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January 16-22, 2013



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post-Newtown  
SEE PAGE 8



Secrets Nightclub takes over from Club X-Cel; House of Eden Rock gets a new name, look and menu • page 20

Lansing's first homicide of 2013 renews debate over surveillance cameras • page 5

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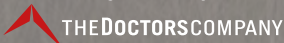
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# Feedback

## Restoration looks good

It is so good to see the exterior work on the old Knapp's building moving along at a fast pace. I like many people who remember Lansing's downtown in the 60's are so pleased to see the Knapp's building being restored to it's original grandeur.

What would really put the icing on the cake would be if the Eyde Company would decorate the corner for the holidays much as the Knapp and Arbaugh company did. It drew so many people downtown at the holidays. Now in my 70's I remember my parents bringing our family every year to view the animated displays.

— Jon Kipp  
Lansing

United Nations,” 12/19/12). Red Cedar needs to be closed because of funding issues. The majority of students that go to RC are NOT IN THE DISTRICT. Bring the “mini UN” to the building 1.5 miles away. A “mini UN” isn't amazing because of the bricks it stands in. It is amazing because of the people and ideas inside. Do those ideas/people disappear in a different building? Nell, get with the program. We've been talking about this for 3 years — how could you not know RC was on the chopping block? Lack of transparency or a game created by you? I think you have not been listening.

— Tiredoffighting1026  
From www.lansingcitypulse.com

## Nut job

Consentino is a nut job. Whatever read in his reviews — all in his head; to whit, “...an. air of exotic menace, verging on voluptuous sadism.” (“Woood, wowed and overwhelmed,” 1/9/13.) Get him a psych eval.

— Sarah Slocum  
East Lansing

## Close Red Cedar Elementary

So tired of this fight (“Closing a ‘mini-

### Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
  - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
  - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
  - Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:
 

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

# CityPULSE

**VOL. 12  
ISSUE 23**

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



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Declining advertising, circulation leading to 'great upheaval' in college newspaper publishing. How is The State News faring?



**PAGE 12**

Conceptual art exhibit enters final stage: the walls of strangers



**PAGE 22**

Lasagna mark, get set ... Food Fight!



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CMS is the outreach arm of the MSU College of Music

**CITY PULSE ON THE AIR** Editor & Publisher **Berl Schwartz**

**THIS WEEK** Joan Bauer, former state representative  
Steven Dulan, 2nd Amendment expert at Cooley Law School  
Gilda Jacobs, President and CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy  
Anthony Kolenic, MSU anthropology professor  
Rabbi Ben Kamin, author "Room 306: The National Story of the Lorraine Motel"

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

Ingham County seeks services of a Monumentation Surveyor for 2013. All work shall be performed under the guidelines and conditions set forth in P.A. 345 of 1990. Document may be viewed on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #1-13. Direct all questions to [jhudgins@ingham.org](mailto:jhudgins@ingham.org) no later than 3 PM on January 22nd. Bids are due by January 28th.

Ingham County seeks proposals from qualified firms for the purpose of furnishing rental uniforms, cleaning of such uniforms, rental and cleaning of area protection mats, dust mops, and towels for the Ingham County Department of Transportation & Roads. Proposal document is online at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #3-13. Direct all questions to [jhudgins@ingham.org](mailto:jhudgins@ingham.org) no later than 3 PM on January 24th. Proposals are due on January 31st by 11 AM.

**THIS MODERN WORLD** by TOM TOMORROW

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS NEED TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN A SENSIBLE, BIPARTISAN MANNER!  
ACTUALLY, OBAMA SHOULD JUST MINT THAT PLATINUM COIN EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT.

THE WHITE HOUSE JUST RULED IT OUT, PREDICTABLY ENOUGH--BUT IF REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO USE THE DEBT CEILING GIMMICK IN ORDER TO HOLD THE ECONOMY HOSTAGE--

--WHY SHOULDN'T OBAMA EXPLOIT THE TRILLION DOLLAR COIN GIMMICK IN ORDER TO CIRCUMVENT THEM?  
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T BE SENSIBLE--OR BIPARTISAN!

EVEN IF IT'S LEGAL, IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE! IT WOULD IMPLICITLY UNDERMINE OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES--AND SET A TERRIBLE PRECEDENT!

YES, WE WOULDN'T WANT THE MAN WITH A SECRET DRONE ASSASSINATION PROGRAM TO SET ANY BAD PRECEDENTS.  
HEY, SOMETIMES YA GOTTA BREAK THE RULES, AMIRITE?

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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Eyes in the sky

**Inconclusive data still pits Lansing police against civil liberties advocates over surveillance cameras after first homicide of the year**

Lansing's first homicide of 2013 in plain view of one of the city's surveillance cameras has renewed criticism of their effectiveness.

These types of crimes aren't supposed to happen in front of these cameras, opponents say.

"What they said initially is that these were going to prevent crime. If that was true, why would it still happen in front of the cameras?" asks Walter Brown, a vocal critic of the cameras who's president of the Knollwood Willow Neighborhood Association on the north side, where the shooting took place.

Yet, despite these concerns, a damning report by the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and no evidence to suggest they directly prevent crimes, city officials are committed to keeping cameras in 12 locations across the city as part of its policing efforts. And maybe more, if residents ask for them.

"They are just one tool," Lansing Police Capt. Mike Yankowski said. "Cameras are an extension of the eyes and ears to the neighborhood."

In the early-hours homicide on Jan. 1, one man was killed and four others were injured in a shooting outside of Save On Market on West Willow Street. All five of the men are reportedly under the age of 30. A 20-year-old, Delon Martell Miller, was arrested and charged with homicide. Denise Hairston, Miller's attorney, said he acted in self defense.

Yankowski said the surveillance footage is "part of that investigation," but would not comment further.

"Part one" crimes — like forcible rape, robbery, murder, arson and burglary — have only decreased 2.5 percent city-wide since the cameras were installed in 2008, according to the Lansing Police Department. But LPD reports that such crimes have decreased over 20 percent within 1,000 feet of 10 of the 12 cameras. One location to see an increase took place within the range of a camera at South Cedar Street and Long Boulevard just south of Interstate 96, according to the LPD.

However, the ACLU is more skeptical of data it has received, calling the results "mixed" and inconclusive.

The ACLU report looked at stats from 2009 and 2010, which showed crime increased within 500 feet of cameras at five of 12 locations. In three other locations, crime may have been down within 500 feet but increased within 1,000 feet.

The report called the results "mixed."

Yankowski disagrees.

"The data shows that the cameras were effective in those areas," Yankowski wrote in an email. "Have crimes been committed in areas where a camera is located, yes. However, I point to the crime stats that show that in most instances crime has decreased in areas where cameras are located." Yankowski said surveillance data is reviewed on a monthly and yearly basis.



Marisol Dorantes/City Pulse

Lansing's first homicide of 2013 took place at this store on West Willow Street on the north side in plain view of a police surveillance camera. The incident has renewed debate about the cameras' effectiveness.

Hairston said the surveillance cameras are a "good system" and would "deter an individual" who is "second-guessing" himself, though there is the possibility that the cameras would simply displace crime if people know "exactly where the cameras are."

"If someone's going to commit a crime, they're going to commit a crime," she said.

The ACLU report, "Eyes in the Sky: Lansing Residential Surveillance and its Intrusion on Privacy," was issued six months ago. It calls the surveillance system intrusive and ineffective and that "no major violent crimes have been solved by the use of cameras." Moreover, "Police indicate that catching littering, public urination and open alcohol have been amongst the most frequent uses of camera footage."

Brown and Randy Watkins, a Lansing Community College political science professor, head the Coalition Against Monitoring and Surveillance. Watkins describes the coalition as a "very small

group" that is a partnership between the Lansing branch of the ACLU of Michigan and Brown's Knollwood Willow Neighborhood Association. The coalition wants the city to get rid of the cameras and points to the ACLU report that says cameras are ineffective in other cities.

While police stats may show crime is decreasing around the cameras, Watkins wonders whether it's simply moving to other places. Yankowski says there's "no direct evidence to support displacement of crime."

Watkins also points to the ACLU report that cites research from Oakland University saying cameras disproportionately monitor African Americans. The coalition believes the money spent on maintaining cameras — about \$15,000 annually, according to LPD — could be spent on other police resources.

Brown has made his case against the cameras before the Lansing City Council since the Willow Street homicide. He said the coalition has asked the ACLU to file a lawsuit against the city due to the cameras' ineffectiveness and alleged profiling of city residents. "They haven't done it yet, but they haven't said they won't," he told the Council.

Of 13 people interviewed for this story who live or work near cameras, nine expressed support for them, two were opposed and want them gone, and two expressed mixed feelings or indifference toward them.

Julie Donall, who lives near cameras at East Grand River and New York avenues, has mixed feelings. While they may be helpful in close proximity to Grand River Elementary School near her, her house was broken into a little over a month ago: "I do not like being video taped, but for safety, I support it."

Mayor Virg Bernero, who supported the installation of surveillance cameras in his first term, has no plans to scale back on the number of them. The administration is considering adding more or relocating some on a case-by-case basis, Chief of Staff Randy Hannan said.

"There's no point in arguing about statistics. Both sides can point to studies that support their position," he said. "It comes down to our own appraisal, and our appraisal is that they work just fine."

(Justin Anderson and Marisol Dorantes contributed reporting to this story.)

— Andy Balaskovitz



**Property:** 841 Cawood St., Lansing  
**Owner:** Ingham County Treasurer  
**Assessed value:** \$24,400  
**Owner says:** Slated for demolition

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: It's easy to ignore small commercial and residential structures, otherwise known as background buildings. This home on the northwest side of Lansing is a good example. It's just another small bungalow-style house without any significance until a closer look reveals that the exterior is sheathed in wood shakes. A more decorative pattern is applied to the shingles on the front of the home — a common practice for distinguishing the facade. Architectural variations, like the shakes on this house, are part of the patchwork that makes the neighborhood and, by extension, the city, vibrant.

It appears the previous residents of this humble home were testing some avant-garde decorating techniques before leaving it to an uncertain future. The twisted mess of Venetian blinds in the front porch window contrasts the north side of the house where every window is either missing or boarded up. The boards complement the blue tarp sitting haphazardly on the roof, which almost covers the rotting foundation underneath.

If the boards and tarp are part of a rehabilitation effort, the gaping hole in the back of the house appears to be at least one key detail that went overlooked. If visitors can make it past the unfit to enter sign in front — and the pile of rubble waiting inside — the house holds lots of potential. (The land bank acquired the property through foreclosure. If funding is secured to do so, Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertz says this one's slated for demolition.)

— Dylan Sowle

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates each week with Eye Candy of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

# On the college media

**Declining advertising, circulation leading to 'great upheaval' in college newspaper publishing. How is The State News faring?**

Twenty years ago, the letterhead on the stationery of The State News said it had a circulation of 38,000.

Today, the campus newspaper at Michigan State University publishes 18,500 copies.

Print circulation and declining advertising revenue are two indicators that The State News has been on a trajectory similar to college newspapers throughout the country. Couple that with the ways people consume news and an economic downturn and you have a scenario in which college newspapers are fighting the same battle as their professional, commercial counterparts.

"College newspapers are going through a time of great upheaval," Eric Jacobs, general manager at the Daily Pennsylvanian at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, recently wrote alumni.

"I won't try to sugar-coat it: the DP is in the deepest financial crisis it has faced since becoming financially autonomous 50 years ago," wrote Jacobs, who's been with the paper for more than three decades.

"I don't know if I'd use the term upheaval as much as it's change," Marty Sturgeon, general manager of The State News at MSU since 2001, said this week. The State News, like UPenn's college paper, is independent of the university, financially and otherwise.

"Particularly over the last four to five years, there's a fair amount of change that's taken place," Sturgeon added.

Hyperbole or not, The State News is not immune to the shifts affecting college papers — and commercial ones, for that matter — across the country. In the past five years, the paper that became Michigan State University's "independent voice" in 1971 has seen steady decline in circulation and advertising revenue.

