sole caretaker — when he was growing up. Heavy-handed, sure, but it may inspire you to pick up the phone and give your mom a call when the lights come up.



### "LAST PYRAMID"

24 MIN.

In 2001, Trish Barnes lost her 17-year-old son, Kevin, in a drowning accident when he had a seizure while swimming. Kevin suffered from epilepsy, and endured multiple surgeries throughout his short life. After his death, Barnes decided to donate \$1 million to the Epilepsy Foundation — but not as a simple cash gift. She would create original pieces of stained glass art pyramids and sell them for \$50,000 a pop.

The documentary short "Last Pyramid" follows Barnes as she makes the titular piece, the 21st pyramid in the series. Barnes is a self-taught artist and an engaging character, but the filmmakers seem so enamored with her that they hold back from answering some basic questions. Namely: Did she reach her goal?

### "FOLLIES OF YOUTH"

8 MIN.

Everything sounds quainter with an Irish lilt, even twee rom coms. A lovelorn Irish lass and the bloke who spurned her find their lives cross in a most interesting way at Dublin's St. Patrick's Cathedral Park at lunchtime.

### "GOING TO THE TOP"

10 MIN.

This well-shot short attempts to allegorize a young man's rise up the corporate ladder as an existential elevator ride with a psychotic stranger. The dialogue is ludicrous and the (possible) attempt at horror are ho-hum, but the camera work is excellent and the slick elevator set would look right at home in the tech noir series "Black Mirror."

## EAST LANSING FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

(Subject to change. Full schedule and film details available at [elff.com](http://elff.com).)

### OPENING NIGHT SCHEDULE STUDIO C!

1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos

#### THURSDAY, NOV. 5

6:30 p.m. — Opening night reception

7:30 p.m. — “Uncle John”

9:30 p.m. — Afterglow

(Lead actor John Ashton will be on hand for the reception and afterglow.)

### WELLS HALL SCHEDULE 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing

#### FRIDAY, NOV. 6

##### Altman Theatre (A)

7:00 p.m. — Slice of Life Short Films Program

9:15 p.m. — “Train Station” (Directors Marty Shea and John Versical scheduled to attend.)

##### Bergman Theatre (B)

7:00 p.m. — “Burst Theory” (Director Zac Page and Producer Lisa Mueller scheduled to attend.)

9:15 p.m. — “The Stories They Tell” (Director Danny Kim and cast member Siu-Lan Tan scheduled to attend.)

##### Coppola Theatre (C)

7:00 p.m. — “Exported From Michigan” (Director Jon Vander Pol and Cinematographer Robert Sonneveldt scheduled to attend)

9:15 p.m. — Shorts Program 1

##### Disney Theatre (D)

7:00 p.m. — “(313) Choices” (FREE showing)

9:15 p.m. — “Amy”

#### SATURDAY, NOV. 7

##### Altman Theatre (A)

12:00 p.m. — Filmmakers panel discussion

2:00 p.m. — LMFC Short Docs: “Birdsell Project” and “The Ragged Edge”

4:00 p.m. — Challenges Short Films Program

6:30 p.m. — “T-Rex”

9:00 p.m. — “Superior”

##### Bergman Theatre (B)

12:00 p.m. — “One Smart Fellow”

2:00 p.m. — “That Bites!”

4:00 p.m. — “Dog Days of Winter” (Director Brian Gilmore scheduled to attend)

6:30 p.m. — “The Alley Cat” (Director, Marie Ullrich schedule to attend)

9:00 p.m. — Short Documentary Program

##### Coppola Theatre (C)

12:00 p.m. — 60/50 Project: Across Gen-

erations (FREE showing)

2:00 p.m. — “Move On!”

4:00 p.m. — “A Light Beneath Their Feet”

6:30 p.m. — “The 100-Year-Old Man Who Jumped Out The Window and Disappeared” (In Swedish with English subtitles)

9:00 p.m. — Shorts Program 2

##### Disney Theatre (D)

2:00 p.m. — “American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs

4:00 p.m. — “The Life and Death of an Unhappily Married Man”

6:30 p.m. — “Trace Amounts”

### STUDIO C! SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, NOV. 6

1:30 p.m. — “Move On!”

4:00 p.m. — “Seymour: An Introduction”

6:30 p.m. — “Keep In Touch”

9:00 p.m. — “Finders Keepers”

#### SATURDAY, NOV. 7

1:30 p.m. — Slice of Life Shorts Program

4:00 p.m. — “Cold Nights Hot Salsa” (Director Edwin Gailits scheduled to attend)

6:30 p.m. — “East Side Sushi”

9:00 p.m. — “Amy”

#### SUNDAY, NOV. 8

1:30 p.m. — Short Documentaries

4:00 p.m. — “The Messenger”

6:30 p.m. — “The 100-Year-Old Man Who Jumped Out The Window And Disappeared” (In Swedish with English subtitles)

9:00 p.m. — “Seymour: An Introduction”

#### MONDAY, NOV. 9

4:00 p.m. — “Trace Amounts”

6:30 p.m. — “Phoenix” (In German with English subtitles)

9:00 p.m. — “Cold Nights Hot Salsa”

#### TUESDAY, NOV. 10

4:00 p.m. — “The Messenger”

6:30 p.m. — “Finders Keepers”

9:00 p.m. — “Jeff Lowe’s Metanoia”

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11

4:00 p.m. — Challenges Shorts Program

6:30 p.m. — “Jeff Lowe’s Metanoia”

9:00 p.m. — “Amy”

#### THURSDAY, NOV. 12

4:00 p.m. — “Keep In Touch”

6:30 p.m. — “East Side Sushi”

9:00 p.m. — “Phoenix” (In German with English Subtitles)

## ‘I’m just me’

### Veteran singer Betty Baxter gets lifetime tribute

BY LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It’s a long stretch from plucky song-and-dance gal Shirley Temple to cerebral jazz pianist Bill Evans, but that’s Betty Baxter’s musical path in a nutshell.

#### The Satin Sounds of Betty Baxter

Seventh annual Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan tribute  
2-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8  
Old Town Marquee  
319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
\$30/\$25 adv.  
[jazzjamm.com](http://jazzjamm.com)

Baxter, 83, has been a subtle but strong staple on the mid-Michigan jazz for decades. This Sunday, she’ll be the seventh honoree at the annual Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan tribute.

Baxter sings in a smooth, conversational style that drifts into the room like the smell of lilacs. She doesn’t

try to overpower the audience. She uses vibrato sparingly and keeps her intonation on a relaxed leash. If there’s effort involved, and there surely is, it doesn’t show.

“Everybody does these heavy blues, and I just get up and sing,” she said. “I’m just me.”

As a youngster growing up in Grand Rapids, Baxter sang and danced to the music coming from the radio. At the movies, she fell harder than most for the charisma of Shirley Temple — and that’s a hard fall.

“I wanted nothing else but to be her,” she said.

If there’s any Shirley Temple left in Baxter’s latter-day jazz performances, it’s in her rapport with the audience and eagerness to please.

“I like to get up there and get silly and make a fool of myself,” she said. “But I also like to sing about love and heartache.”

As a teenager, Baxter quickly surpassed her tap-dance teacher and graduated to musical theater.

Her first role was a juicy one: the lovelorn Adelaide in “Guys and Dolls” at the Circle at the Rowe Theatre in Grand Rapids in 1957. Audiences and critics loved her.

In the 1960s, Baxter moved to Philadelphia, appearing in shows like “The Flower Drum Song” and “You Can’t Take It With You” at night while working as an accountant by day. When she was transferred to Los Angeles, she sang sporadic gigs and ended up on the same bill as crooner Pat Boone one night.

On another gig at an LA club, she asked to sit in with bassist Leroy Vinnegar.

“He looked at me like most piano players probably look at most chick singers who couldn’t carry a tune in a basket,” Baxter said.

Vinnegar ended up playing with Baxter for much of the night and even gave her some

original tunes to record.

Baxter moved to Lansing in 1977 to work in the Michigan Senate, first as a clerk, then as an accountant. At night, she began working various venues with local stalwarts like pianist Sandy Izenson, a frequent collaborator until Izenson died in 2010.

Baxter credits pianist-bassist Fred Mitchell with turning her onto jazz for real.

Early on, Mitchell asked Baxter if she knew who Bill Evans was. (Evans is the lyrical, sophisticated pianist best known for playing with trumpeter Miles Davis.)

“Bill Evans? Where is he playing?” she asked him.

Before long, Baxter seamlessly blended the prismatic harmonies, mercurial shifts and layered nuances of mid-20th-century jazz into her extroverted, audience-pleasing style.

“I became jazz,” she said. “I haven’t looked back since.”

As some singers get older, they embrace a weathered, I’ve-been-around weariness. Others try to impress you with how “timeless” they are. Baxter does neither. Her purity of personality and sound makes timelessness

the most natural thing in the world, no big deal.

“I often question it myself,” she said. “I seem to have the same voice I had when I was in my 20s.”

Every jazz musician in the Lansing area wishes there were more venues, and Baxter is no exception. But she’s grateful for a recent resurgence in jazz in the area.

She’s played at local festivals and is grateful for recent gigs involving MSU’s stellar Professors of Jazz. Her band, Satin Sounds, is still a staple at venues and special events around town.

At a vocal summit at the 2013 Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, Baxter traded choruses with Ramona Collins, Betty Joplin and Mardra Thomas.