In the fiscal year between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011, the paper's total revenue was \$1,785,584 — a 27 percent decline from three years prior. Advertising revenue, which still makes up a large majority of the paper's revenue, declined 21 percent between 2008 and 2011, according to the paper's 990 forms filed with the Internal Revenue Service. Sturgeon said those numbers have leveled off at about \$1.25 million in the past few years.

The State News also is supported by a \$5 fee on MSU students, which also steadily declined between 2007 and 2011 from about \$2.5 million to about \$1.7 million. (Students have two weeks each semester to collect a refund.) The paper spends that



Sam Inglot/City Pulse  
State News General Manager Marty Sturgeon (right) and advertising manager Colleen Curran discuss Tuesday's cover story. Like other college papers around the country, MSU's "independent voice" faces declining advertising revenue and circulation.

money to pay students.

As with commercial newspapers, the Internet and social media have dramatically altered how students in particular get their news and hence how advertisers communicate their messages.

And the economic downturn in 2008 exacerbated the changes, Jacobs said.

"Initially we thought we knew what we were facing. Around that same time is when major changes started happening in ways people consume media and how businesses advertise in the media," he said. "It created a perfect storm for significant upheaval and change."

Yet Jacobs says college papers are adjusting. The State News could be included on that list: the number of pages is fewer than it used to be; it is considering reducing summer semester publication from three days a week to two (while remaining a five days a week in the fall and spring semesters); it eliminated wire content from The Associated Press, saving \$26,000 annually; and it's gotten into the website development business — 11 college papers throughout the country pay for a content management system (an online publishing platform) operated by The State News. Sturgeon said it should bring in \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year.

After moving out of the Student Services Building on campus and into its own — and more visible — building on Grand River, the paper also brings in additional revenue from technology firms who rent second-floor space, Sturgeon said.

"It's simply up to us to always be looking at what are the new trends; where are people getting information; and making sure we're an active part of that," she said.

The State News joins college papers nationwide that are at once seeing falling revenue while trying to find new revenue sources. While they're all "fundamentally in the same business," Jacobs said each community's market is unique and the extent to which changes are happening "varies."

To Jacobs, the challenge for every college paper in the country is: "How do we compete successfully for people's time and

attention? ... I think everybody is trying to figure out what will work in their market."

Jeremy Steele, a State News editor in 2002 who serves on the paper's alumni association board of directors, recalls a time of cramped space in Student Services when the papers "were definitely a lot thicker than they are today," sometimes 30 pages. Now they don't reach 10 on some days.

Steele is a former Lansing State Journal reporter who heads the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association. He's encouraged by what he says are innovative ideas — whether it's offering advertising deals through Twitter or using social media to drive readers to the website — coming from "student leadership" at the paper, both on the print and advertising side of things.

For exposing journalism students to these real-world problems may ultimately benefit them when they enter a field that's in, for lack of a better term, upheaval.

"That's how I define success: Are we increasing the number of students we can employ?"

The answer is no: Sturgeon said the number of employees has declined by 10 to 20 students from a high of 130 to 140.

— Andy Balaskovitz



## Cristo merger

**Petition signatures are piling up against merging Cristo Rey Community Center and St. Vincent Catholic Charities**

Opponents of a proposal to merge Cristo Rey Community Center with St. Vincent Catholic Charities say they've collected about 300 petition signatures against the idea in the past month.

"I think we can have a lot more," said Al Salas, who is helping to lead the opposition group, Concerned Citizens for Greater Lansing. "We want to let them know we're serious."

The group plans to deliver the signatures to the Cristo Rey Board of Directors and the Catholic Diocese of Lansing. Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea is seeking to merge St. Vincent Catholic Charities with the financially troubled Cristo Rey Community Center. Cristo Rey is a diocesan charitable organization. The bishop of the diocese appoints its board members.

But members of the city's Hispanic community rose up in opposition several months ago. The group fears that Cristo Rey is being allowed to deteriorate without a plan to save the center, which has been a staple support center for Lansing's Hispanic community since the 1960s

The petition calls for Cristo Rey to continue as a "free-standing Latino agency, maintaining its original concept of Latino control and self-determination" with "appropriate Latino leadership" and "a safe work environment for employees, clients and volunteers." The center's interim director, Robert Vogel, is not Hispanic and does not speak Spanish.

The diocese has brushed aside these concerns, saying a "strong Hispanic ministry" would continue.

Salas said the group has continued to press the Cristo Rey board, through letters and at board meetings, for financial information about the community center, to no avail. "All we're asking from them is to show us the books, where it went wrong and how much it is in debt to the diocese."

Lorenzo Lopez, who is also part of the merger opposition, said the group hopes to meet with the St. Vincent board next. But he and Salas question whether that board is even interested in taking on Cristo Rey.

"I don't think that particular board is interested in taking on a stepchild," Lopez said.

St. Vincent board vice chairwoman Patricia Hepp and secretary Michael Maddox referred questions to St. Vincent spokeswoman Tamra Johnson.

Johnson said representatives from both boards have met and that details of a consolidation are still being explored.

"During the most recent meeting, St. Vincent Catholic Charities requested to conduct a due diligence process in order to obtain sufficient information that will allow us to make an educated recommendation on how to move forward. ... Until that process is completed we do not have any other information to share," she said in a statement.

— Andy Balaskovitz





# The MSU basketball model

How do we build the new Michigan economy? The answer to this question is our most important political debate for 2013.

After riding on the automobile-driven wave that was our 20th-century key to prosperity, politicians and economists continue to battle over the best economic model for the 21st century.



**WALT SORG**

In one corner, we have calls to use the “Indiana Model” — lower taxes, reduced regulation, lower-cost public education, privatization of more government services, reduced pay for middle-class

workers, weaker unions and reduced public infrastructure funding. Some call this the “race to the bottom.”

In the other corner, we have support for the “Massachusetts Model” — world-class higher education with a high percentage of college graduates, high wages, strong unions, strong business regulation, strong public support for the aesthetics that elevate quality of life and higher taxes to support all this. Critics deride this as “tax and spend” economics that serves special interests (i.e., labor unions) rather than taxpayers.

That’s the rhetoric. What about reality?

The Indiana model really hasn’t worked well if you judge by the numbers. Lou Glazer of Michigan Future Inc. reports Indiana ranks poorly in most economic success metrics: average incomes, employment rate, percentage of college graduates, percentage of workers considered “middle class,” percentage of families below poverty level and percentage of jobs requiring a college education.

Massachusetts, with its high level of public services and higher taxes, ranks near the top of all of those lists of economic success measures.

Tellingly, cost-cutting to maximize profits is the same business model Rick Snyder championed as board chairman at Gateway, a company that built its brand based on being the low-cost alternative. Gateway did that by aggressively cutting costs and skimping on research and development.

After several years of losing money, Gateway was ultimately sold to China’s Acer Computers for just 3 percent of its peak stock price. In contrast, the big-spending manufacturer of the highest-priced computers on the planet, Apple, is now the most valuable company in the world.

So what do we do? I suggest we model a government-based business strategy everyone agrees has been hugely successful: Michigan State University basketball.

The MSU basketball business model clearly is a high-investment strategy. MSU spends big and “taxes” big with ever-increasing prices for tickets, parking and concessions.

MSU seemingly spares no expense in its business model of success. The best talent is hired to run the enterprise. MSU’s coaches are among the highest paid in America, helping retain the very best coaching talent.

MSU has also invested extensively in an environment designed to attract and retain the best talent in the country and then provide those “workers” with tools to perform at their highest level. They have a state-of-the-art workplace complete with industry-best technology.

Add to that great workers benefits such as first-class healthcare, private dining facilities, a recreation lounge with its own private theater, a commitment to con-

tinuing education with unlimited private tutoring in an exclusive academic center, a members only “health club,” opportunities to travel the world, business travel emphasizing results rather than saving money (generally flying chartered private jets instead of lower-cost bus or commercial flights) and even free clothing.

Playing basketball at MSU is like working for Google. There are plenty of perks, all designed to maximize the productivity of workers.

It’s a big investment, but an investment that has brought big results.

The success isn’t limited to the Athletic Department budget.

Scott Westerman, executive director of the MSU Alumni Association, says the entire university has benefited.

“Becoming a winner on any playing field — whether it’s athletics or business — requires leadership, vision and ongoing investment,” he said. The winning on the court has led directly to increases in alumni involvement and, ultimately, fundraising.

Contrast MSU basketball’s highly successful business model with what state government is doing.

In the name of lower taxes and an improved “business climate,” the Legislature and the governor have embarked on a massive budget-cutting exercise, believing the best government is the government which taxes and does the

least.

To facilitate this “pro-business” environment, they made changes to taxes on retirees (pension tax, reduced senior deductions and credits), which tend to encourage seniors to leave Michigan behind, taking their retirement spending to economically friendlier climates.

Add to that social policies like major restrictions on women’s healthcare choices and laws hostile to the LGBT community and you end up with policies that repel rather than attract many of the best and the brightest.

It adds up to being another Indiana — the state, not the basketball team.

So do we continue with the lowest-cost, minimalist model or a strategy based on government investment?

While this goes against the prevailing ideology at the Capitol, the data strongly suggests Michigan needs to embark on a new path if we truly want a prosperous future.

The debate for 2013 is whether the governor and Legislature will seriously look at the data or continue to set economic policy based on ideology, anecdotes and distorted representations of Indiana’s “success.”

Or maybe we should just elect MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis as governor.

(Sorg can be reached at [sorg@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:sorg@lansingcitypulse.com).)

## PUBLIC NOTICES



Ingham County seeks proposals from Michigan Department of Transportation prequalified and experienced engineering firms for the purpose of entering into a contract to provide professional engineering services for the 2013 and 2014 Biennial Bridge Inspection Program for the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads. The scope of this request can be found in the proposal document which is posted on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #7-13. Direct all questions to [jhudgetts@ingham.org](mailto:jhudgetts@ingham.org) no later than 3 PM on January 29th. Proposals are due on February 5th by 11:00 AM.

**B/13/051 GRAPHICS FOR LPD BUS** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEB. 7, 2013** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, email: [Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov), or for content and purpose of this bid contact Darin Southworth at (517) 243-1672, email: [dsouthworth@lansingmi.gov](mailto:dsouthworth@lansingmi.gov), or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).

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Photos by Sam Inglot. Illustration by Rachel Harper

## ELEMENTARY SECURITY

In the wake of the Newtown shooting, *City Pulse* visits 10 local elementary schools – and finds they're easily accessible

By SAM INGLOT

Nearly 400 students listened as a voice came over the intercom at Murphy Elementary School in Haslett on Friday afternoon. “We’re going to practice a lockdown procedure. I want to reiterate that this is practice,” the voice said. “Your parents have talked to you about this and so have your teachers. The most important thing is to remain very, very quiet so you can listen to your teacher.”

Diane Lindbert, who delivered the directions on the intercom, has been the principal at Murphy for 10 years. Like all other elementary schools in the area and state, lockdown procedure drills have become just as common as tornado and fire drills. Rather than preparing for natural disasters, however, lockdown drills prepare students and faculty for the human-induced sort — like a school shooting.

After delivering her message, Lindbert and a Meridian Township police officer walked the building, making sure the staff was following protocol. Overall, the regularly scheduled drill was a success, they said.

It’s been just over a month since a school shooting in Newtown, Conn., where gunman Adam Lanza, armed with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, killed 20 first graders and six teachers. Since that tragedy unfolded, the nation has been immersed in a dialogue about gun violence, mental health and school safety. Two years ago, we were in a similar discussion following a shooting in Tucson that left six dead, including a federal district court judge and a 9-year-old girl, and a congresswoman in critical condition. It’s been nearly 14 years since two students at Columbine High School killed 12 students and a teacher.

Haslett School District Superintendent Mike Duda looks back on the Columbine shooting and the ter-

rorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The events “radically” changed the culture of school security, he says, and the Newtown shooting is bound to do the same.

Since the Newtown shooting, the National Rifle Association has suggested placing armed guards in all schools. The group also supports arming teachers. Controversy and opposition soon followed both ideas.

Following one of the worst school shootings in American history, what is security like in Lansing-area schools?

Turns out it’s relatively easy to access these buildings.

Of 10 elementary schools in six different districts City Pulse visited in the past week, all of them directed visitors at entrances to check in at the main office; only one had a buzzer entry system to screen visitors; six had main offices with a limited view of people entering the building; and only at one did a staffer ask

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*There were no armed guards stationed at any of the buildings. In one Lansing elementary school, a janitor let me in the back door — no questions asked.*

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me for identification all week.

There were no armed guards stationed at any of the buildings. In one Lansing elementary school, a janitor let me in the back door — no questions asked.

### VARYING DEGREES OF SECURITY

Elementary security policies vary among schools we visited in the Haslett, East Lansing, Lansing, Williamston, Okemos and Waverly districts.

A common security feature for elementary schools is a sticker, plaque or sign that usually states some-

thing like, “Parents and visitors please check in at the main office.” The signs are posted on or near the front entrance. The main office is supposed to act as a screening room for anyone entering the building.

At Williamston’s Explorer Elementary School, which holds about 390 third- through fifth-graders, it’s impossible for visitors to initially go anywhere other than the main office. Double-doors leading to the school hallways are locked by a buzzer system controlled by office staff. The rule is strictly enforced: A delivery driver emptying a truck full of cardboard boxes on Thursday required several phone calls so a side door could be unlocked. He had to be accompanied by a school maintenance employee.

Nancy Swart, interim principal at Explorer Elementary, said school security has become a higher priority over her 30 years in education — and not just in watching out for school shooters. On the day of the Newtown shooting, Swart said parents “came and went all day long” picking up their kids. She couldn’t say whether the district will change its security policies in the wake of Newtown, but she did say the school has “tight procedures” when releasing a student. Children are escorted to parents’ cars when they get picked up early and teachers monitor students as they get on their buses.

Ken Trump, who has 25 years of experience handling school security, runs National School Safety and Security Services, a Cleveland-based consulting firm. He said the “first and best line of defense” for any school is a “highly trained and alert staff and student body.”

“It is always the people first,” he said. “Any type of technology after that is only a supplement, not a substitute for it.” Trump said he’s consulted at schools



# Security

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in all 50 states and internationally. He was interviewed on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC following the Newtown shooting.

Trump said the “funnel design” in buildings like Explorer Elementary is common for newer facilities and is a “best practice” for monitoring who has access to the area. Renovations in 2007 allowed Explorer to add the funnel design, named as such because visitors are funneled to the main office and restricted from moving throughout the building.

This brings us back to the check-in policy. At six schools, I could have scooted past the main office window and easily strolled the halls, unless a receptionist happened to be looking up from the desk at that moment. At one school, I waited for several minutes before anyone came to the front desk. Four of the main offices had large windows where the staff had an unhindered view of everyone coming into the building, like at Murphy and Explorer. However, principals interviewed for this story said that no one has the sole job of watching the front door. But the other six school offices were rendered nearly blind by only having a small window in the doorway to the office or by not having a staff person in full view of the front door.

Principal Lindbert at Murphy Elementary said if someone comes into the building without checking in, they “run right after them.” Two other principals I spoke to at the Lansing and Williamston districts said they’d do the same. Yet Lindbert was the only staffer at the 10 schools to ask for identification when I visited to discuss its security policy.

At Mt. Hope Elementary School in Lansing, I was allowed in through a back door as a janitor took out trash. I wasn’t asked who I was, where I was going or shown to the office. I was allowed in, no questions asked, and I made my way to the office from there.

Nanette Kuhlmann, the principal at Mt. Hope, declined to discuss specifics about the school’s security measures, as did those interviewed from Haslett and Williamston. Principals in the Okemos, East Lansing and Waverly school districts did not respond to interview requests.

“We’re always making changes, whether it’s in our communication system, technology or our vigilance and the information we give out to parents. We’re always trying to improve ourselves,” said Kuhlmann, who’s been with the district for 10 years. She said visitors are supposed to be screened when visiting the building.

A key component of school security, especially when faced with a shooting threat, is the lockdown. The same drill that was practiced at Murphy Elementary is commonplace at schools around the state. An elementary school in the Lansing School District went into lockdown last week because of a domestic dispute between a student’s parents, Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul said. She said the Newtown shootings have brought school security to the fore.

“Before Newtown I don’t know if we would have gone into lockdown,” she said.

Lansing is considering changes to its elementary security policy. Caamal Canul said the district is investigating the cost and feasibility of installing buzzer systems at all of

its 18 pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade schools. The idea is to give teachers and staff keycards for entering the building, but all other visitors would need to be allowed in by the main office.

## ON THE NRA

The NRA’s controversial statements about placing armed guards in schools and arming teachers came a week after the Newtown shooting. During a Dec. 21 press conference, NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre blamed videogames, the entertainment industry and gun-free school zones for tragedies like Newtown.

“Politicians pass laws for Gun Free School Zones. They issue press releases bragging about them. They post signs advertising them. And in doing so, they tell every insane killer in America that schools are the safest place to inflict maximum mayhem with minimum risk,” LaPierre said. “How have our nation’s priorities gotten so out of order when it comes to our most beloved, innocent and vulnerable members of the American family — our children. We as a society leave them everyday utterly defenseless. And the monsters and the predators of the world know it and exploit it. That must change now.”

All Michigan schools are gun-free zones. No guns are allowed in any public or private school buildings or on the property, though some legal experts say there’s a loophole in state law that allows those licensed to carry concealed pistols to “open carry” in gun-free zones. The legal theory is untested, though, and it depends on how a prosecutor would pursue the case if it arose, said Steven Dulan,

a Second Amendment expert at Cooley Law School. Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed legislation three days after the Sandy Hook shooting that would have allowed gun owners with extra training to carry weapons in gun-free zones, but which also would have clarified that open carry is not allowed in schools.

Snyder said he vetoed the bill because it didn’t allow gun-free zones like public schools, daycare centers or hospitals to opt out of allowing concealed carry.

LaPierre announced what the NRA believes should be done: Put a police officer in every school in the country. He said it with the eloquence of a “Die Hard” one-liner.

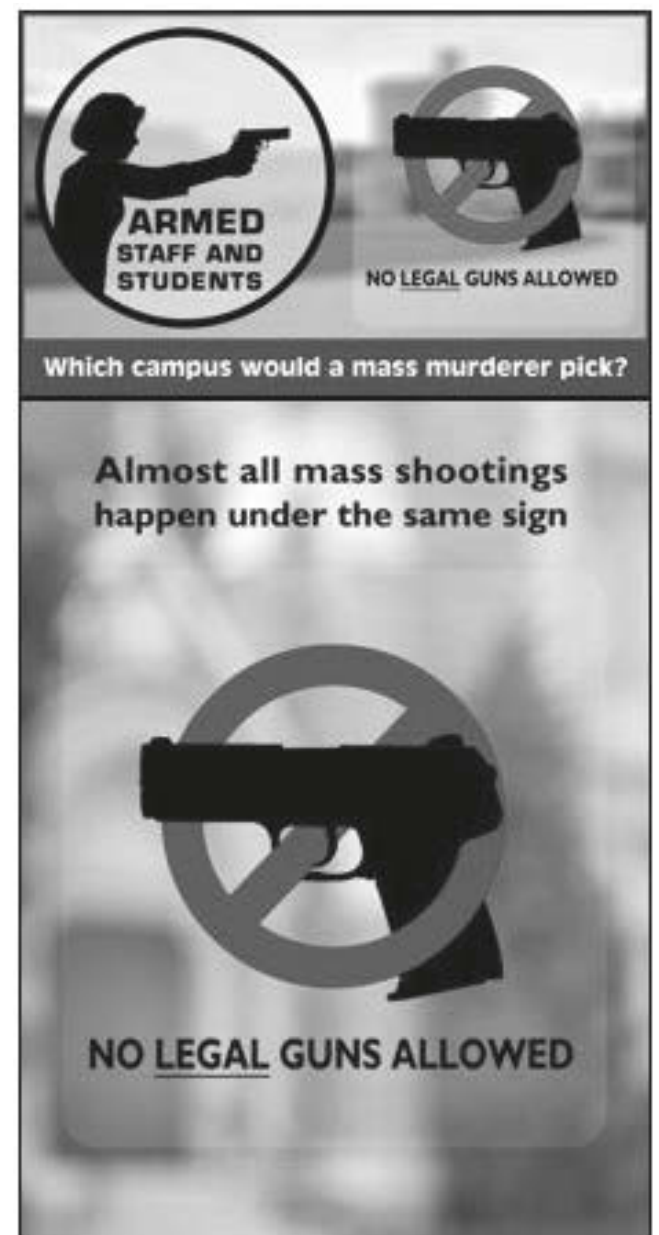
“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun,” LaPierre said. “I call on Congress today to act immediately to appropriate whatever is necessary to put armed police officers in every single school in this nation.”

Police and education professionals quickly resisted the proposal.

“To take an officer from off the road and to put them into the school is impractical and unrealistic,” said Robert Stevenson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. Because of funding challenges, 3,500 fewer police are on the streets of Michigan since Sept. 11, 2011, he added — so putting a cop in every school in the state, let alone the country, would be nearly impossible.

“Columbine had guards,” said Kuhlmann, principal at Lansing’s Mt. Hope Elementary. “Even if they’re at the right place at the right time, it’s of little value. One officer is not going to provide safety and security to buildings this large. It’s not the total answer.”

A police presence at schools isn’t a new concept. The Lansing School District has three resource officers — one



Courtesy Photo

Should teachers and school staff be armed? The Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners thinks they should have the option, said Steve Dulan, the group’s attorney and a Second Amendment professor at Cooley Law School.

in each high school — and police regularly visit elementary schools throughout other districts.

Moreover, others say schools are still relatively safe places. Armed guards or locked doors can only do so much — Columbine had armed guards on site and Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown had a buzzer system in place to access the building. Yet tragedy ensued at both schools.

Experts say schools are still safe havens for kids.

“Despite the incidents at places like Columbine and Newtown, statistically our schools remain one of safest places to be,” said Stevenson, of the police chiefs association. “There are very few violent incidents — it just so happens that the few that have happened were horrific. It’s important for people to keep that in perspective.”

Anthony Kolenic, a peace and justice studies specialist at Michigan State University who studies mass shootings, said children are 225 times more likely to be the victims of gun violence outside of school than in school. He also said school shootings remain “staggeringly uncommon.”

As for arming teachers, police, school administrators and educators interviewed for this story didn’t approve



# Security

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of the concept. But the idea is gaining ground in other states like Utah and Ohio, where reports say hundreds of teachers are taking gun-training courses. In Texas, the lieutenant governor has called for state-funded teacher and administrator gun-training programs to guard against school shooters. It is unclear whether Michigan teachers are turning out in droves for such training.

Groups like the Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners believe arming teachers and staff is a good idea.

"What we found in other states and many school districts around the country that do allow this is that there has never been a mass killing in one of those places," said Dulan, who serves on the coalition's board. "You don't see mass shootings in places where they know people will be armed. The type of mind that chooses to commit these heinous acts targets places where they know people won't fire back."

Dulan said there was a "woefully underreported" situation in Pearl, Miss., that proves armed teachers can be effective in stopping a shooter. At Pearl High School in 1997, the assistant principal retrieved his registered firearm from his vehicle as a shooting was taking place and detained the shooter until help arrived. Dulan said the story backs the proposal.

However, superintendents Duda and Caamal Canul are adamantly opposed to the idea of allowing guns in schools.

"I think it's just a horrendously dangerous idea and totally completely against the philosophy of a public school," Caamal Canul said. "I don't know if I can be more against something than that. That's like saying give a gun to everyone who works in city hall, the library or the Admiral gas station. Then we're in a police state, honestly."

When asked about the idea of arming teachers or school staff, Lansing Police Chief Teresa Szymanski said bluntly: "Absolutely not. That's not their job. Their job is to educate."