“I felt like a new kid on the same stage with these great singers,” she said.

This year, Baxter released an album, “Love Remembers,” with a quartet of mid-Michigan stalwarts, including bassist Ed Fedewa. A studio album with MSU guitar professor Randy Napoleon and bassist Kurt Krahnke is close to completion.

“I keep on keeping on,” she said. She was surprised to be picked for Sunday’s tribute and told the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan board that she was worried “nobody will come.”

Not likely. As usual, a stellar array of local jazz musicians, including Baxter herself, will parade on and off the bandstand for three solid hours to pay tribute.

Baxter expressed one other concern. “I don’t want to cry and make a scene,” she said. “I’m hoping they roast me and make me laugh.”

Plan on a bit of both.



Courtesy photo

Singer Betty Baxter will be honored Sunday at the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan’s annual tribute concert.

# That awkward moment

## Comedian Taylor De La Ossa tells all

BY RICH TUPICA

Being a stand-up comedian comes with perks. Your job is making people happy, you don't have a boss breathing down your neck and — sometimes — you get a few complimentary drinks at the bar. Not too shabby, right?

### Taylor De La Ossa

twitter.com/  
taylordelaossa

Upcoming performances:  
9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8

FREE

Green Door  
2005 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing

9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9  
Mac's Bar  
2700 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing

10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17  
Crunchy's  
254 W. Grand River Ave.,  
East Lansing

But nothing comes easy. The most challenging part of being a comedian is the duty of writing solid material. This process often involves appraising personal flaws and analyzing the dismal realities of life in a noble attempt to make other people laugh.

Lansing-based comedian Taylor De La Ossa digs deep in the most visceral section of her set. After complementing her parents on being “intelligent and dedicated people,” she then opens an emotional scab in front of a packed club.

“Like, my dad retired from the Air Force after 23 years,” she says, “and my mom was so skilled at being a drug addict that she's dead now.” After an awkward silence, the room bursts into hesitant laughter. And then De La Ossa ties a bow on the bit.

“It was drugs, not lung cancer,” she says. “These are fun stories.”

On a couple of occasions, her father has been in the audience for her frank, autobiographical bits.

“He laughs. I can't tell if it's genuine laughter or just shock, like, ‘I can't believe she's telling that story,’” De La Ossa said. “Once he showed up with my aunt to an open-mic I did. I guess he kept leaning over to her going, ‘That's true ... that's true, too.’”

After two years of performing, De La Ossa, 24, said she continues to mine for pricklier material, tackling death, porn and menstruation.

“It's often whatever embarrasses me or makes me feel uncomfortable,” she said. “But it has to be something that speaks to me. I'm not into being offensive for offensive's sake. But if I think it's funny, I'll stand behind it.”

“I have some jokes people consistently don't like,” she added. “I get a lot of gasps in my acts, but I'm stubborn and haven't cut them yet.”

Her punchy yet candid comedic tone is guided by a couple of legendary funny-men: Mitch Hedberg and Louis C.K.

“Mitch made me want to be sharper and quicker,” she said. “Louis C.K. is also a main influence. Not that I rip him off — but with the way he talks about his life,



Courtesy photo

Local comedian Taylor De La Ossa revels in uncomfortable material.

the autobiographical sense. He has a way of articulating thoughts. I'll think, ‘Wow, I never knew I thought that way.’”

Like many of local rookie comics, De La Ossa cut her teeth at Mac's Monday Comedy Night, a free weekly showcase of local and regional talent.

“I love that room so much. I loved Mac's Bar for music first, now for its comedy,” she said. “You feel like you can do any material, the audience is very on board. The comedians who run the room, Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie, are very supportive of comics.”

Aside from Mac's Bar on Mondays, she's also a regular at the Green Door on Sun-

days and Crunchy's on Tuesdays. She has also been traveling across the state “working the ranks” in cities like Bowling Green and South Bend — often for little to no pay.

De La Ossa is the first to admit she's still learning the ropes, hence the uncompensated elbow grease.

“Every time I perform, no matter where it is, I get mad stage fright,” she said. “But each time I perform I feel a little more comfortable. People tell me I have a better stage presence. That's part of the reason I drive all over the place to do shows for free. It's the only way you get better. It's worth it for me.”

# Paying attention

## ‘Telling: Lansing’ brings veterans’ stories to the stage

BY PAUL WOZNIAC

If your only impression of the military is from Hollywood films or video games, Peppermint Creek Theater Co., in partnership with the nationally recognized Telling Project, is hoping to change that.

### “Telling: Lansing”

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5-Saturday, Nov. 7; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8;  
8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12-Saturday, Nov. 14; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15  
\$15/\$10 veteran, student or senior  
Miller Performing Arts Center  
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing  
(517) 927-3016,  
peppermintcreek.org

For NPR listeners, imagine “StoryCorps” or “The Moth Radio Hour,” but on stage and solely devoted to the stories of local military veterans and families.

For many in the production, it's the first time they've shared their experiences with



Courtesy photo  
Military veterans David Dunckel (left) and Jim Dunn rehearse a scene from “Telling: Lansing.”

anyone outside of close family and friends.

“Nobody really wanted to talk about it, so I didn't,” said Vietnam veteran Jim Dunn. “When I first got back from Vietnam, people were assuming you were going to walk into a gas station drunk and shoot somebody. The stereotype was awful.”

“You don't take many opportunities to describe [combat experience] in any kind of detail because you can't talk a little bit about combat,” added 25-year military veteran David Dunckel. “You have to tell them (everything) — and that's really difficult to do unless you're very intimate with somebody.”

The catalyst here is Max Rayneard, co-founder of the Telling Project. Rayneard interviewed each subject for several hours, then edited and reorganized those stories

into a succinct, yet powerful, script.

Initially, Dunckel didn't even recognize himself.

“When I first read (the script), I was like, ‘Oh that poor fucker. Holy shit that's me!’” he said.

For the participants, most acting on stage for the first time, the project was more consuming and rewarding than they expected.

“I didn't realize it was going to consume my life,” said Elaine Putvin, whose parents both served in World War II. “But it's been great because when I interviewed, I took some time away from the hospital where my husband had been a patient over the long term. And when he passed away toward the end of July, it was good to find things like this to be involved in.”

Theresa Bousson, who served in the mid-'80s, said the project felt like a calling.

“My dad passed away when I was 12, and about 10 years ago he was honored at the Vietnam wall in D.C.,” she said. “It was the first time I was able to share any part of his story with other people I didn't know. It was kind of a re-grieving, but it was also really healing to be able to keep his memory alive.”

When Bousson first heard about the project, she assumed, like many of the participants, that the script would involve delivering a single monologue and exiting the stage.

“But when we got the script, we are on stage the whole time and we're playing off of each other,” she said.

Between the eight participants, their military experiences span over 50 years and highlight experiences from World War II and nearly every U.S. conflict since. For Dunckel, the experience of being a soldier and subsequent physical and mental trauma changes little, even despite policy and technological advances.

“The core person inside gets all wrapped in that new technology and armor and carrying these new rifles, (but) our stories are still so much the same,” he said. “Now that hasn't changed since the Peloponnesian Wars. There's that shared experience of combat veterans.”

# Ew, 'Grosso'

## Four-headed saxophone blob oozes into symphony concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

True to the spirit of Halloween, the soloist in the next Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert was painstakingly assembled from its constituent parts in the dark, saliva-spattered laboratory of MSU saxophone professor Joe Lulloff. Gross!

### Masterworks: American Festival

Lansing Symphony Orchestra  
Griffin Campbell, Joe Lulloff, Jim Forger, Chris Creviston, saxophone quartet  
8 p.m. Sat., Nov. 7  
Tickets starting at \$20  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
(517) 487-5001, lansingsymphony.org

Or, rather, "grosso," as in "Concerto Grosso for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra," an unusual piece by Ann Arbor composer William Bolcom and the centerpiece of Saturday's all-American concert.

Some say mankind wasn't meant to meddle in established concerto traditions, but LSO Maestro Timothy Muffitt needed a jolt of electricity to kick Saturday's audience from the sobriety of Samuel Barber (the famous Adagio for Strings and the rarely heard First Symphony) to the exuberance of Leonard Bernstein (music from the musical "On the Town").

The maestro looked to Ann Arbor, where Bolcom sits like a spider among his many awards— including several Grammys and a Pulitzer — and stitches together poly-stylistic music that draws on classical, jazz, folk and other American music.

"It's exactly what one might expect from a concerto for four saxophones," Muffitt said. "It's got a city vibe, it's got humor, energy. It will be like nothing anyone's heard before."

Two heads of a four-headed "soloist" — those of Lulloff and MSU's Jim Forger, a former saxophone professor and dean of the College of Music — were already close at hand. Last Friday, the head of Griffin Campbell, who studied with Forger at MSU in the 1980s and teaches saxophone at Louisiana State University, arrived in East Lansing. The cranium of Chris Creviston, who studied with Lulloff in the 1990s and teaches at Arizona State, rolled into town Monday.

Lulloff said a solid week of woodshedding will be necessary to meld the quartet into one voice.

"Even though we four come from the same pedigree of classical traditions, and we are all familiar with jazz traditions, this is a pretty virtuosic piece," Lulloff said. "We need to get that blend, that strong, unified voice and timbre."