*"Politicians pass laws for Gun Free School Zones. They issue press releases bragging about them. They post signs advertising them. And in doing so, they tell every insane killer in America that schools are the safest place to inflict maximum mayhem with minimum risk."*

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Re-gifting 'The Gift'

**Conceptual art exhibit enters final stage: the walls of strangers**

By **DANA CASADEI**

If you have a portrait hanging in your living room, chances are it's from a major life milestone — a graduation, a wedding, the beginning of a senior year — and certainly of someone you know. But the 1,182 Lansing-area people who took part in "The Gift," one of the debut exhibits at the recently opened Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, have been tasked with displaying large-scale, black-and-white photographs of complete strangers in their homes. So what do you do with a headshot of someone you've never met?

Mitch Crank, a Lansing Realtor, simply laughed and stared at the portrait he picked up from the Broad on Sunday. It's of an older woman with freckles around her eyes framed by dark eyeliner and wispy blonde hair. She could be anyone — your best friend's mom, your doctor, a coworker you've never spoken to. Like the 1,181 others, it doesn't identify who the photo is of.

"All of a sudden you have someone that's not part of your life, part of your life," Crank said. "Someone I can just wonder about — what's her story, who is she, what's her life like?"

The mystery of these strangers starts with the man behind "The Gift," German artist Jochen Gerz, who conceptualized the idea. Last fall, Gerz invited members of the Lansing community to sit for a portrait in an impromptu studio near the campus of Michigan State University. The portraits were then assembled into a massive wall of faces that lined an entrance into the Broad. Gerz wasn't present when the portraits were taken, having trained a group of MSU students to take them, adding to the anonymity of the exhibit.

The goal of "The Gift" was to bring together the community with the museum, breaking down the barriers between viewer and art — and turning the Greater Lansing residents themselves into art and their homes into galleries. Now, each person who participated is invited to come back to the museum to receive a portrait of one of "The Gift"'s other participants, with whom they now share a connection.

Crank says the photo will probably end



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Mitch Crank stands beside the portrait he received for participating in the Broad Art Museum's conceptual art project, "The Gift." Crank was given the portrait of this woman, which is hanging in his foyer, but he said he may rotate it around his home.

up rotating around his home. When asked about knowing that his face is in someone else's possession, he said that he's conflicted.

"Even though it feels slightly invasive, it's still intriguing," he said. "It makes (me) wonder what they think about (me)."

Crank may wonder what others think of him, but Ben Graham, a graphic designer and business owner, just hopes that people appreciate the art.

"I'm fine with someone having a portrait of me in their house," he said. "They might not be though."

Seeing others' portraits was part of what has drawn him back to the museum, saying he found the whole exhibit to be compelling.

"The democracy and equality of the exhibit is really important to me," he said. "There are bartenders and judges, the president of MSU and students. They're all equal, and that's kind of the beauty."

The photo that Graham was given was of

a young woman he thinks could be a young professional in the area. It's hanging in the hallway that's become somewhat of a gallery in his home. Graham has no plans on doing any sort of search to find her.

"It's cool to have people involved with art in the community," Graham said.

For Carin Cryderman, a freelance writer/photographer who works for the State of Michigan, the community aspect of "The Gift" is something that stood out to her as well.

"I feel like everybody that got involved is pretty passionate about art and excited about the project," she said. "I think it kind of joins us together."

The portrait she received is hanging in her living room, front and center.

"I'm proud to have a piece of art from the Broad," she said. "I want it visible where everyone can see it." The East Lansing resident has come to see the museum, which is about half a mile from her home.

"I think (the exhibit) is a great way for the museum to give back and allow the community to be a part of the whole museum," Cryderman said.

The "gift" may be uniting the community, but it's also opening up the doors of curiosity and imagination.

"I imagine the interesting conversations that (having my photo in someone's home) would evoke," said Melik Brown, a radio marketing consultant. Brown's portrait is on the landing of his stairwell, waiting for the perfect wall space to be found. Even though he doesn't know the young woman with the light brown hair whose face he passes each day, he said that she looks like someone that would have a nice smile. Brown said that he's been following the progress of the Broad for a number of years, after hearing some people talk about it at a restaurant.

"When it became an opportunity to be a part of something at the Broad, I had kind of a personal connection with it," he said. "I thought it'd be (something) nice to take advantage of."

While some are content with the mystery of this new stranger in their homes, John Buckler, a substitute teacher, and his wife Kate Smith-Buckler, a nurse, have wanted to know since the beginning whose photos they have. The portraits will start on their living room walls and then move to the basement when their bar is finished. They plan on using social media to figure out whose portraits they received.

"It's not often you put up pictures of people you don't know in your house," he said. "I've never done that I guess, unless they came with a frame."

Their portraits are of two older gentlemen, but that's where the similarities end. The first one is a white man with almost perfect circular glasses and a black cap. Buckler said that he reminds him of his uncle, rocking a full beard and mustache combo that frames his face.

The second man doesn't remind Buckler of anyone he knows, which has caused him to make up stories about the man with the graying hair and ponytail, especially in regards to what looks like a black eye under his dark bushy eyebrows.

"I've made up stories about him fighting dinosaurs and robots," he said. Both Bucklers also hope to meet the people that have their portraits.

"We really hope we're out to dinner sometime and someone just goes 'Holy shit, you're on our wall,' then we can get to chat with them," Buckler said. And he's willing to reciprocate.

"If someone has a picture of a giant bearded man, please look me up," he said. "We can grab a beer or a cup of coffee."



# Leaning on love

**MSU's annual musical King tribute stretches a big tent bigger**

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Michigan State University's annual musical and spoken word tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. is still known by its original name, "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayers and Protest" — a big tent to begin with — but MSU Jazz Studies chief Rodney Whitaker keeps stretching it bigger and bigger.

This year, the stage that's already brimming with student big bands and soloists will be joined by the MSU Children's Chorus, the Earle Nelson Singers, the MSU Gospel Choir and faculty baritone powerhouse Peter Lightfoot.

The free event has always been a hot ticket, but this time it will be just plain hot. For the first time, tickets won't be distributed, so seating will be first come, first served.

Previous MLK tributes at MSU have centered on socially conscious jazz from giants like Charles Mingus, Max Roach and Dave Brubeck, but in recent years Whitaker has welcomed R&B, pop and folk to the banquet, including last year's delirious Stevie Wonder blowout and a memorable roar through the music of Marvin Gaye.

Whitaker found that when his student orchestras dove into familiar, inspirational music like Gaye's and Wonder's, the audience swayed, stomped, sang along and lost its Sunday inhibitions. The music also opened people up to the message of the day.

"King said, 'Let love prevail,' and that changes hearts," Whitaker said. "We get so caught up on the issue of the moment, we forget that it's all about taking care of people and showing love."

This year, the massed Jazz Orchestras will tackle a suite of pop-based tunes, including the electrifying grooves of seminal pop-funk wizards Earth, Wind & Fire.

"Their thing was peace, love and harmony, but they masked what they were trying to say to humanity in love songs," Whitaker said.

Stentorian opera star Lightfoot, who joined the MSU voice faculty in 2011, is likely to become a staple of the yearly King tribute. Lightfoot's baritone is so arresting he couldn't order curly fries at Applebee's without making everyone in Ingham County sit up straighter. Sunday, he'll contribute a set of stirring gospel tunes, including "Deep River" and "Amazing Grace," arranged by grad student pianist Paul Blanchard.

Lessons in history and politics will be implicit in the music and explicit in some of the spoken segments, but leaning on



Lawrence Cosentino/  
City Pulse  
A section from  
2010's  
"Jazz:  
Spirituals,  
Prayers  
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love this year makes sense to Whitaker. He senses general weariness with politics, even the positive kind. Past MLK concerts reflected righteous outrage over Bush-era excesses and jubilation over Barack Obama's first inauguration, but this year Whitaker

senses a subdued mood.

"We re-elected the guy, but we're more divided than we've ever been," Whitaker said. "My vision for the concert is inspiring people that we have to look at this thing a little bit different. We have to put love first."

## More Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

- **MLK Celebration Luncheon.** Keynote speaker, journalist Jacque Reid. Jan. 21. 10:30 a.m. \$35, \$280/table of eight. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-7637. lansingcenter.com.
- **MLK Day Healthy Choices Expo.** Activities & food. Jan. 21. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.
- **MLK's Legacy & The Future of Affirmative Action.** Panel discussion. Moderator Ken Harrow. Jan. 21. 7-9 p.m. FREE. South Kedzie Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.
- **Commemorative March to Beaumont Tower.** Celebrate the legacy of Dr. King and other Civil Rights activists. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing.
- **Social Justice Film Series.** "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow: Promises Betrayed (1865 - 1896)." Discussion. Noon. FREE. MSU Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing.



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# CURTAIN CALL

## Family feud

Dysfunction delights in epic drama

By PAUL WOZNIAK

It's one of the basic rules of storytelling: your own family's dysfunction makes you neurotic; someone else's dysfunction is good drama (or comedy, as the case may be). The

**Review** clan in "August: Osage County" is the epitome of gothic drama, complete with drugs, death and pedophilia. At its best, Riverwalk Theatre's production of Tracy Letts' epic three-act play achieves a magical transcendence when the full cast of 15 banter organically around the dinner table, sharing sharp glances and sharper insults. But like many family dinners, sometimes the night goes on too long.

### "August: Osage County"

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appears, her immediate and extended relations congregate at her home to provide support. But Violet feeds on attention and only reciprocates with poison.

Truly, few Lansing actresses could embody Violet with the unctuous charisma that Curran-Oesterle provides. For all of Violet's blood-soaked dialogue and seemingly unre-

strained behavior, it requires a great deal of restraint to keep her from devolving into caricature. Not only is Curran-Oesterle's performance skillfully controlled, she even infuses Violet's drug-induced ramblings with a jazz-like rhythm that is hypnotically entertaining.

And Curran-Oesterle is not alone. Janet Lockwood shares a conspiratorial chemistry with Curran-Oesterle as Violet's sister Mattie, and Madeline Nash (as Violet's oldest daughter) and Doak Bloss (as her son-in-law) deliver stellar performances, particularly when all three play off each other. As Violet's brother-in-law Charlie Aiken, Michael Schacherbauer chills the room in the third act calling out his wife and Violet on their gleeful meanness. Additionally, Erin Hoffman and Kat Cooper — among many others — fill in a wide range of the family dynamics, each with juicy characters all their own.

Tim Fox's exceptional set design provides space, levels and authentic ambience not seen often enough in Riverwalk productions. From a moveable front porch to a central carpeted staircase connecting the two bedrooms to the dining room like a twisted spine, Fox's delicate details make the set feel like unique character with a mournful face.

Despite a strong, slow build in the first act and a raucously blistering second act, the third stumbled opening night from waning momentum caused by numerous blackouts and sluggish transitions. As audience attention drifted, so did the show's energy.

It's a problem, within director Emily English Clark's power to fix — especially given the overall quality of this monstrous production. For audiences, it's a question of tone; "August: Osage County" may not be a happy play, but it is funny and may make you feel better about your own family issues.



Courtesy Photo

"Billy Elliot the Musical," an inspirational musical based on the cult favorite 2000 British film, plays through Sunday at the Wharton Center.

## A soaring success

"Billy Elliot" bursts with imagination, love of dance

By ALLAN I. ROSS

There's a scene near the beginning of Act II of "Billy Elliot the Musical" when the 12-year-old title character (played by Ben Cook) has a vision of himself as a grown-up ballet dancer. As the lights dim and the theme from "Swan Lake" begins, smoke pours across the stage and the two start to dance in unison. True ballet is rarely incorporated into these kinds of shows. Seeing the majesty and the beauty of the

### "Billy Elliot the Musical"

Wharton Center  
Through Jan. 20  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-  
Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday-  
Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday,  
1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
\$32-\$72  
(800) WHARTON  
whartoncenter.com

hooking young Billy up to a wire and physically throwing him to the ceiling where he hangs, suspended in mid-air, spinning in tight circles.

It was one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen on stage.

"Billy Elliot" is an extraordinary movie-into-musical adaptation. It incorporates elements of a wide range of dance styles (was that a little bit of "Gangnam Style" at the top of the show?) and expertly blends elements of drama, comedy and history

with a dash of melodrama for good measure. (Come on — a letter sung by Billy's dead mother from beyond the grave? There wasn't a dry eye in the house.)

Framed by the doomed '84 coal miners strike in the U.K., the proletarians vs. the government-bent lends a "Les Miz" feeling to the story gives the show real gravity when it needs it. Billy, the son of a coal miner, has been forced to take boxing lessons, but he discovers a natural gift for ballet after happening upon a local dance class and is now contemplating honing his talent.

Sure, familiar elements abound — being met with ridicule by the town's alpha males; a sassy cross-dressing best friend; a cynical mentor with a heart of gold — but the creative use of interpretive dance and the use of the full range of emotions, including rage, humor, frustration and despair deliver just as well.

Elton John wrote the music and Lee Hall, who was nominated for an Academy Award for penning the film's screenplay, adapted the book and wrote the lyrics. Lee's closeness to the material makes the transitions into and out of the musical numbers feel seamless; one of the songs actually begins as a spoken word piece that morphs into the song and then into dance. It's incredible to behold.

Unfortunately, the mostly canned orchestra (there were five local musicians playing along to a pre-recorded track) kept any of the show's crescendos from really getting your heart pounding. And the abundance of tap dancing was slightly disappointing. I love a good tap number as much as the next person, but for a show about ballet, I thought there'd be more, you know, ballet.

But these are trifles, really. Solid acting, soaring dance numbers, earnest songs, and just enough slapstick to keep itself from being too serious. Sometimes you can have it all.

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**6AM-9AM**  
**WLMI 92.9**

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# THE SCREENING ROOM by ALLAN I. ROSS

## The best parts are made up

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Extraordinary real-life events can make for some great movies. Change a few names, insert a love interest, cut, print and call it a day. Take "Argo," for example — with its combination of political intrigue, Hollywood insider-ism and armchair-gripping suspense, it's a textbook case of a true story that goes great with a little butter and salt.

But there's a big difference between something that benefits from a cinematic adaptation and something that just sounds cinematic.

Yes, the events in "The Impossible" and "Zero Dark Thirty" happened (at least mostly), and both earned Academy Award nominations last week for their leading actresses. But even though they're both "true stories," neither one feels like a true "story."

Let's start with "The Impossible," which is based on the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami that slammed coastlines throughout the Indian Ocean, killing almost a quarter of a million people. The film, starring Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor, focuses on the actual account of a single family that was separated when the monster wave struck their luxury resort in Thailand. This narrow scope ups the peril factor by sticking by some of the characters in real time as they literally ride it out, but, strangely, this focus dilutes the film's impact.

Watts plays Maria Bennett, the clan's mother, who is swept inland with her eldest son in a harrowing, 10-minute sequence of rushing muddy water, submerged tree branches that slice like razors and mama bear valor. If your heart's not hammering during this scene, you don't have one.

After the water subsides, however, the

movie starts its long, slow slide into syrupy melodrama. Wait, wasn't that Hollywood actor Ewan McGregor there at the beginning — they didn't really kill him off, did they? Of course not — they just made you think he was dead until the second half to heighten the tension. Unless you saw the preview. Or knew this was an uplifting true story. Or, you know, have a sense of how movies like this go.

By focusing on a group of lily-white upper class Europeans instead of the millions of dead, injured or displaced Asians who were actually affected by the tsunami, "The Impossible" does the impossible — it reduces the real victims into extras in their own tragedy and turns a once in a lifetime natural disaster into a thrill ride with a happy ending.

And speaking of happy endings, did you hear that they killed Osama bin Laden? At least "Zero Dark Thirty" has the temerity to construct something resembling a storyline, truth be damned. And it does so around Maya (Jessica Chastain), a fiery redhead who tells her CIA superior that she's a "motherfucker." Yeah, she's that tough. She also spends lots of time looking at computer screens, reading files and having meetings.

It's an arduous process following Maya as she navigates procedural red tape to track bin Laden (referred to here as UBL). It's about as much fun as watching someone



Courtesy Photo  
Ewan McGregor stars in "The Impossible," which recounts the true story of a Spanish family separated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

try to register their new car at the Secretary of State. The movie heinously tries to get the audience to root for the use of torture (excuse me, "enhanced interrogation tactics"), as Maya complains at one point that things aren't going fast enough, with the answer essentially being, "Well, we're not allowed to lock people in tiny boxes anymore or pour water down their throats, so good luck with that." You're actually supposed to be enraged at this dead end; in reality, however, the rage comes from misplaced ideals.

Inevitably, SEAL Team Six is assembled and deployed on their midnight mission to storm the compound, and what a finale it is. Never again will you root for the death of a real-life human being the way you will when the SEALs crash their billion-dollar

copter in UBL's backyard and quietly explode their way to him, room by room, occasionally mowing down the occasional unarmed woman — which is, sadly, probably one of the only things they got 100 percent right in the movie.

But that's the problem with true stories: the best parts are always made up.

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**MOTOR CITY MUSIC TALK**  
w/ Peter Benjamin  
author of *Mary Wells*

Join us for an inside look at a Motor City music legend as author Peter Benjaminson talks about his biography, *Mary Wells: The Tumultuous Life of Motown's First Superstar*.

Complete with never-before-revealed details about the sex, violence and drugs in her life, as well as the full story of her musical achievements and the dramatic ups and downs of her career, this book, the first biography of Mary Wells ever published, reveals the incredibly turbulent life of this popular Motown artist, whose songs crossed the color line and whose voice captivated the Beatles and millions of others.

**7 p.m. Tuesday.**  
**January 22nd.**

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# OUT on the TOWN

## Habitat House Party RESERVATION DEADLINE JAN. 25.

On Feb. 1, Habitat for Humanity Lansing holds its 2nd Annual Habitat House Party. The event will have a Mardi Gras theme — each guest will receive beads and a mask, with music by Dr. Fab and the Off The Couch Band. A silent auction will feature Tom Philabaum Glass donated by Mackerel Sky Gallery. From 7-11 p.m. there will be a photo booth for guests to enjoy. **The reservation deadline is Jan. 25.** \$35 per person/\$60 per couple. Reservations can be made at [habitatlansing.org](http://habitatlansing.org) or for more information call (517) 374-1313 ext. 13.

## Wednesday, January 16

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Long Term Health Care.** Learn the basics. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.  
**Library eBooks.** How to access free eBooks. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.  
**Escape & Rejuvenate.** Meditative movement & guided meditation. 12:15 p.m. FREE. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. [massageandwellnesslansing.com](http://massageandwellnesslansing.com), [meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit](http://meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit).

See Out on the Town, Page 18

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

**Lansing Association  
for Human Rights**

LAHR • LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Prism Awards  
Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

An advocate by and for  
lesbian, gay, bisexual and  
transgender people and  
their allies in the greater  
Lansing community since 1979.

[www.LAHRonline.org](http://www.LAHRonline.org)

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com). If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to [calendar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:calendar@lansingcitypulse.com).

## JAN. 16

### Bat mania begins

This Wednesday, the Potter Park Zoo is having a very special welcome party for a few of its newest members: some Seba's short-tailed bats. The widespread species from South and Central America feed on over 50 different types of fruit, as well as pollen and insects. The event will allow guests to sample some of their diet, but don't worry about eating a spider or cricket (this isn't "Fear Factor"). Guests will also get to make their own bat mask and ask questions to the bats' keepers. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2772.

## Orchesis line

"I hope I get it." Last September, over 50 hopefuls auditioned for the 2013 Orchesis student dance showcase. After months of grueling rehearsal, the lucky 35 who were selected will perform at "Boundless" this Thursday through Sunday. The group will feature seven dances choreographed and performed by students. MSU Orchesis Dance is a student organization that strives to enhance and enrich the presence of dance as an art form. There will be a discussion following Thursday night's performance. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17; 8 p.m. Jan. 18; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Jan. 19; 2 p.m. Jan. 20. \$5. MSU Auditorium Arena Theatre, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (734) 904-7131.



Courtesy Photo

## JAN. 18

### Million dollar babies

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," is one of the most iconic sports lines of all time. Muhammad Ali knew how to move and fight, inspiring generations of pugilists. Former mixed martial arts boxer Kolmarge Harris is inspiring a younger generation while fighting against child obesity. This Friday, the Lansing Spartans Youth Organization, founded by Harris, holds its first fundraiser. Guests will be able to help the local nonprofit organization and meet professional boxers, including Jordan Shimmell, Jamie Stevenson and Joey Stevenson. The group's mission is to provide children and adolescents with individualized fitness programs that instill a lifelong love for physical fitness. 6 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5 donation. Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

## Red, White, and (ballet) shoes

You may be acquainted with the story of Snow White from the movie "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," the first full-length animated feature film that (for better or worse) began the whole Disney princess franchise. But there's another Brothers Grimm tale with a similar title: "Snow White and Rose Red." Other than an encounter with a dwarf, and a shared character name, that's where the similarities stop. Written in the 17th century by Charles Perrault and made famous as tale number 162 by the Grimm boys, the story of two sisters will be told in a very different way this weekend — through ballet. The one-act performance, conceived and directed by P.K. Van Voorhees, will include performers of all ages and bring to life Snow White and her sister. No mining or whistling included. 7 p.m. Jan. 19; 3 p.m. Jan. 20. \$10 adults, \$5 children. Al White Theatre, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 336-4088.



Photo by: Dave Grist

## JAN. 17-20

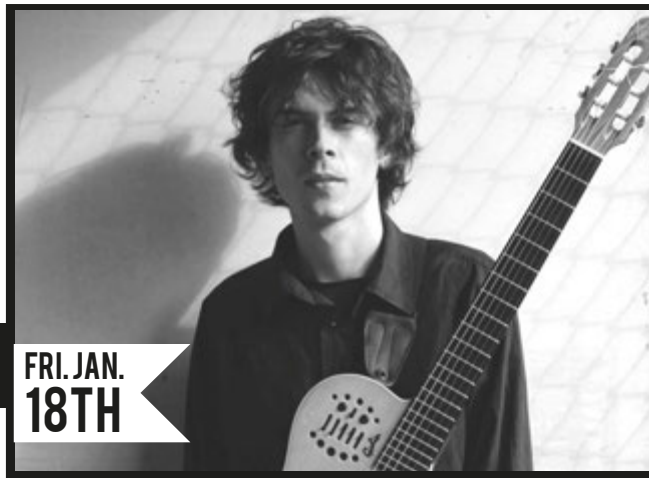
## JAN. 19 & 20



# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. JAN. 18TH

## ELDEN KELLY AT 'THE FIDDLE'

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing, all ages, \$15 public, \$12 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m.

While he may spend his days teaching and selling at Elderly Instruments, at night Elden Kelly impresses audiences with his vocals and virtuoso guitar skills. His eclectic jazz style blends a broad range of music traditions. Aside from his six-string abilities, Kelly has also developed a syncretic style on the Arabic oud, the Turkish cumbus and the Glissentar, an 11-string fretless guitar. His shows range from amazing shredding to heartfelt tunes. Kelly graduated from Boston's New England Conservatory of Music in 2008 with a degree in contemporary improvisation. Later he accepted a full scholarship and teaching assistantship at Michigan State University with Rodney Whitaker, earning a graduate degree in ethnomusicology in 2011.

## BLAZE YA DEAD HOMIE AT MAC'S



FRI. JAN. 18TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$10, 7 p.m.

Chris Rouleau, better known as Blaze Ya Dead Homie, has been active in the Detroit music scene since the mid-'90s. Friday Blaze hits Mac's Bar, with openers including Ajax, Jimmy Kankelz, Smokehouse Junkiez and The R.O.C. The Psychopathic Records star has an interesting, yet fictional, backstory: he is a reincarnated rapper who was killed in the late '80s, at the genesis of gangster rap. That tall-tale mirrors his rap style: horrorcore and gritty-gangster rap. Blaze's career started with his Detroit-based duo, 2 Krazy Devils, later dubbed the Sleepwalkaz. Soon Blaze connected with Psychopathic Records through his friends in Twiztid. In 2000 he dropped his self-titled debut EP. Since then he's released four albums, the latest being 2010's "Gang Rags."