The nub of a concerto grosso is the oscillating conversation between the "concertino," the smaller group, and the "ripieno," the larger one. The concerto grosso form goes back to Bach and Vivaldi. Bolcom freshened it up with a phalanx of saxophones, which he called an "upstart instrument" in the symphonic world.

A century ago, Bolcom said, saxophones were frowned upon by classical orchestras as "sleazy" instruments. (They got their revenge. See: jazz.) His concerto grosso exploits the broad range of moods and timbres they can produce, alone or en masse.

For Lulloff and his three colleagues, the format offers a rare blend of intimate



Courtesy photo

Joe Lulloff, MSU saxophone professor, leads a four-headed "soloist" in Saturday's Lansing Symphony concert.

chamber music-making with the full force of a symphony orchestra.

"As a quartet, we have make sure we're totally on our game ourselves, and then connect with the orchestra, because there is a lot of interplay," Lulloff said.

Bolcom wrote the concerto a decade ago for Prism, U-M's crack student saxophone quartet. Since then, Prism and other quartets have performed the work many times, especially in a popular "bandscription" for wind band. Lulloff, Creviston, and former Lulloff student Taimur Sullivan did it with the MSU wind band last year.

"It's a very interesting and eclectic mix of jazz, popular, song style and classical music," Lulloff said. "(Bolcom) is well known for his mixture of styles and he really brings out an excellent balance."

The quartet deploys Lulloff on tenor sax, Campbell on baritone, Creviston on soprano and Forger on alto.

Muffitt called Bolcom "a sponge of American musical culture," but the concerto also reaches beyond American styles. In the second movement, Bolcom tried to capture what he called the "almost caramel, gooey" sound he heard from French romantic saxophonists in the 1950s and 60s when he was studying at the Paris Conservatoire. Other parts of the concerto, Bolcom said, are "straight-out bebop and rhythm and blues" — except that the lines are written out and not improvised.

"He reaches back for a little bit of Duke Ellington, Tin Pan Alley songs, Gershwin-type piano and a traditional folk song style," Lulloff said.

The light texture and nimble mood shifts contrast with some of Bolcom's more ambitious works, including the three-hour, Pulitzer Prize-winning "Songs of Innocence and Experience," based on poems by William Blake.

"Sometimes I like to write a piece just for fun," Bolcom said.

"It's always special when you get a chance to play with an orchestra," Lulloff said. "Tim Muffitt is a terrific conductor to collaborate with. He programs some very interesting music for our community to be exposed to."

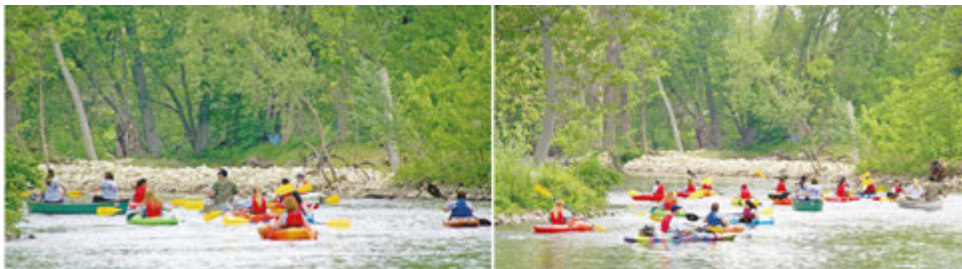
Lulloff last worked with Muffitt and the LSO in 2008, when they turned out an absorbing performance of David Maslanka's epic, 42-minute saxophone concerto.

"That was a really tough piece," Lulloff said. "[Muffitt] just grabbed onto it and brought it to life. When you're soloing, you want a conductor that intuitively knows where you want to go, a few steps ahead."

# CROWDSOURCING

A GUIDE TO LANSING-AREA ONLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

Crowdsourcing highlights local crowdsourcing campaigns.  
To find the events, go to the designated website and search by title.



Courtesy photo

### Return the Rapids to Eaton Rapids

[patronicity.com/project/return\\_the\\_rapids\\_to\\_eaton\\_rapids](http://patronicity.com/project/return_the_rapids_to_eaton_rapids)

The City of Eaton Rapids is turning to the public to help turn the West-Low Head Dam into a fishing and canoe/kayak friendly space. Working in cooperation with the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the City of Eaton Rapids has obtained permits to remove part of the West-Low Head Dam and add

a fish ramp and recreational rapids elements. The city has organized a crowd-funding campaign through Patronicity, hoping to raise \$50,000 by Dec. 18. These funds, in addition to a \$50,000 matching contribution from MEDC and MSHDA if the goal is met, will cover the remaining cost of the project. Donation levels range from \$25 to \$2,500, and rewards for contributors include such perks as having the donor's name engraved on a plaque, an invitation to the ribbon-cutting ceremony

and personalized photos of the rapids.

### Aux Petits Soins: A Little Paris in Metro Lansing

[indiegogo.com/projects/aux-petits-soins-a-little-paris-in-metro-lansing](http://indiegogo.com/projects/aux-petits-soins-a-little-paris-in-metro-lansing)

In April, Gaëlle Cassin-Ross launched a French language immersion program, Aux Petits Soins, to introduce Lansing-area children to the language and culture of her native France. She offers several classes per week at various Greater Lansing locations. With demand for her services rising, Cassin-Ross has created an Indiegogo campaign to help establish a permanent home for the program. The campaign's goal is to raise \$15,000 by Nov. 15, with funds going toward renovations and furnishings for a recently secured location on Lansing's east side. Donations will also allow Cassin-Ross to purchase classroom supplies and other educational materials, including books and magazines imported from France. Donation levels range from \$10 to \$2,500, and contributors receive gifts ranging from handwritten thank you notes and t-shirts to class discounts and room sponsorships. This is a flexible fund-

ing campaign — the organization will receive all donations even if the goal is not met.

### MA Tower Preservation Project

[gofundme.com/bd6rp6rk](http://gofundme.com/bd6rp6rk)

The MA (Michigan Avenue) Tower, a historic but run-down railroad building in Lansing's Old Town, is looking for a new home. The Lansing Model Railroad Club, a nonprofit formed in 1953 to preserve the history of Michigan railroads, recently launched a Gofundme campaign to move and renovate the structure. The tower, which used to be next to Lansing Union Station (now Clara's Lansing Station restaurant), controlled the junction of the Michigan Central and Pere Marquette railroad lines before automation. It was retired and moved to Old Town in 1986. The club is hoping to raise \$35,000 for the project. Donations will cover the cost of moving the structure to the club's headquarters in Delta Township and full renovation the tower. All donations are tax-deductible.

— KEVIN McINERNEY

If you have a crowdsourcing event to promote, send a link and short description to [ty@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:ty@lansingcitypulse.com).

# Before the mall

## Local author explores history of Meridian Township

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The Meridian Township most of us think of is the bustling shopping area where Grand River Avenue meets Marsh Road. But tucked behind the mall is Meridian Historical Village, which has preserved seven of the area's historic buildings.

Jane Rose has served as executive director of Meridian Historical Village for 13 years, a position she took after retiring from the State of Michigan. She is also author of the recently published "Images of America: Meridian Township," a combination photographic guide and history of the area's growth.

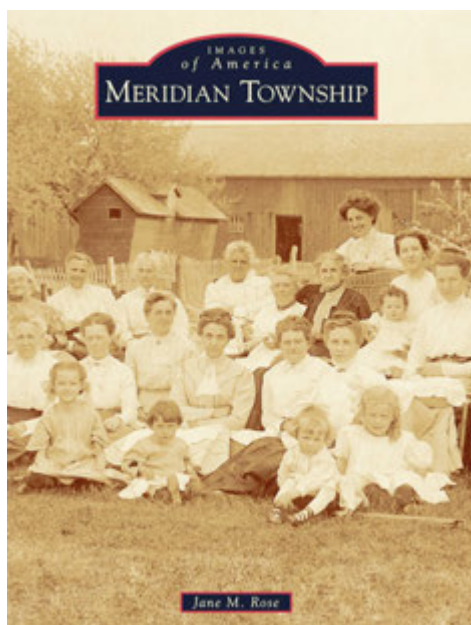
"I wanted to be a history teacher, that was my original professional goal," Rose said. "I love history so much and love to share my knowledge and that of our volunteers with our visitors."

Rose's book has become a companion piece for telling the Meridian Township's history. The area's first residents were the Chippewa and Ottawa tribes, who camped in the area during their seasonal migrations. White settlers made their foray into the area in 1836 with a settlement at Pine Lake (now Lake Lansing).

In the book, Rose shows how the area around what is now called Haslett quickly became an agricultural center with a grain elevator, mill, post office, general store and rail service. Even greater changes came in 1887 when James Haslett, a Port Huron businessman, purchased property on the Southwest corner of Pine Lake.

Haslett established a major spiritualism center on the site. Each summer, thousands of believers and mediums would gather to camp and receive spiritual instruction. The boom would soon create a cottage and tourist industry that attracted the likes of the R.E. Olds family. But the camp was short-lived. After Haslett died in 1891, his widow sold the property in 1898 to the Haslett Park Association, which turned the property into a bustling summer resort.

"Haslett was the attraction in that era," Rose said. "Pine Lake became the Traverse City or Charlevoix of the area."



Courtesy photo

"Images of America: Meridian Township," by Jane Rose, traces the history of Meridian Township from early Native American settlers to the modern day.