## LANSING RECORD & CD SHOW RETURNS



SAT. JAN. 19TH

University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River Ave., Frandor, FREE, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For those interested in flipping through thousands of vinyl records, a good place to start might be Saturday's Lansing Record & CD Show at the University Quality Inn in Frandor. The event happens every couple of months and features lots of vinyl (45s and LPs) as well as CDs, DVDs, posters, T-shirts, vintage magazines and all sorts of music memorabilia. All genres are represented, from rock 'n' roll and soul to jazz, funk and folk. There's even some rare garage rock, rockabilly and punk vinyl. The event features 60 tables of merchandise, and dealers also buy record collections from guests. For dealer or selling information, visit facebook.com/lansingrecordshow, e-mail Rod at rerun45@rocketmail.com or call (734) 604-2540.

## ULI'S HOSTS THORNETTA DAVIS



SAT. JAN. 19TH

Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Blvd., Lansing, 18 and over, \$20, \$15 advance, 7 p.m.

Thornetta Davis has opened for legendary blues and R&B greats such as Ray Charles, Smokey Robinson and Etta James. She's also recorded back-up vocals for the likes of Bob Seger and Kid Rock, and her song "Cry" was featured on an episode of "The Sopranos." On Saturday, she plays Uli's Haus of Rock. After becoming a fixture in the Detroit rock and blues scene in the late '80s, Davis steadily built up her résumé. In 1996 Davis recorded her debut solo album "Sunday Morning Music" on Sub Pop, a notable Seattle-based alt-rock record label. By 2001, she was inducted into the Detroit Music Hall of Fame. Today she performs over 200 shows a year. Opening the show is Twyla Birdsong and Mike Eyia.

## WKAR'S 'BACKSTAGE PASS' PREMIERES



SUN. JAN. 20TH

Airing on WKAR HD/23 (23.1) at 7 p.m.

"BackStage Pass" returns Sunday for its fourth season. The award-winning WKAR-TV series showcases Michigan-made music recorded live in front of local audiences. This season of "BackStage Pass" visits concerts and festivals such as the Lansing JazzFest, the Michigan Mosaic Music Festival and the Old Town BluesFest. This round starts with a performance from Silent Lapse, a progressive hard rock band out of Westphalia. The band was formed in May 2007 by brothers Mitchell Feldpausch (guitar) and Taylor Feldpausch (drums). The band also includes bassist Matt Schrauben, vocalist/keyboardist Scott Martin and guitarist Wyatt Aldrich. Fans of Dream Theater, Candlebox or Queensryche might want to check them out.

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

# LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet, 9 p.m.	FatBoy & JiveTurkey, 8 p.m.	Down Maggie, 8 p.m.
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		D.J., 9 p.m.	Basement Dawgs, 9 p.m.	Basement Dawgs, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Luke Francis, 8 p.m.	Luke Francis, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Luke Francis, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Samantha, 8 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Gold Rush, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Crunk Witch, 7 p.m.	Who's Bad, 7 p.m.	Homegrown Throwdown, 7 p.m.	Red Stone Souls, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Blaze Ya Dead Homie, 7 p.m.	The Biscuit Grabbers, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Simpleton, 10 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 10 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.				Thornetta Davis, 8 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8 p.m.	One Ton Trio, 8 p.m.	One Ton Trio, 8 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Eyia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Scott Thompson Band, 9 p.m.	Scott Thompson Band, 9 p.m.

**Sunday** Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.  
**Monday** Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.  
**Tuesday** Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.



# Out on the town

from page 16

**Drawing Class.** For all levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Genesis-Christian/Jewish Dialogue.** Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

**Community Yoga.** For all levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**After School Youth Gardening Program.** Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to age 6. Stories, rhymes & activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

**Babytime.** Beginning story time. For babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

**Forest View Citizens Association Meeting.** 7

p.m. FREE. Dean Trailways/Dean Conference Center, 4600 Aurelius Road, Lansing. (517) 882-8392.

**Informational Workshop.** On downtown East Lansing cultural entrepreneurship program. 4 p.m. Grove Gallery Co-Op, 325 Grove St., #A, East Lansing. (517) 372-4636 ext. 2. lansingarts.org.

**Mid-Day Mosaic: Relationships/Marriage.** 12:15-12:45 p.m. FREE. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

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

## EVENTS

**Fenner Nature Center Walking Group.** 5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

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

**Grande Paraders Square Dance.** Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 club members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

**Relay For Life Kickoff.** Fundraiser. Dinner & refreshments. 6 p.m. Donations. Beagle Elementary School, 600 W. South St., Grand Ledge. (517) 285-5027.

## MUSIC

**Sistrum Welcomes New Singers.** Orientation for prospective members. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 256-2691. sistrum.org.

## THEATER

**"Billy Elliot the Musical."** A boy trades his boxing gloves for ballet slippers. 7:30 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Tween Book Club.** Ages 9-12. "The Puzzling World of Winston Breen," Eric Berlin. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

**DTDL Book Club.** "Half Broke Horses," Jeanette Walls. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

# Thursday, January 17

## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lewton Rich Neighborhood Meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m. Lansing STEM Academy Social Room, 2600 Hampden Drive, Lansing. lewtonrich.org.

**Family Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 9.)

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

**Water media.** All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

**After School Youth Gardening Program.** Kids Time: ages 5-10. Activities. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Genealogy Basics.** How to find information on your ancestors. Registration required. 6:30-8 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

**Family Education Days.** Speaker Kristina Bolinger. 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

**Ingham County Renters Discussion.** Affordable rental housing. Dinner & door prizes. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 272-4144.

**Codependents Anonymous.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

## EVENTS

**Evening Storytime.** Stories, songs & crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

**Help Plan Everybody Eats 2.0 Conference.** 5:30 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. everybody-eats.com.

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

**Euchre.** No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta

See Out on the Town, Page 19

## Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com

## Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones

"Pass/Fail" -- you'd better pass!  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

1 Crafted

5 Trendsetting

8 Wife of the late Steve Irwin, a.k.a. "The Crocodile Hunter"

13 "Wonder \_\_\_ powers, activate!"

14 \_\_\_ the crack of dawn

16 Bolt who bolts

17 Three-piece suit piece

18 Rogen of "The Guilt Trip"

19 Artless

20 Lottery ticket that's also a coupon?

23 Person who vilifies ad writers?

24 "106 & Park" network

25 Dr.'s org.

26 Abbr. at the bottom of a letter

27 Airline whose last flight was in 2001

28 The Magic, on scoreboards

29 Enticed

31 Enemy

32 Go back and forth

33 The purpose of milk, in the mind of a cat?

37 Bushy-bearded natural health expert Andrew

40 Landscaping stuff

41 "Animal House" college

45 "Ermagerd," in shorthand

46 "\_\_\_ for Alibi" (Sue Grafton mystery)

47 Singer Bachman

49 Mighty Joe Young, for one

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14		15		16			
17				18				19			
	20			21				22			
23										24	
25			26			27				28	
29			30			31			32		
			33		34	35			36		
37	38	39		40				41	42	43	44
45			46			47	48		49		
50			51			52			53		
54			55								
56					57			58			59
60					61				62		
63						64				65	

50 Memorial designer Maya \_\_\_

51 Grabbed the end of Indiana Jones's weapon?

54 What your card says when Toronto's NBA team sends you a present?

56 Woodsy home

57 Where flour is made

58 Stephen Strasburg's team

60 "In \_\_\_" (Nirvana album)

61 "On the Waterfront" director Kazan

62 Drug bust unit

63 Underneath

64 Make eggs

65 Once more

**Down**

1 "Jersey Shore" network

2 Totally rad

3 Rotating power tool

4 Diary writing

5 Anjelica of "The Royal Tenenbaums"

6 Old treatment for poisonings

7 Hedge maze possibilities

8 Arctic expanse

9 Those things, in Tijuana

10 Sherbet variety

11 Monaco's region

12 How bunglers operate

15 "Oh yeah, I forgot there was another one"

21 Fail to be

22 Staircase post

23 Most populous state, in college nicknames

30 Grapeseed or sesame

31 Dahlia delivery option

32 Weekend retreat

34 1990 NBA Finals MVP \_\_\_ Thomas

35 "What're ya gonna do about it?"

36 Key for Elgar's Symphony No. 1

37 New member of the pack

38 Qatar, for one

39 Award bestowed by the Annals of Improbable Research

42 38-down neighbor

43 Letter

44 Salesperson

46 Urgent infomercial line

47 Muse of comedy

48 During leisure time

52 Give the third degree

53 Everlasting Gobstopper inventor

55 Surrealist Joan

59 Sty dweller

228 Museum Drive, across from Lansing Center

## Riverwalk Theatre

AUGUST:

OSAGE COUNTY

Darkly Comedic Drama by Tracy Letts

Directed by Emily Clark

Drug abuse, alcoholism, suicide, death, family dysfunction, sexual harassment, pedophilia, aging, generational change, racism, incest, infidelity — and, ultimately, love.

ADULT LANGUAGE & CONTENT

January 10-13 & 17-20

\$14 (\$12 sr/student/military)

7 pm Thur; 8 pm Fri & Sat; 2 pm Sun.

482-5700 • RiverwalkTheatre.com

## DIVORCE FAMILY LAW

Divorce  
Custody • Visitation  
Child Support  
Alimony  
Property Distribution  
Domestic Partnership Agreements / Separation

37 YEARS -  
AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

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**STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.**  
Former Assistant Prosecutor

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1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
www.stushafer.com



# Out on the town

from page 18

Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

**Bananagrams Night.** Word game. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

**Library Film Series.** "The Loving Story." Discussion. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**Asthma Luncheon.** Network with physicians & more. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-4144.

**Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame.** Talk & tour. 7 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lansingsportshalloffame.org.

## THEATER

**"August: Osage County."** Multi-generational family drama. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**"Billy Elliot the Musical."** 7:30 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Writers Roundtable.** Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

**International Book Club.** 'Love, Life and Elephants,' Dame Daphne Shedrick. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Friday, January 18

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Our Daily Work/Lives.** "Artisan culture and the meaning of emotions in 18th Century Paris" - Janine Lanza. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**Holiday Cleanse.** Instructor Simone Ranes. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

**Escape & Rejuvenate.** 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

**Legal Inroads to Interracial Desire.** Speaker Melissa Fore. Room 201. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. MSU International Center, 169 International Center, East

Lansing. (517) 353-5040. gencen.isp.msu.edu.

**Oil Painting.** For all levels with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Gateway to Infinity.** Take a tour of the universe. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** With ASL interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

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

## EVENTS

**Teen Video Gaming.** Ages 13-18. Game systems & dinner provided. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

**Artists Reception.** Meet three local artists. 6-8 p.m. Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354. shiawasseearts.org.

**All You Can Eat Fish Fry.** 6-8 p.m. \$8. American Legion Post 48, 731 North Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 331-3877.

## MUSIC

**Avon Bomb.** 9:15 p.m. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-2013. coachspubandgrill.com.

**Grand River Radio Diner.** Featuring Kyle Brown and Maria & the Swiss Kicks. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

**The 3 of Clubs.** 8:30 p.m. FREE. Center Stage Night Club, 1785 W. State Road, DeWitt. (517) 482-2280.

**Boogie Dynamite.** 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040.

**Ten Pound Fiddle.** Elden Kelly. 8 p.m. \$15 public, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

## THEATER

**"August: Osage County."** 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 17.)

**"Billy Elliot the Musical."** 8 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

## Saturday, January 19

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**LinkedIn 101.** Learn how to professionally network online. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200

N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393.

**Learning the Keys & Navigating the Mouse.** Learn to use a computer & type. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

**Planning Your Gardening Year.** With Linda Anderson. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

**U.S. Citizenship Class.** Learn steps to apply for citizenship & get ready for interview. 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

**Gateway to Infinity.** 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 18.)

**Tai Chi in the Park.** Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Floral Design Class.** Preregistration requested. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327. smithfloral.com.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Reception.** This month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Fenner Nature Center Walking Group.** 8-9 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

**All-You-Can-Eat Chicken Dinner.** 3-6 p.m. \$9 adults, \$4.50 kids 5-11, FREE 4 & under. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. (517) 468-3316.