A trolley, which had been built to serve the spiritualist camp, was extended to a new casino which set out over the lake. A fleet of small boats serviced the area and a "gentleman's club" was built in the center of the lake.

Photographs from the Meridian Historical Village's archives, along with photographs from local residents and the Ingham County Parks Department, illustrate the book and show a lost era that many residents are not aware of.

"Finding high quality photographs to illustrate the book was the most difficult job," Rose said.

Particularly disappointing, she said, was the failure to find any photographs of the Dells Ballroom, a nightclub built in 1910 on the north shore of the lake

"It was incredibly popular in the big band era," she said.

She'd also like to find a photograph of the Methodist church which was located in what she calls the "forgotten hamlet" at the intersection of Jolly and Meridian roads.

One section of the book covers the transition of Pine Lake to Lake Lansing. The area was renamed by a major property owner, Frank Johnson, in 1927. He thought the name Pine Lake was too common. By the 1920s, amusement rides began appearing. The Lake Lansing Amusement Park became a summer destination that lasted until the 1970s.

Another section of the book tells the story of the creation of the Meridian Historical Village. The project began in 1974 when the Grettenberger family donated the family's original farmhouse to the village. Dramatic photographs show that home and several other buildings being moved into the village on flatbed trucks. The site is home to seven 19th century structures, including homes, businesses and a schoolhouse.

Rose also included some rare images of early area pioneer families, including the Fosters, the Grettenbergers, the Ayers and the Turners.

A photograph of the area's first library, which was in the village of Okemos at the corner of Moore Street and Hamilton Road, shows a young boy with a woman, presumably his mother, coming from the library. Her saddle shoes date the photo around 1950.

The photo gracing the cover of the book is of the Haslett Woman's Literary Society, which morphed into the contemporary Haslett Woman's Club. The photo, taken in 1911,

shows a gathering of young women with children posed against a barn. The women, in their finest Sunday clothes, are a stern group — except for the Gibson Girl look-alike in the back, glowing with a smile.

The village will host a Victorian Christmas celebration on 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 13. Houses will be decorated for Christmas and volunteers in period dress will share their traditions. A Christmas tea in the Barnes House (\$10 and reservations required) will be 1p.m. to 2 p.m. Buildings are open 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and a tree lighting will take place at 4 p.m.

The book is available at local bookstores and can also be purchased online at meridianhistoricalvillage.com. Although the book has her name on the cover, Rose said that much of the credit belongs to the area's history keepers.

"I stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before me and who share their memories and history in order to keep the past alive," she said.

## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

**MSU Prof. Emeritus DOUGLAS A. NOVERR** presents **MSU Sesquicentennial Series Vol 3**

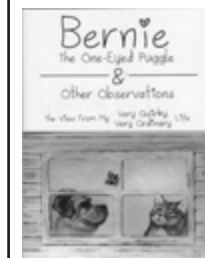
Monday, November 9 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location



In the 1960s and '70s, Michigan State College transformed into the major research institution it is today. *Michigan State University: The Rise of a Research University and the New Millennium, 1970-2005* explores the history of that transformation.

### Local Author Night

Tuesday, November 10 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location



Join us for an evening highlighting local authors and their work in a panel presentation. This panel's featured authors are Gloria Jones, author of *Beauty Up* and *Bullying Problems Solutions and Statistics*; Mary Matuja, author of *Hello America: A Memoir*; Nicole L.V. Mullis, author of *A Teacher Named Faith*; and Jeanne Van Wieren, author of *Bernie the One-Eyed Puggle & Other Observations*.

for more information visit  
[www.SchulerBooks.com](http://www.SchulerBooks.com)

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

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, November 4

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Introduction to TEI.** Lesson on Text Encoding Initiative. 1-2:30 p.m. MSU Library, 100 Main Library MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, [ow.ly/TRYkX](http://ow.ly/TRYkX).

**Line Dancing @ MSC.** All levels welcome. No partner necessary. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, [meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com).

**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) 272-9840.

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

**Aux Petits Soins: Explorers 3.** French immersion for babies/toddlers. 4:30 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 643-8059.

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

### EVENTS

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

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

**BroadPOP Studio.** Stamp-making workshop. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Memory Screenings @ MSC.** Short series

See Out on the Town, Page 18

## Thrilling theater



Photo by Matthew Murphy  
"Dirty Dancing" at the Wharton Center is one of two movie-inspired musicals hitting local stages this week. (Shown: Gillian Abbott, as Baby, and Christopher Tierney, as Johnny.)

Nov. 6-15

Local theater is chock-full of entertainment options this November, featuring everything from heart-wrenching dramas and heartwarming comedies to movie nostalgia musicals and family-friendly fare. Here is a rundown of all the shows opening this week. (For City Pulse's preview of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Telling Lansing," see page 13).

### Nov. 6-7, 13-15 >> "The Colleen Bawn" at LCC Theatre Program

When a wealthy Irish man marries a peasant girl, his family will stop at nothing to make sure that the marriage does not succeed. Set in 19th century Ireland, this melodrama is full of suspense, music, humor, and romance. Local musicians Jeff Boerger and Bob Borcharding provide live music for this production. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$10 seniors and LCC staff/\$5 students. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

### Nov. 6-8, 13-15 >> "Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical" at Starlight Dinner Theatre

Presented in the style of holiday TV special, this production features the Little Sisters of Hoboken singing and dancing their way through a "nonsensical" cable-access holiday program. Friday and Saturday performances include dinner, and

Sunday performances include a dessert bar. 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1:30 p.m. Sunday. \$39 dinner and show/\$36 seniors/\$18 show only. Waverly East Intermediate School Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 599-2779, [starlightdinnertheatre.com](http://starlightdinnertheatre.com).

### Nov. 6-8, 13-15 >> "Ghost: The Musical" at Owosso Community Players

In this musical adaptation of the 1990 film, Sam must reach out to his lover, Molly, from beyond the grave to save her from a sinister plot. Sam enlists the help of a reluctant psychic to bridge the divide between the worlds of the living and the dead. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday; 3 p.m. matinee Saturday, Nov. 14 only. \$20/\$18 seniors and students/\$10 children 13 and under. The Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, [owossoplayers.com](http://owossoplayers.com).

### Nov. 6-7, 13-14 >> "Through The Looking Glass" at All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

In honor of the upcoming 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland," All-of-us Express Children's Theatre presents "Through The Looking Glass." Over 80 area youth are participating in this stage adaptation of the classic tale. 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. \$7/\$5 children.

Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580, [allofusseexpress.org](http://allofusseexpress.org).

### Nov. 7-8, 14-15 >> "The View From Here" at Ixion Theatre

Ixion Theatre's latest comedic production looks into the small-town Kentucky home of an agoraphobic woman who has not left her house for six years. Her comfortable lifestyle is disrupted when her catatonic sister lands on her couch and a neighbor whose wife has just abandoned him moves into her home with his baby. 8 p.m., Saturday; 7 p.m., Sunday. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, [ixiontheatre.com](http://ixiontheatre.com).

### Nov. 10-15 >> "Dirty Dancing" at the Wharton Center

Experience the dancing and romancing live as rich kid Baby and blue collar Johnny fall in love to the tunes of one of the best-selling soundtrack albums of all time. This Broadway take on the classic '80s film includes smash hits like "Hungry Eyes" and "(I've Had) The Time of My Life." 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at \$38. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

— MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM



# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA

### CHRIS BATHGATE AT THE AVENUE CAFE

**Friday, Nov. 6 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10, 8 p.m.**




Michigan roots-scene troubadour Chris Bathgate, along with fellow folkies Seth Bernard and Gifts or Creatures, perform Friday at the Avenue Café. Bathgate, 33, grew up in Iowa and Kentucky. In 2001, he enrolled at University of Michigan's School of Art and Design and launched his solo music career. By 2006, Bathgate was a fixture in the Ann Arbor indie-folk circuit and Real Detroit Weekly named him "Best Solo Artist in Michigan." The following year he released his acclaimed "A Cork Tale Wake" LP via Quite Scientific Records, which also released his most recent LP, 2011's "Salt Year." Bathgate's forthcoming EP, "Old Factory," is slotted for an early 2016 release. Meanwhile, Gifts or Creatures features the Lansing-based husband/wife songwriting duo of Brandon and Bethany Foote. The Americana twosome blends Midwestern folklore and old world history with lush soundscapes and tender harmonies.

**FRI. NOV 6TH**  
Chris Bathgate

### MADCAT'S MIDNIGHT BLUES JOURNEY AT AMP

**Friday, Nov. 6 @ Ten Pound Fiddle – Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. \$15, 7:30 p.m.**

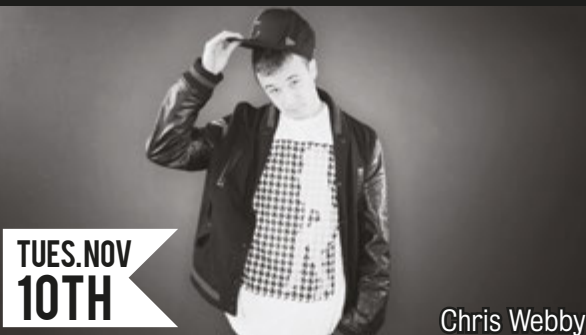


The Ten Pound Fiddle and LCC Radio 89.7 hosts Madcat's Midnight Blues Journey, a Michigan-based all-star blues band, Friday at the Allen Market Place. Lead by Grammy Award winning harmonica prodigy Peter "Madcat" Ruth, the improvisational outfit plays standard and obscure blues numbers while also mixing in folk, jazz and original tunes. The rest of the band comprises guitarist Drew "Captain Midnight" Howard, bassist Mark Schrock and drummer Michael Shimmin. As for the band's leader, Ruth has toured the world and was hailed as "a harmonica virtuoso who is rapidly approaching legend status" by Performance Magazine. Meanwhile, Howard has been a guitar-slinging fixture on the Michigan roots music scene for more than 30 years. He's best known for his expert-level skills on the six string, pedal and lap-steel guitar and dobro. Food will be available, and Allan Market Place's Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale will sell its brews at the event.

**FRI. NOV 6TH**  
Madcat's Midnight Blues Journey

### CHRIS WEBBY AT MAC'S BAR

**Tuesday, Nov. 10 @ Mac's Bar, 2600 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$20, \$18 adv., 7 p.m.**



Christian Webster, aka Chris Webby, has worked with a long roster of A-list rappers, including Method Man, Bun B, Mac Miller, B-Real and Talib Kweli. Tuesday, the Connecticut-based emcee headlines Mac's Bar. Opening the all-ages show are Cato, Nate Millyunz and Knowledge Da MC. Webster debuted in 2009 with a pair of self-released mixtapes, "The White Noise LP" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Rapper." In 2013, after a string of buzz-worthy independent releases on his Homegrown Music imprint, Webster signed with Entertainment One Music (formerly known as Koch Records). His proper debut LP on the label, 2014's "Chemically Imbalanced," features guest spots from Dizzy Wright and Tech N9ne, among others. All Music Guide praised the glossy, pop-fueled rap album, calling the disc a "hook-filled, clever, and cocksure party." Fans of Yelawolf or Asher Roth might want to check him out.

**TUES. NOV 10TH**  
Chris Webby

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

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.		Seth Bernard, 8 p.m.	Tell Yo Mama, 9 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darin Larner Sr., 9 p.m.	
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Kevin Schaffer, 6 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Grant Hendershot, 8:30 p.m.	
Center Stage, 1785 W State Rd				
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Copper, 2874 E. Lake Lansing Rd.				
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.	DJ Lee Grooves, 7 p.m.	
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			Hot Mess, 10 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke w/ Jamie, 9 p.m.		DJ Fudgie, 10 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	The Rotations, 9:30 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Alistar, 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		The Ghost Inside, 7 p.m.		Alesana, 5 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		That Freak Quincy, 8 p.m.	Saddest Landscape, 7 p.m.	Ground Tracer, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Zydecrunch, 9 p.m.	Spoonful, 9 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			The Tenants, 6 p.m.	
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		Life Support, 6 p.m.	
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			New Rule, 6 p.m.	
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.
Third Base Sports Bar, 13623 Main St.				Frog and Fragment of Soul, 8 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Stan B. and the 3rd Degree, 8:30 p.m.	Time to Play, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Jake Stevens, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel, 410 S. Clippert St.			Jake Stevens Band, 9:30 p.m.	

## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Nov. 4-10

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "I demand unconditional love and complete freedom," wrote Slovenian poet Tomaž Salamun. "That is why I am terrible." In accordance with the astrological omens, I'm offering you the chance, at least temporarily, to join Salamun in demanding unconditional love and complete freedom. But unlike him, you must satisfy one condition: Avoid being terrible. Can you do that? I think so, although you will have to summon unprecedented amounts of emotional intelligence and collaborative ingenuity.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You have the answers you need, but you keep sniffing around as if there were different or better answers to be had. Moreover, you've been offered blessings that could enable you to catalyze greater intimacy, but you're barely taking advantage of them — apparently because you underestimate their potency. Here's what I think: As long as you neglect the gifts you have already been granted, they won't provide you with their full value. If you give them your rapt appreciation, they will bloom.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) tried to earn a living by selling pencil sharpeners, but couldn't make it. In frustration, he turned to writing novels. Success! Among his many popular novels, 27 of them were about a fictional character named Tarzan. The actor who played Tarzan in the movies based on Burroughs' books was Johnny Weissmuller. As a child, he suffered from polio, and rebuilt his strength by becoming a swimmer. He eventually won five Olympic gold medals. Burroughs and Weissmuller are your role models in the coming weeks, Gemini. It's a favorable time for you to turn defeat into victory.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Artist Andy Warhol had an obsession with green underpants. In fact, that's all he ever wore beneath his clothes. It might be fun and productive for you to be inspired by his private ritual. Life is virtually conspiring to ripen your libido, stimulate your fertility, and expedite your growth. So anything you do to encourage these cosmic tendencies could have an unusually dramatic impact. Donning green undies might be a good place to start. It would send a playful message to your subconscious mind that you are ready and eager to bloom.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In the coming weeks, take special notice of the jokes and humorous situations that prompt you to laugh the loudest. They will provide important clues about the parts of your life that need liberation. What outmoded or irrelevant taboos should you consider breaking? What inhibitions are dampening your well-being? How might your conscience be overstepping its bounds and making you unnecessarily constrained? Any time you roar with spontaneous amusement, you will know you have touched a congested place in your psyche that is due for a cleansing.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): For each of the last 33 years, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Los Angeles has selected a "National Hero Dog." It's an award given to a canine that has shown exceptional courage in helping or rescuing people. In 2015, the group departed from tradition. Its "National Hero Dog" is a female cat named Tara. Last May, she saved a four-year-old boy by scaring off a dog that had begun to attack him. I'm guessing you will soon have an experience akin to Tara's. Maybe you'll make a gutsy move that earns you an unexpected honor. Maybe you'll carry out a dramatic act of compassion that's widely appreciated. Or maybe you'll go outside your comfort zone to pull off a noble feat that elevates your reputation.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): According to cartoon character Homer Simpson, "Trying is the first step towards failure." I don't agree with that comic advice. But I do think the following variant will be applicable to you in the coming weeks: "Trying 'too hard' is the first step toward failure." So please don't try "too hard," Libra! Over-exertion should be taboo. Straining and

struggling would not only be unnecessary, but counter-productive. If you want to accomplish anything worthwhile, make sure that your default emotion is relaxed confidence. Have faith in the momentum generated by all the previous work you have done to arrive where you are now.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Elsie de Wolfe (1859-1950) was a pioneer in the art of interior design. She described herself as "a rebel in an ugly world." Early in her career she vowed, "I'm going to make everything around me beautiful," and she often did just that. In part through her influence, the dark, cluttered decor of the Victorian Era, with its bulky draperies and overly ornate furniture, gave way to rooms with brighter light, softer colors, and more inviting textures. I'd love to see you be inspired by her mission, Scorpio. It's a good time to add extra charm, grace, and comfort to your environments.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): At the age of 36, author Franz Kafka composed a 47-page letter to his father Herman. As he described the ways that his dad's toxic narcissism and emotional abuse had skewed his maturation process, he refrained from lashing out with histrionic anger. Instead he focused on objectively articulating the facts, recounting events from childhood and analyzing the family dynamic. In accordance with the astrological omens, I recommend that you write a letter to your own father — even if it's filled with praise and gratitude instead of complaint. At this juncture in your life story, I think you especially need the insights that this exercise would generate. (P.S. Write the letter for your own sake, not with the hope of changing or hurting or pleasing your dad. You don't have to give it to him.)

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Shizo Kanakuri was one of Japan's top athletes when he went to compete in the marathon race at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. Partway through the event, fatigued by sweltering heat, bad food, and the long journey he'd made to get there, Kanakuri passed out. He recovered with the help of a local farmer, but by then the contest was over. Embarrassed by his failure, he sneaked out of Sweden and returned home. Fast forward to 1966. Producers of a TV show tracked him down and invited him to resume what he'd started. He agreed. At the age of 74, he completed the marathon, finishing with a time of 54 years, eight months. I think it's time to claim your own personal version of this opportunity, Capricorn. Wouldn't you love to resolve a process that got interrupted?

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In most sporting events, there's never any doubt about which competitor is winning. Each step of the way, the participants and spectators know who has more points or goals or runs. But one sport isn't like that. In a boxing match, no one is aware of the score until the contest is finished — not even the boxers themselves. I think you're in a metaphorically comparable situation. You won't find out the final tally or ultimate decision until the "game" is complete. Given this uncertainty, I suggest that you don't slack off even a little. Keep giving your best until the very end.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): One night as you lie sleeping in your bed, you will dream of flying through the sunny summer sky. The balmy air will be sweet to breathe. Now and then you will flap your arms like wings, but mostly you will glide effortlessly. The feeling that flows through your body will be a blend of exhilaration and ease. Anywhere you want to go, you will maneuver skillfully to get there. After a while, you will soar to a spot high above a scene that embodies a knotty problem in your waking life. As you hover and gaze down, you will get a clear intuition about how to untie the knots. Whether or not you remember this dream, the next day you will work some practical magic that begins to shrink or dissolve the problem.

## Out on the town

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of questions to identify possible areas for medical follow-up. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

**Sachet Making Workshop.** Make an easy, nice smelling sachet to give as a gift or keep for yourself. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Suits and the City November Event.** LGBT professional networking event. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. The Beer Grotto, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 371-1080, gaylansing.org.