**Mobile Food Pantry.** Distribution of food. Must have valid ID. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Tabernacle of David Church, 2645 W. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4477.

**USA Dance Chapter 2037 Monthly Dance.** Hustle, 7 p.m. General dancing, 8 p.m. \$13, \$9 members, \$8 students under 25 with ID. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

**English Country Dance.** Potluck dinner. 2 p.m. \$10. \$7 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

**Moonlight Skiing & Snowshoeing.** 6-9 p.m. \$3, \$9 with equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

## MUSIC

**Thornetta Davis.** 7 p.m. \$15, \$20 VIP seating. Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Blvd., Lansing. brownpapertickets.com.

**Ventosa Winds Recital.** Noon. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

## THEATER

**"August: Osage County."** 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 17.)

**"Billy Elliot the Musical."** 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

## Sunday, January 20

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gateway to Infinity.** 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

## MEDIUM

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

## TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit [www.SundayCrosswords.com](http://www.SundayCrosswords.com)

Answers on page 21

### CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARIES



# HEALTHY LIVING SERIES: WALK FOR FITNESS

Sunday, Jan. 27 • 2–3 p.m.

Our speaker Jodi Davis lost 162 pounds just by walking and eating healthier. She is now serving as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's walking and healthy-living advocate.



*Choosing Health!*  
Facilitated by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan



Capital Area District LIBRARIES DOWNTOWN LANSING  
Your branch, our family tree. 401 S. Capitol Avenue | 517-367-6363 | cadl.org



## SECRETS NIGHTCLUB & THE HOUSE OF EDEN ROCK



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

The House of Eden Rock (in the former location of the Wild Beaver Saloon) recently underwent an upgrade to both the facility and the menu.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Over the last couple months, downtown Lansing bars **J's Pub** (formerly Brannigan Brothers), **Secrets Nightclub** (formerly Club X-Cel) and **The House of Eden Rock** (formerly the Wild Beaver Saloon) have made changes ranging from complete internal renovations to a simple change of signage. I told you about J's Club's transformation last month; now let's take a look at those other two.

Tom Donell bought Club Paradise 10 years ago and transformed it into Club X-Cel. At the time, Donell — who also owns **Spiral Dance and Video Bar** in Old Town — said he wanted it to be a "New York or Miami-caliber club," but that idea never took off. Last June, Donell sold the business to Darrin Sutton, who used to do promotions for him. Donnell still owns the building; Sutton will lease the space.

"I've never owned a club before, and I thought this would be good practice," says Sutton, who soon plans to open a nightclub in Chicago, where he lives. "But just because I'm a 'black business owner,' this isn't going to be a 'black nightclub.' We're definitely going to keep it multi-cultural and make sure

everyone — blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians — gets to enjoy themselves in this beautiful space."

Sutton is a Lansing native and graduated from Michigan State University, but says he found success in Chicago promoting parties and bars, hence the move. His brother, co-owner Ryan Woods, manages the day-to-day activities.

He said Secrets will only be open Thursday through Sunday and music will range from hip-hop to Top 40. In a neat bit of synergy, this Sunday, Secrets will provide the after show to **The Loft's** comedy showcase, Chocolate Haha, and will double as a pre-party of sorts for President Obama's inauguration the next day.

Sutton says he plans on installing new flooring in the next couple weeks in preparation for a grand opening, which he thinks will happen in early February.

Meanwhile, just down the street, the House of Eden Rock has made its third (and presumably final) name change and has settled on a subdued color scheme — darker and richer than the powder blue tiki motif it had going last year. Owner/operator Jerome Abood also recently lured chef Sean Farney from the **Wrought Iron Grill** in Owosso to assemble an expansive new menu, allowing the former party bar to make the leap to full-time restaurant.

"We definitely want to keep the nightclub aspect, but by adding this menu, we're able to give downtown Lansing what it really needs — another quality restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner," Abood said.

The menu includes a full selection of appetizers, salads, sandwiches and entrées. All of them have playful names — an Asian-themed salmon burger is called Oppa Gangnam Style — and nothing on the menu is over \$14. There's also a full selection of children's food and a \$5 brunch menu, including house-made salmon gravlax (lox).

"We added the 'House of' to the name last month to cement the House of Blues feel we're trying to cultivate," says manager Andy Adamson. "We've changed gears big-time from when it was the Beaver. Now we're going with a less-is-more mentality."

*Coming soon: An Old Town favorite returns and a downtown Lansing bar changes hands. Stay tuned.*

### Secrets Nightclub

224 S. Washington Square  
Lansing  
10 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday  
(517) 281-9502

### The House of Eden Rock

205 S. Washington Square  
Lansing  
11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday (kitchen closes at 9 p.m.)  
9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday (brunch ends at 5 p.m.)  
(517) 374-1300  
edenrocklansing.com

## Out on the town

from page 19

Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 18.)

**The Family Show.** "Sky Tellers," for preschool through grade 2 & families. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**Lansing Poetry Club.** Speaker Melissa Dey Hasbrook. 2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 614-7820.

**Juggling.** Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

**GriefShare Seminar.** A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Grace UMC, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

**Codependents Anonymous.** Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

### EVENTS

**Capital Area Singles Dance.** With door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

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

### MUSIC

**MSU Community Music School Spring Open House.** 3-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. cms.music.msu.edu.

**Mid-Michigan Blue Grass.** Live music & jam areas. 2-6 p.m. \$4, \$2 seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

### THEATER

**"August: Osage County."** 2 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 17.)

**"Billy Elliot the Musical."** 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

## Monday, January 21

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Escape & Rejuvenate.** 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 9.)

**Learn to Meditate.** Focus on secular fundamentals. 7:45-8:30 p.m. FREE, donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

**Creating Healthy Connections Meeting.** Presentation, "Mindset Matters." 6:15 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 699-8550.

**Monthly Lunch.** Speaker Ellen Ives. Bring lunch. Noon. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-8693.

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group.** 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609.

**Chronic Pain Support Group.** For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

### EVENTS

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

**Exhibition Opening.** "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul." 4-5:30 p.m. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

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

### MUSIC

**Open Mic Blues Mondays.** Spoken word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. MBC Lansing, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

### THEATER

**"Plaza Suite" Auditions.** Must be 18 or older. Be prepared to read from script. 7 p.m. Rodney B. Wilson Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (989) 224-8982.

## Tuesday, January 22

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Staying Connected with Facebook.** 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

**Budding Naturalists: Wonderful Water & Friendly Fish.** 11 a.m.-Noon. \$8 first child & \$5 each additional child. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in. 6:30 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Gier Community Center 2400 Hall St., Lansing. (517) 543-0786.

**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg. 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

**Intro to Computers.** Learn from professionals. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

**Oil Painting.** For all levels, with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Water media.** All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Preregistration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212

**After School Youth Gardening Program.**

4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 17.)

**Library eBooks.** How to access free eBooks. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

**MSU Creative Writing Center Group.** Anyone interested in creative writing. 7:30-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### EVENTS

**Emotional Aspects of the Gluten Free Diet.** Speaker Donna Bracher. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 349-0294.

**GRC 4th Tuesday Event.** Network. 6-8 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 21



# Out on the town

from page 20

Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. grandriverconnection.com.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays.** Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## THEATER

**"Plaza Suite" Auditions.** 7 p.m. Rodney B. Wilson Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (Please see details Jan. 21.)

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Classics Book Club.** Collected Stories of Wallace Stegner; 1 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Meet Author Peter Benjaminson.** Author of "Mary Wells." 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

## Wednesday, January 23

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Escape & Rejuvenate.** 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

**Drawing Class.** For all levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Community Yoga.** For all levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**After School Youth Gardening Program.** Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Frontiers of Racism.** Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

**Family Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

**Babytime.** 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

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

**Mid-Day Mosaic: De-Stress & Refresh Your**

**Spirit With Song.** 12:15-12:45 p.m. FREE. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

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

## EVENTS

**Fenner Nature Center Walking Group.** 5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 16.)

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

**MSAA Fun Auction.** Michigan Auctioneer & Ringman championships and auction. 7:30-10 p.m. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 785-8288.

## MUSIC

**Ukulele Playalong.** With facilitator Chris Zatzke. Instruments available. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**The Out of this World Book Club.** "Rendezvous with Rama," Arthur C. Clarke. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse? (517) 999-5066 or [adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com)

### Aquatics Programmer (Part-time), City of Lansing, MI

The City of Lansing is accepting applications for Aquatics Programmer (Part-time). The salary is \$16.18/hr. - \$23.98/hr. The work schedule for this position includes weekend and evening hours. Candidates must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Mandatory Certifications for this position are Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR, and AED, and AFO or CPO. The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation, with an emphasis in Recreation Program Management or a related field and two (2) years of professional level directing of a recreation program. Interested applicants may apply online or download an application at [www.lansingmi.gov](http://www.lansingmi.gov). You may also fax the City of Lansing Employment Application. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2012. Call Donna Black at (517) 483-4593 for details.

**City Pulse is seeking candidates** to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to [shelly@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:shelly@lansingcitypulse.com).

**Distribution Driver - PT Job opening** to stock schedule racks in Greater Lansing area. flexible hours. Must have van or SUV w/own insurance, computer, cell phone w/text and energy. e-mail resume to: [garrett@wayforwardinfo.com](mailto:garrett@wayforwardinfo.com)

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

M	A	D	E	H	I	P	T	E	R	R	I		
T	W	I	N	U	P	A	T	U	S	A	I	N	
V	E	S	T	S	E	T	H	N	A	I	V	E	
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L	I	N	C	A	U	G	H	T	A	W	H	I	P
F	R	O	M	T	H	E	R	A	P	T	O	R	S
C	A	B	I	N	M	I	L	L	N	A	T	S	
U	T	E	R	O	E	L	I	A	K	I	L	O	
B	E	L	O	W	L	A	Y	A	N	E	W		

## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

January 16-22

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "If you would hit the mark, you must aim a little above it," wrote nineteenth-century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. "Every arrow that flies feels the attraction of the earth." This is good counsel for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks, Aries. I suspect you will have a good, clear shot at a target you've been trying to get close to for a long time. Make sure you adjust your trajectory to account for the attraction of the earth.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): If you learn a novel idea or a crucial new lesson while you are tipsy or outright blitzed, you will probably forget it when you sober up. And it will remain forgotten as long as you abstain. But there's a good chance you will recall the vanished information the next time you get loopy. I'm telling you this, Taurus, because even if you haven't been inebriated lately, you have definitely been in an altered and expanded state of consciousness. I'm afraid that when you come back down to earth in a few days, you might lose some of the luminous insights you've been adding to your repertoire. Is there anything you can do to ensure you will retain these treasures? It would be a shame to lose track of them until the next time your mind gets thoroughly blown open.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Studying the movements of the planets is my main way of discerning the hidden currents of fate. I sometimes supplement my investigations by reading Tarot cards and the Chinese "Book of Changes," also known as the *I Ching*. To arrive at your horoscope this week, I used all of the above as well as the following forms of prognostication: catoptromancy, which is divination by gazing into a mirror underwater; cyclomancy, or divination by watching a wheel that's turning; geloscopy, divination by listening to random laughter; and margaritomancy, divination by observing bouncing pearls. Here's what I found, Gemini: You now have the power to discern previously unfathomable patterns in a puzzling mystery you've been monitoring. You also have the ability to correctly surmise the covert agendas of allies and adversaries alike. Maybe best of all, you can discover certain secrets you've been concealing from yourself.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "To be reborn is a constantly recurring human need," said drama critic Henry Hewes. I agree. We all need to periodically reinvent ourselves — to allow the old ways to die so that we can resurrect ourselves in unforeseen new forms. According to my analysis, Cancerian, your next scheduled rebirth is drawing near. For best results, don't cling to the past; don't imitate what has always worked before. Instead, have faith that surrendering to the future will bring you the exact transformation you need.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): My readers Paul and Sophie wrote to let me know they have patched together three Latin words to invent a term for a new concept: *vomfiabone*. They say it means "a curse that becomes a blessing." Here's an example of the phenomenon at work in their lives: While driving home from work together, they experienced car trouble and had to pull over to the shoulder of the road, where they called a tow truck. Later they discovered that this annoying delay prevented them from getting caught in the middle of an accident just up ahead. Extrapolating from the current astrological omens, I'm guessing that you will experience at least one *vomfiabone* in the coming week, Leo.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I bet that in the next five months you will be obliged to carry more responsibility than you have in the past. You will find it hard to get away with being lazy or careless. I suspect that during this time you will also have the privilege of wielding more influence. The effect you have on people will be more pronounced and enduring. In short, Virgo, your workload will be greater than usual — and so will your rewards. To the degree that you serve the greater