**Teen Advisory Board: Arm-Knit Scarves for Charity.** Learn how to arm-knit cozy winter scarves that will be donated to charity. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**Marshall Music Ukulele Play-Along.** All ages and levels welcome. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

**Together, Let's Jam.** Music for all ages. 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$5/FREE Capitol Area Down Syndrome members. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, ow.ly/TSeOJ.

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

**Marshall Music Open Jam.** 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

### THEATER

**Little Women: the Musical.** 7:30-10 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemostheatre.net.

## Thursday, November 5

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

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

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal

Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

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

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

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

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

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

**H.E.R.O. Class- Home Buying 101: FHA Loans and HUD Homes.** 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. glhc.org.

**LifeTime Meditation and Yoga.** 9-9:45 a.m. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 772-7769, sparrow.org.

**Preschool Science Exploration: Turtle Time.** Nature science for kids. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**Prostate Cancer Support Group of Mid-Michigan.** 7-9 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 364-5471.

### EVENTS

**Image Day Spa Ladies Night / Open House.** Night of fun, wine and networking. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Image Day Spa, 1020 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 484-5062, imagedayspa1.com.

**Gentle Yoga.** 9-10 a.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**66th Annual Athenian Luncheon and Bake Sale.** Greek food for sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$12. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 482-7341.

**Capital Area Audubon Society.** Presentation on Michigan's rattlesnakes. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, capitalareaaudubon.org.

**Ladies Figure Skating.** Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.

**Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center.** Call ahead to reserve meal. 12-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**One on One Life Coaching.** Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

See Out on the Town, Page 19

## THURSDAY, NOV. 5-7 >> GREATER LANSING POTTERS' GUILD FALL POTTERY SALE

The Greater Lansing Potters' Guild celebrates its 46th birthday this week with its Fall Pottery Sale. The sale includes a wide variety of hand-crafted goods including kitchenware, jewelry and decorative sculptures for the home. Created by over 30 local artists, the pieces come from a wide variety of pottery-making techniques, such as raku, soda firing and high firing. New items are added daily. 5:30-9 p.m., Thursday; 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 339-8978, glpg.org.

# Out on the town

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

**WMU Cooley Law School Open House.** Prospective students can visit campus. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. info.cooley.edu.

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

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

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

## MUSIC

**Karaoke.** LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**"The Baby Book" Launch and Signing.** Robin Silbergleid signs parenthood book. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

## ARTS

**Greater Lansing Potter's Guild Fall Pottery Sale.** Wide variety of pottery for sale. 5:30-9 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road,

East Lansing. (517) 339-8978, glpg.org.

## THEATER

**Roial Players Present: Decision Height.** Play about female WWII pilots. 9-11 p.m. \$5. Snyder-Phillips Hall Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690, roialplayers.weebly.com.

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

**Little Women: the Musical.** 7:30-10 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemostheatre.net.

## Friday, November 6

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Aux Petits Soins: Explorers 1 & 2.** French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4) & 10:30 a.m. (ages 0-2). \$15/\$12 students. Willow Tree Family Center, 3333 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 643-8059.

### EVENTS

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

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

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

**StoryTime.** Ages 2-5 years enjoy stories and

songs. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing.  
**The Art of Gifting Opening with Kimberly Lavon.** Live artist demos and art for sale. 6-9 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

**Ingham County Animal Control's Vaccination and Licensing Clinic.** Noon-4 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control Outreach Center, 826 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 242-7440, ac.ingham.org.

**Flappers and Fedora MDA Fundraiser.** Music and 1920s costumes. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$5. REO Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/TYoPs.

## MUSIC

**Meridian Community Band Grand Sousa Concert.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$9 seniors/FREE students. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Dr., East Lansing. (517) 333-7600, ow.ly/U3MVi.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Book discussion on 'Beauty for Ashes'.** 6-8 p.m. Unity of Greater Lansing, 240 Marshall St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

## ARTS

**"Material Effects" Opening Reception.** Features interactive performance art. 7 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## Jonesin' Crossword

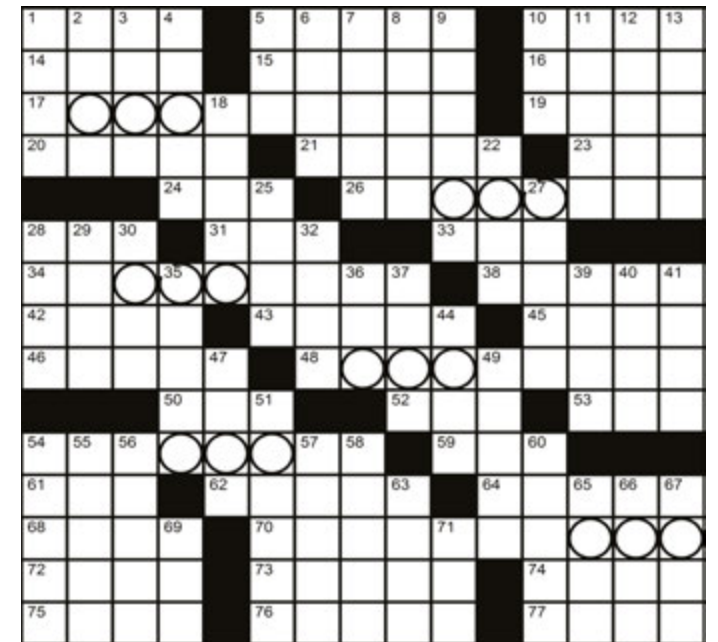
By Matt Jones

"Turn it Down"—  
but not all the  
way.  
Matt Jones

### Across

1 B as in baklava  
5 Belief system  
10 "Family Feud"  
option  
14 On the summit of  
15 Pipe cleaner  
brand?  
16 "Like \_\_\_ out of  
Hell"  
17 Amazed  
19 Diggs of "Private  
Practice"  
20 Blase (or just  
blah) feeling  
21 Night, in Italy  
23 "\_\_\_ Walks in  
Beauty" (Byron  
poem)

24 Short short time?  
26 Topping in a tub  
28 Part of TBS, for  
short  
31 Author Fleming  
33 Tit-tat filler  
34 "That's so sweet"  
38 Emphatic turn-  
down  
42 Glassful at a can-  
tina, perhaps  
43 Win all the games  
45 Oregon Ducks  
uniform designer  
since 1999  
46 "Lunch is for \_\_\_"  
("Wall Street" quote)  
48 Like Goofy but not  
Pluto  
50 Long meal in  
Japan?  
52 LPs, to DJs  
53 Possesses  
54 Showtime series  
of the 2000s  
59 Little dog's bark  
61 "\_\_\_ the Walrus"  
62 Marina craft  
64 Washer/dryer



units?  
68 Downright rotten  
70 "You've really out-  
done yourself at suck-  
ing," or this puzzle's  
theme?  
72 TV component?  
73 Microscopic  
74 Active Sicilian  
volcano  
75 Dark form of  
quartz  
76 Desirable quality  
77 "Round and Round"  
band

### Down

1 Film with the seg-  
ment "Pork Is a Nice  
Sweet Meat"  
2 English prep school  
3 Dot on a state map  
4 High score  
5 Hall of Leno's "The  
Tonight Show"  
6 1982 Disney film  
with a 2010 sequel  
7 Anarchy  
8 "And that's \_\_\_ grow  
40 Retailer with a

on"  
9 Not quite  
10 Vanna's cohort  
11 Make embarrassed  
12 Give a quick wel-  
come  
13 Hard to climb  
18 Kids' song refrain  
that's all vowels  
22 PayPal cofounder  
Musk  
25 Cleveland NBAers  
27 Erroneous  
28 "Begin the Beguine"  
clarinetist Artie  
Berra  
29 Late baseballer  
30 Like one leg of a  
triathlon  
32 Former House  
speaker Gingrich  
35 Boutonniere set-  
ting  
36 Kareem's original  
name  
37 "Man, that hurts!"  
39 "Well, we just lost"  
sound  
40 Retailer with a

snaky floor plan  
41 Wine cellar options  
44 Eugene Ionesco  
production  
47 Stitches up  
49 Outcast  
51 Controversial  
Nabokov novel  
54 Connect with  
55 New \_\_\_ (Yale  
locale)  
56 Zooley's big sister  
in acting  
57 Basic learning  
techniques  
58 Dropperfuls, say  
60 "\_\_\_ to the  
people!"  
63 Sheet of postage  
stamps  
65 \_\_\_ Vista (onetime  
search engine)  
66 "Stop that!"  
67 Go after, as a fly  
69 "Superman" villain  
Luthor  
71 "All the news that's  
fit to print" initials

## FRIDAY, NOV. 6 >> LA PUENTA AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

After an inspirational trip to Peru last year, artist Mey Hasbrook returned to the U.S. with a mission: to launch a project that would promote sustainable art among women in Michigan and Peru. Together with hoola-hoop dancer and hoop-smith Shani Blueford, Hasbrook is hosting a night of poetry and art to introduce the project to Michigan. At 6 p.m., vendors show their works, illustrator Angie Schuyler demos her PRima card drawings, a tool for meditation, and writer Dawn Comer will share pieces from her series about items anonymously sent in the mail. At 7 p.m., guests are invited to share their own music, writings and dance in an open mic session. (Interested performers can reserve a spot by emailing lapuentedearates@gmail.com.) The night closes with interactive performances by guest artists and writers. 6 p.m. \$7-10 suggested cover. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. deyofthephoenix.com.

## SUDOKU

## INTERMEDIATE

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

### 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 21

# Out on the town

from page 19


RCAH Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, corner of Dormitory Road and Bogue Street, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, ow.ly/TZLAL.

"La Puente." Sustainable art project is introduced. 6 p.m. \$7-10 suggested cover. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. deyofthephoenix.com.

Greater Lansing Potter's Guild Fall Pottery Sale. Wide variety of pottery for sale. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. All Saits Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 339-8978, glpg.org.

## THEATER

**All of Us Express: Through the Looking Glass.** Family theater. 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580, allfusexpress.org.



**Meditation**  
 Quan Am Buddhist Temple  
 Every Thursday 7-8:30 p.m.  
 1840 N. College Rd., Mason, MI 48854  
 Everyone welcome - For information:  
 Call: (517) 347-1655 or (517) 853-1675  
 quanamtemple.org

## FRIDAY, NOV. 6 >> ART FOR CHARLIE ART SHOW AND AUCTION

The Art for Charlie Foundation believes that art can play an important role in healing from tragedies. The local nonprofit is reaching out to the community to support its mission with an art show and silent auction. Proceeds from the fundraiser go toward the foundation, which works with the families of children diagnosed with terminal illnesses. The pieces in the show were submitted to a competition held by the foundation in partnership with the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. The auction includes artwork and special prizes donated by local businesses, including vacations, fine jewelry, spa treatments, restaurant dinners and more. Hors d'oeuvres and live music are included, and a cash bar is available. Former WILX evening news anchor Jason Colthorp emcees. Tickets are available on the web or at Schuler Books & Music locations. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$35. East Lansing Marriott, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 763-4413, artforcharlie.com.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 6 >> FLAPPERS AND FEDORAS MDA FUNDRAISER

REO Town Pub becomes a speakeasy for the night with its charity fundraiser event, "Flappers and Fedoras: A Roaring Twenties Night." Attendees can break out their best 1920s era duds or come as they are to enjoy an evening of music and spirits. Special guests bartenders from the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union and the Muscular Dystrophy Association will serve up drinks, and local singer/songwriter Abbey Hoffman will provide live musical entertainment to keep the party rolling. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$5. REO Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/TYoPs.

**Ghost: The Musical.** 80s film in musical form. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. ow.ly/U3Nh4.

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

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

**Little Women: the Musical.** 7:30-10 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemostheatre.net.

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

## ARTS

**Holiday Gala.** Tasty treats and art for sale. 5-9 p.m. Saper Galleries, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

## Saturday, November 7

### 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.

**Aging Gracefully.** Presentation from health care professionals. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mindful Movement & Physical Therapy, 2740 E. Lansing Drive, East Lansing. (517) 853-9139, mindfulmovement.biz.

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

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

**Zumba for Kids.** Ages 2 and up. 2-2:30 p.m. \$10.

Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 721-1868.

**Aux Petits Soins: Explorers 1.** French immersion class for babies. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. Mother & Earth Baby Boutique, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

## EVENTS

**Free Public Tours.** 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Lettuce Live Well Pre-Holiday Bash.** Family fitness and fun. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 898-1870, ow.ly/U8UDJ.

**Broad Family Day.** Noon-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Lansing on Tap Beer Festival.** Music and vendors. 1-5 p.m. \$45 at door. Summit Sport, 2650 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing. ow.ly/U8UZZ.

**Roller Derby.** Mitten Mavens take on Bone City Rollers. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10/kids FREE. Court One, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. mittenmavens.net.

**Practice Your English For Kids.** All levels welcome. 1-2 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**South Lansing Christian Church Fair.** Crafts, food and fun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. South Lansing Christian Church, 6300 Aurelius Road, Lansing. (517) 394-3220.

## MUSIC

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

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Go Green! Go Write!** 12-hour write-a-thon. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. \$30. Spartan Stadium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. capitalcitywriters.org.

## ARTS

Greater Lansing Potter's Guild Fall Pottery Sale. Wide variety of pottery for sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. All Saits Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 339-8978, glpg.org.

## THEATER

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

**Little Women: the Musical.** 7:30-10 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemostheatre.net.

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

**The Colleen Bawn.** Magical Irish matchmaking melodrama. 8 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors/\$5 students.

Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

**Ghost: The Musical.** 80s film in musical form. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. ow.ly/U3Nh4.

**All of Us Express: Through the Looking Glass.** Family theater. 2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580, allfusexpress.org.

## Sunday, November 8

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

**Parents of LGBTQ kids.** Weekly support group. All faiths are welcome. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. Diversity Psychological Services, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. (720) 401-4214.

**Why #BlackLivesMatter: Learning to Talk with Kids About Race.** Workshop from Project 60/50. 2-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## EVENTS

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

**Free Public Tours.** 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

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

## MUSIC

**Organ Recital.** Reception to follow. 3:30 p.m. FREE. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-9454, stpaulslansing.org.

## ARTS

**Larry Bourland Reception.** Puzzle maker shows work. 3-5 p.m. FREE. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. (517) 708-7350.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

## FRIDAY, NOV. 6 >> "MATERIAL EFFECTS" OPENING RECEPTION AT THE BROAD

The Broad Art Museum highlights work from West African artists in its latest exhibition, "Material Effects: Contemporary Art from West Africa and the Diaspora." The show features sculpture, video and performance art from seven artists who examine the value of objects in a consumerist society. Materiality takes on special significance, from elaborately textured textiles to colorfully adorned human figures. The opening reception will feature an interactive performance by Bernard Akoi-Jackson. The Ghana-based artist will engage with the audience about the "institutional, ideological and aesthetic authorities" that impact their daily lives. The exhibit runs through April 8. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

# Out on the town

from page 20

## THEATER

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

**Little Women: the Musical.** 2:30-10 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemostheatre.net.

**Ghost: The Musical.** 80s film in musical form. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. ow.ly/U3Nh4.

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

## Monday, November 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

#### Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.

Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

**Job Seekers Support Group.** Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

**Learn to Meditate.** 8:15 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379, cweaverphysicaltherapy.com.

**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health.** Weekly class. 1

and 5:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-0717.

**Scratch Coding Club.** Learn how to use Scratch 2 and create animations. 7-8 p.m. FREE, registration required. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## EVENTS

**Mac's Monday Comedy Night.** Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

**Social Bridge.** Play bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Homework Help.** MSU students tutor younger students in a group setting. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**BabyTime.** 0-24 months. Meeting at church. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Rd. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

**The Magic of Mendelssohn.** From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$15/\$12 for seniors/5 students and kids. Fairchild Theatre, 220 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

## Tuesday, November 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton

Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

**Not So Happy Endings Support Group.** For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

**Hopeful Hearts Grief Group.** Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

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

**Overeaters Anonymous.** Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

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

**Iron Ore, Shipping and Shipwreck.** Panel for 40th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. 7 p.m. MSU Library, 100 Main Library Road, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Bible and Beer.** Discussion of scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

**Chair Massage @ MSC.** 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, Meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Lansing Jaycees General Monthly Meeting.** Young professionals networking event. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717, lansingjaycees.org.

**Post-Polio Support Group Meeting.** 1:30-3 p.m. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

**ToddlerTime.** Ages 18-36 months listen to stories and music. 10:15-10:45 a.m./11-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia.** Team based. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

**Lunch @ MSC.** Register day before. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Books on Tap Book Group.** The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins, 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100.

## MUSIC

**A Morning with Louis Nagel.** Piano lecture. 10-11 a.m. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. **MSU Faculty Recital: Yuri Gandelman, viola.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE students. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/U956R.

## THEATER

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

## Wednesday, November 11

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Aux Petits Soins: Explorers 3.** French immersion for babies/toddlers. 4:30 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 643-8059.

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

## EVENTS

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

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

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

## THEATER

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

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11 >> AN EVENING OF SONG AND POETRY

Father and son duo Marvin and Nathan Bell bring their writing expertise to East Lansing for the Fall Writing Series hosted by MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities. A former Iowa Poet Laureate, Marvin Bell has authored 23 books, including "Vertigo: The Living Dead Man Poems." He will share his work, while singer/songwriter son Nathan Bell performs his acoustic folk and roots music. Before the evening performance, the pair will host an informal talk about music and lyrics at 3 p.m. in the LookOut! Gallery in Snyder-Phillips Hall. 7 p.m. FREE. RCAH Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, corner of Dormitory Road and Bogue Street, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, ow.ly/TZLAL.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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## CENTRAL PHARMACY

Photos by Kevin McNamey/City Pulse

Central Pharmacy, located at the corner of Mount Hope and Pennsylvania avenues, recently celebrated its second anniversary.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

Two years ago, registered pharmacist Michael Salquist was in a tough spot. Lansing Community Pharmacy, the independent pharmacy at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Kalamazoo Street he had worked at for eight years, was bought out by a mega-chain and shuttered.

"It was a family-owned place, but (the owners) decided to sell and not tell us," Salquist said at the time. "I worked hard to get to know the clients. We developed a real bond."

Prevailing wisdom made it seem like mom-and-pop

drug stores were going the way of the dinosaur. But two weeks later, in October 2013, Salquist opened **Central Pharmacy** at the corner of Mount Hope and Pennsylvania avenues. Today, that one store has expanded to seven locations: two in Lansing as well as stores in Flint, Owosso, Perry, Laingsburg and Haslett. By January, at least five more will be added to the mix, including one on the west side of Lansing and one on the south side.