good, you will be a major player. As for next few weeks, you should concentrate on the work and service and responsibility part of this equation.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do you know what a "binky" is? It's what a rabbit does when it gets so crazily happy that it exuberantly leaps up into the air, stretching and twisting its body as it flicks and flops its feet. I'm not sure if lexicographers would allow us to apply this term to humans. But assuming they might, I'm going to predict that you'll soon be having some binky-inducing experiences. You're entering the Joy and Pleasure Season, Libra — a time when abundant levels of fun and well-being might be quite normal.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You know that area on your back that you can't quite reach if you want to scratch it? It's called your acnestis. I propose that we make it your featured metaphor of the week. Why? Because I suspect you will have to deal with a couple of itchy situations that are just beyond your ability to relieve. Yes, this may be frustrating in the short run. But it will ultimately make you even more resourceful than you already are. By this time next week, you will have figured out alternative solutions that you haven't even imagined yet.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "We need new friends," said essayist Logan Pearsall Smith. "Some of us are cannibals who have eaten their old friends up; others must have ever-renewed audiences before whom to re-enact an ideal version of their lives." Smith could have been talking about you Sagittarians in early 2013. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you need some fresh alliances. Their influence will activate certain potentials that you haven't been able to access or fully express with the help of your current circle.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A San Francisco writer named Maneesh Sethi decided he was wasting too much time on the Internet. His productivity was suffering. So he hired a woman to sit next to him as he worked and yell at him or slap his face every time his attention wandered off in the direction of Facebook or a funny video. It worked. He got a lot more done. While I would like to see you try some inventive approaches to pumping up your own efficiency, Capricorn, I don't necessarily endorse Sethi's rather gimmicky technique. Start brainstorming about some interesting yet practical new ways to enhance your self-discipline, please.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Ronnyjohnson618" is a guy who posts his opinions on a wide variety of Youtube videos. Many times, he claims to be an expert in the field he's commenting on. Responding to a live music performance, he says he's a conductor for an orchestra. Offering his opinion about a mimosa plant, he asserts that he is a botanist. Beneath other Youtube videos, he declares he is a meteorologist, chemist, psychologist, soldier, and geometry teacher. I love this guy's blithe swagger; I'm entertained by the brazen fun he's having. As you express yourself in the coming week, I recommend that you borrow some of his over-the-top audacity. Create a mythic persona. Imagine your life as an epic story. Play the part of a hero.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): The earliest performance artist on record was the ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes of Sinope. In one of his notorious stunts, he wandered around Athens with a lit lantern during the daytime, claiming to be looking for an authentic human being. I recommend that you undertake a similar search in the coming days, Pisces. You don't have to be as theatrical about it. In fact, it might be better to be quite discrete. But I think it's important for you to locate and interact with people who are living their lives to the fullest — devoted to their brightest dreams, committed to their highest values, and sworn to express their highest integrity.

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



# Lasagna mark, get set ...

## Food Fight team focuses on Italian favorite

By ALLANI ROSS

Well that didn't take long: Barely two weeks into the new year and already the folks making up this month's Food Fight team have reverted to our gluttonous selves. But with the title of Best Lasagna in Lansing at stake, could we really be expected to stick to our diets?

We visited six of Lansing's most high-profile Italian restaurants — and one that was rumored to have pretty good Italian fare — on a search that would make Garfield green with envy. Each restaurant was graded from 1 to 10 in five sections, with those scores averaged together to get an overall rating for the restaurant. Categories included cost per portion, meatiness (we're leaving veggie lasagna open for a future Food Fight), cheesiness and the consistency of the pasta.

Fun fact: this week's team included two research scientists who took this thing rather seriously. How serious? One of them signed the voting sheet "Dr. Lasagna."

### Falsetta's Casa Nova: 6.1 out of 10

It's not that we found the "unmemorable" lasagna at Falsetta's off-putting; it just left so much to be desired — most of our complaints were crimes of omission. Variations on "needs more cheese" and "needs some herbs" popped up several times. For \$9.99, it ranked in the middle of our value scale. On the positive side, a couple of judges enjoyed the sauce, which was one of the evening's thicker and "more viscous" consistencies. However, it was hard to argue with one of our reviewers, who said it tasted "like Chef Boy-R-Dee sauce — which isn't necessarily a bad thing." Still, when the highest compliment you can pay a dish is comparing it to a mass-produced canned product, maybe it's time for a little tweaking.

*Falsetta's Casa Nova, 138 S. Waverly Rd., Lansing, (517) 323-9181*

### Cugino's Italian Restaurant: 6.5 out of 10

To be fair, when five people come into a restaurant during the dinner rush and ask to share a single entrée, you're not exactly making your server's day. Still, hard feelings are no excuse for the 40 minutes we waited for our meal at Cugino's. Even with our hunger, however, this order still left us feeling empty. The "ricotta was clumped in one solid lump," the meat was "scarce" and the sauce was "rather bland." What that sauce lacked in flavor from the herbs we were looking for — such as basil, parsley or fennel — it more than made up for in garlic, which some of us found "excessive." And come on, we're talking lasagna here: when more than one person complains there's "not enough cheese," something's amiss. For \$11.65, you do get a heaping helping, but the "terrible" garlic bread really left a bad taste in our mouths. Literally.

*Cugino's Italian Restaurant, 306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, (517) 627-4048*

### Deluca's Restaurant and Pizzeria: 6.7 out of 10

We enjoyed the fact that our lasagna arrived "floating in sauce," but the number one complaint came from our collective inner carnivores: "where's the beef?" and "the meat is almost undetectable" were common laments. For \$9.50, you get a good portion, but the only cheese we could pick out was mozzarella, seriously costing Deluca's some points. Or perhaps mozzarella is their best foot forward. Remarkable one of the judges: "They've got pizzas figured out — now they need to perfect their lasagna."

*Deluca's Restaurant and Pizzeria, 2006 W. Willow St., Lansing (517) 487-6087*

### Pizza House: 7 out of 10

Now we're starting to get somewhere. Interestingly, the Pizza House lasagna includes both Italian sausage and pepperoni in the meat sauce, which "could have used some more seasoning — fennel, basil, any-



Navneet Kaur/City Pulse

The lasagna at Spagnuolo's in Okemos earned high marks from the Food Fight judges.

thing." Everyone enjoyed the "nice mix of cheeses" and the pasta, which "held up nicely" and "didn't turn to mush like some of the (evening's) other plates." Still, it was hard to justify that \$13.99 price, which we agreed was on the low end of the value spectrum. "Nothing on this plate justified this robbery," said one of the more bitter judges. But hey, if you like to hear terrible karaoke over some good Italian food, Pizza House seems to be the place to be.

*Pizza House, 4790 S. Hagadorn St., East Lansing, (517) 336-0033*

### Emil's: 7.9 out of 10

A couple years ago, City Pulse ruffled some feathers over at "Lansing's oldest (still operational) restaurant" with an unfavorable review. We were tempted to skip this one to avoid adding fuel to the fire, but thankfully we didn't — the lasagna at Emil's was the second best surprise of the evening. Although initially the appearance was "far from appetizing" (at first, it just looked like someone had filled a small baking boat with marinara sauce), Emil's offering was "much better than expected." The meat was "spicy" the dish was "loaded with stuff — good and dense" and the serving was "pleasantly cohesive." Rather than order a full meal (\$11.95), we opted for a side order (\$7.95), which, when considering you also get a choice of salad or soup, made for a decent value.

Emil's has been taking some ribbing lately, but they still put together a good plate of lasagna. So ... truce?

*Emil's, 2012 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 482-4430*

### Trowbridge Pizza & Pasta: 8.4 out of 10

If Emil's was the second best surprise, this one was the eye-popper. For starters, you get a whopper of a serving for a meager \$7.41 (including a big piece of above-average garlic bread), shattering all previous cost-per-portion ratings — of any Food Fight ever — with an impressive 9.9 average. "A great combo of meats," "solid blend of cheeses" and the lasagna noodles had a "pleasant ruffled texture" that led one of our reviewers to remark, "ribbed ... for my pleasure." The server also offered a service unique for the evening: "she pre-cut our slice — yay, no mess!" A little bit of service goes a long way. Bravo, Trowbridge Pizza.

*Trowbridge Pizza & Pasta, 970 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing, (517) 203-5140*

### Spagnuolo's: 8.7 out of 10

Long story short: Spagnuolo's knows lasagna. We all "loved the fresh parmesan on top," enjoyed the "chunkiest meat" sauce of the pack, which had "huge pieces of Italian sausage," and finally we saw some green (as

See Food Fight, Page 23



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# Food Fight

from page 22

in fresh herbs), including the “fresh chopped parsley (which) gave it some good zip.” Furthermore, the “al dente noodles held the layers together the best out of anyone.” It was only middle-of-the-road for value, however, at \$10.99, but it does come with both soup and salad, so there’s that. Dr. Lasagna did point out, however, that he felt “this was a metamorphic lasagna, but it should be sedimentary.” God only knows what he was rambling about.

*Spagnuolo’s, 662 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos, (517) 349-9605*

When we asked our Facebook followers who had the best lasagna in town, it was hard to argue with the folks who said that it’s a dish that tastes best when it’s home-made, with several claiming to have the best recipe. If you are one of those people, we humbly point you to the masthead of this paper for City Pulse’s street address so you know where to submit your entry; for everyone else, now you know what restaurants to patron.

And yes, this was all done in a single evening. Please don’t tell our cardiologists.

*If you’d like to weigh in with your own choices or rip any of ours to shreds, email us at [food@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:food@lansingcitypulse.com).*

# foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated each week based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail [food@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:food@lansingcitypulse.com).

**OLGA’S KITCHEN** — Greek and American food. 354 Frandor Ave., Lansing. 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Saturday; 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday. [olgas.com](http://olgas.com), OM, TO, \$–\$\$.

**OLYMPIC BROIL** — Burgers and fried food. 1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 485-8584. [olympicbroil.com](http://olympicbroil.com), TO, OM, \$.

**PANERA BREAD** — Coffee, soups, salads, bagels, and sandwiches. 310 N. Clippert St, Lansing. 5:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday; 6:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Sunday. [panerabread.com](http://panerabread.com), OM, TO, WiFi, \$–\$\$.

**PENN AVE. DINER** — Skillets and other breakfast items. 6031 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday–Saturday, Sunday

8 a.m.–2 p.m. (517) 272-0504. TO, \$–\$\$.

**PF CHANG’S** — Pan-Asian cuisine. 2425 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing Twp.. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday–Thursday; 11 a.m.–11:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday. (517) 267-3833. [pfchangs.com](http://pfchangs.com), OM, TO, RES, WiFi, \$\$–\$\$\$.

**RED CEDAR CAFE** — Soups, sandwiches, coffee and bakery. 1331 E.

Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 6:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Friday; 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday–Sunday. (517) 333-7366. [redcedar-cafe.com](http://redcedar-cafe.com). TO, WiFi, \$–\$\$.

**SOPHIA’S HOUSE OF PANCAKES** — Greek specialties as well as American meals. 1010 Charlevoix Dr., Grand Ledge. 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday; 7 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 627-3222. TO, WiFi, \$.

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## January Wine Tasting - Friday & Saturday

Jan. 25: 6:30-8:30 PM & Jan. 26: 6:30-8:30PM

Steve Okuly wine manager will take you through 12 wines from around the world, discussing tasting techniques and flavor profiles as well as wine pairings. Light appetizers will be served to accompany. Cost is \$20.



## Loring Wine Dinner

Jan. 31: 6:30-8:30 PM

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