"It just goes to show people will choose a local store over a (chain) if they have the option," Salquist said.

Salquist is only the owner or partner of five locations; for the most part, they have their own owner/operators. All, however, are part of the Health Mart franchise, which boasts over 4,000 stores nationwide. Health Mart allows owners to run their stores as they see fit while providing them invaluable marketing assistance and connection to resources. And like the current farm-to-table trend that has consumers refocusing on hyper-local goods and services, Salquist thinks his success marks a new model for this business.

"I think this is the future of independent pharmacies," he said. "(Health Mart) does a lot of the marketing and carries a lot of weight for us. They help bring awareness to the independents and give us a voice. Because of them, I think independent drugstores are on the upswing."



Photos by Kevin McNamey/City Pulse

Owner Michael Salquist, second from the left, poses with the staff of Central Pharmacy.

Before he landed at Lansing Community Pharmacy, Salquist had worked as the Kmart pharmacy director in Troy and later at Perry Drug Stores and Rite Aid. Over the years, he said, he not only learned the business, but he learned how best to serve people.

"Over 80 percent (of the medicine we sell) is covered by insurance, and copays are the same no matter where you go," Salquist said. "The difference with us is that we actually make a point to know our customers by name. I've been working with the three techs for about 40 (combined) years, and together we're now serving the third generation of families. We take this job seriously, and I think people appreciate that."

Central Pharmacy also offers a few extra services the chains can't or won't offer. Salquist's store provides free delivery to Lansing addresses, as well as individual packaging. He said the store recently invested in a Parata machine, which enables strip packaging, a type of customized packaging that allows customers taking multiple meds to have their prescriptions pre-sorted, greatly reducing the chances of misdosing.

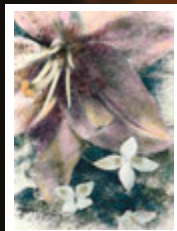
Central Pharmacy also provides compounding services, which combines drug ingredients to customize a medication specifically to a patient's needs. Examples include customized ointments and hormone treatments. And if you own a dog or cat, you already know how expensive it can be to fill your pet's prescription. Central Pharmacy also fills that niche.

"(The chains) will charge \$10 to \$20 for delivery," Salquist said. "Because we're independently owned and operated, our hands aren't tied. We can offer services such as free delivery service. Plus those delivery trucks make for good advertisement."

And of course, anywhere there's a pharmacy, that's one less empty building in town. A few months before it opened, the building where Salquist set up his first shop was home to Grumpy's Diner. The space had begun to fall into disrepair, and City Pulse declared the corner an Eye Sore of the Week. Today, it's a glimmering white, landscaped piece of property that bears none of its previous disarray.

"I was hoping we could be moved to an Eye Candy of the Week," Salquist said. "But really, even with all the construction on this block, it's still been a great year. Because of the loyalty of our customers, we didn't see a hit to business like some other places did."

**Central Pharmacy — Mount Hope**  
**1003 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing**  
**9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday;**  
**closed Sunday**  
**(517) 316-0711, centralpharmacymi.com**



## A Special Invitation

### Kim Kauffman Studio Open House

712 Terminal Road, Lansing  
 Friday, November 6 from 5-8 p.m.

A rare opportunity to visit Kim's working studio. On display and for purchase will be work from the past 25 years. Current work will be discounted 25% and older work even more—a wonderful opportunity. Kim Kauffman was Mackerel Sky's first formal exhibition artist in October of 1990 and has presented 13 exhibits there.

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary and Kim Kauffman's collaboration, Mackerel Sky will host a champagne reception at the studio open house.



211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com

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# Whine and dine

## Pairing wines with the Detroit Lions' Thanksgiving collapse

By JUSTIN KING

There's a cornucopia of treats waiting for you on the fourth Thursday of November. The bounty of this year's harvest, prepared with methodical care. Family members who don't want to help make the yams or prepare the turkey would do well to get out of the way.



For those with little culinary skill, the best way to assist those who are feeding you is to reciprocate by feeding them beer, wine and spirits. This will also help everyone prepare for the traditional Thanksgiving slaughter of the Detroit Lions at Ford Field. Here are some excellent choices to consider as you select your turkey day wine menu.

### First Quarter:

Detroit will try to have some pep in their step as the Lions come out to face the Philadelphia Eagles. As of today, the Eagles have a 3-5 record — compared to the Lions' paltry 1-7. The beauty of this sad arrangement is that everyone knows that the main event of the day is eating everything in the house with family and friends. You may start with some finger bites like deviled eggs and stuffed mushrooms. While you're watching Detroit's punter burn some calories, wash down those bite-size morsels with a everyday-priced white wine, perhaps a dry



Courtesy Photo

Poulet & Fils Cremant de Die, featuring a multi-colored chicken on the label, will make the Detroit Lions' annual trouncing a little easier to stomach.

sparkling.

Poulet & Fils is a bit off-the-grid, but this southern France producer makes a stellar value in its Cremant de Die (around \$16). Refreshingly dry with layers of crisp green apple and vibrant nectarine, beautiful texture and slightly toasty notes, this might become your go-to crowd-pleasing favorite. With its bright the fruit tastes, this wine is also perfect for those upcoming holiday parties. Just look for the crazy multi-colored chicken on the label.

### Second quarter:

Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford will throw one or two interceptions in this quarter, enough to cast serious doubt on a Lions victory. The good news is that you can comfort yourself in defeat as you sink your teeth into that beautiful, glistening turkey.

Generally, lighter red wines taste lip-smackingly good with turkey. Pinot noir, gamay and barbera are safe bets. If you're a fan of white wine, West Coast chardonnay works gracefully. But if you're looking for just a touch of adventure, Sicily has a sneaky gem or two. Pietradolce Etna Rosso might be the steal of the fall. At about \$25, it rivals the elegance of \$40 to \$50 Burgundys.

Made of 100 percent nerello mascalese, a grape not really grown much off the island, Pietradolce is equal parts fresh red raspberries and tart cranberries with floral/dried herb notes in the background. (Fun fact: Mount Etna is the biggest active volcano in Europe, and it's not often you get to drink volcano wine.) Sicily is a huge producer of wine, no question. But it's a somewhat new development to see the island as a contributor of quality, thanks to producers like Pietradolce, Tenuta Delle Terre Nere, and COS. (The latter might be one of the most buzzworthy wineries in all of southern Italy right now).

### Third quarter:

This is where the Eagles start to put the Lions in the rearview mirror. Don't cry though. You knew this was going to happen. You've been watching this team for the last three decades, right? As you go back for seconds to console yourself — attacking the mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and stuffing — reach for some local riesling. Shady Lane is a solid pure Michigan performer. Its semi-dry riesling will run you about \$15.

From the Leelanau Peninsula, just northwest of Traverse City, this wine has heaps of apricot and white peach flavors, with only a touch of sugar. It's a great family party wine, and it won't ruin your wallet the way the guys in Honolulu blue and silver ruin your dreams.

### Fourth quarter:

Are you still watching this game?

Don't do this to yourself. Throw a football around the backyard with your 10-year-old cousin, or maybe play a little Catch Phrase while demolishing some pecan and pumpkin pies. Niepoort Tawny port is ideal for accompanying fall pies — and Lion-based sadness.

Two striking benefits of Niepoort's Tawny: First, the price is astoundingly low at about \$22 a bottle. Second: It's wonderfully elegant, and emphasizes fresh, cordial-like cherry fruitiness or over caramelization.

If more port was more like this, it wouldn't have the connotation of British codgers frowning over their monocles. The beauty of port is that it keeps for much longer than the average wine. If you're flying solo or hosting a table for two for turkey day, check out this wine. It won't go bad overnight, I promise.

Check with your local independents for more Thanksgiving wine inspiration. From Horrocks and Old Town General Store to Merindorf Meats and Vine & Brew, there are savvy wine lovers all over Greater Lansing who are happy to make your holiday football viewing a little bit easier to swallow.

*Justin King is a certified sommelier and resident of Williamston. He is part-owner of Bridge Street Social, a restaurant opening this winter in DeWitt. Email him fun wine pairing ideas at justinking@gmail.com.*

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# TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

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

*Bon appétit!*

## TOP 5 MEXICAN FOOD

### #1 EL AZTECO (EAST LANSING)

City Pulse readers recommend the enchiladas suizas and the margaritas  
225 Ann St., East Lansing  
(517) 351-9111  
elazteco.me  
11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

### #2 CANCUN MEXICAN GRILL

Okemos eatery serves up delicious Mexican staples  
1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos  
(517) 347-8114  
cancungl.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:45 Friday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

### #3 LOS TRES AMIGOS (DOWNTOWN)

Michigan-based chain of restaurants known for its Mexican cuisine and house-made salsas and sauces  
(See web site for three more Greater Lansing locations)  
107-109 E. Allegan St., Lansing.  
(517) 316-0066  
lostresamigonsonline.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

### #4 EL OASIS

City Pulse readers love this food truck's Mexican staples  
2501 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
(517) 882-2100  
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

### #5 PABLO'S

Famous for its tortas and other Mexican specialties  
311 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
(517) 372-0887  
pablosoldtown.com  
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday



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By Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

NOVEMBER 13-22, 2015  
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