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April 17-23, 2013

**A TAX BREAK
WON'T CHANGE**

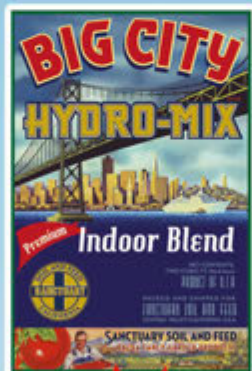
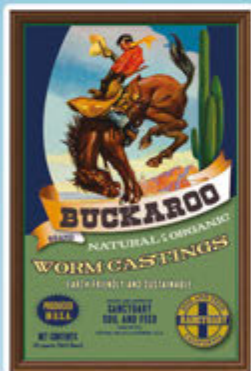
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**GM INVESTMENT WON'T IMPROVE EYESORE
AT GRAND RIVER PLANT - SEE PAGE 8**



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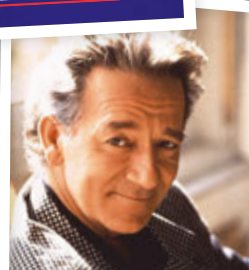
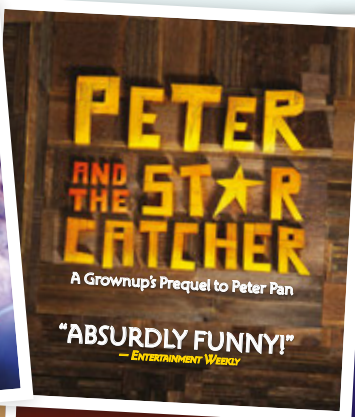
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Feedback

Ideas for city finances

Here we go again. The same people who got us into our troubles before are now getting paid big bucks to dig the hole deeper. Selling City Hall for ten cents on the dollar and then leasing it back for ten dollars on the dollar is ludicrous. The State did this with their new construction, paying over a billion dollars for \$200 million worth of buildings. Lansing is selling off assets dirt cheap to developers and squandering millions on useless pet projects before even telling us about them.

We also have Olds Park where the City finances huge deficits with creative accounting. Our golf courses were making money and could have made a lot more. We also have to pay for that new albatross, a power plant obsolete before it even draws a kilowatt and they shoved it down our throats without a vote. People & businesses are leaving Lansing in droves, all looking for better schools and city. The City continues to blow off anyone who has real ideas to improve the city, ideas that make improvements without lining the pockets of the good old boys who get rich at our expense but don't live here.

Remember the school bondoggle. A billion dollars for ONE new school. I submitted a plan that would have replaced 30 of 40 schools for \$700 million over 20 years and was blown off. Students are leaving in droves because there is no education here. I wrote a proposal to reform our schools, educationally and infrastructure and it was ignored by the very people who are taking our schools

down now. Our colleges are also failing.

Then, there is my energy plan which would have us driving hydrogen powered cars using a Proton Exchange Membrane with Carbon Absorption getting 5,000 miles on a fueling with zero emissions. It would create a million jobs here. I am also writing a series of 20 Economics Papers for Members of Congress.

And finally, let's not forget General Motors. They were getting into trouble in the late 1970's. Now, there are signs that the same thing is happening again. I figure GM could reduce its operating costs by about \$100 million here in Lansing but there is no interest.

As Lansing squanders our birthright buying shovels that will dig our holes deeper, I have given up trying to do anything as any words will fall on deaf ears.

— Eugene T. Buckley
Lansing

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.)

This week on lansingcitypulse.com ...

KIDS IN THE HALL, APRIL 16: It's round three of the City Council's budget hearings. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero wants the Lansing Police Department to reopen its contract; the union head says it ain't happening. This week, along with the LPD, the City Council discussed the Information Technology and Finance departments budgets.

'SHUT UP ALREADY,' APRIL 12: The only person who might not be sick of hearing former GOP State Rep. Dave Agema talk is probably Dave Agema. The Dems have found a way to capitalize on Agema's recent anti-gay tirade — t-shirts.

LANSING'S DECLINING PROPERTY VALUES, APRIL 12: Over the past five years, Lansing's declining property values have been on par with Detroit, which is not something to cheer about. The Ingham County treasurer says home values should start to rise in the coming years, but it won't be a speedy process for Lansing.

Check out these stories and more only at lansingcitypulse.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-1-2013, 5950 S. M.L. King Blvd.
Rezoning from "E-2" Local Shopping District to "F" Commercial District

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple St. (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider Z-1-2013. This is a request by Cars are Us, LLC to rezone the property at 5950 S. ML King Blvd, legally described as:

LOTS 10 & 11 WEBSTER FARM SUBDIVISION NO 1, CITY OF LANSING, MI

from "E-2" Local Shopping District to "F" Commercial District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit an automobile sales business on the subject property.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the Lansing Planning Office, Dept. of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.

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What's next for Whitmer? Checking in with City Pulse readers' favorite politician



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Wharton Center's classical and jazz lineup bring big names, big orchestras, top singers



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New food feature, The Dish, takes a look at the best macaroni and cheese in town

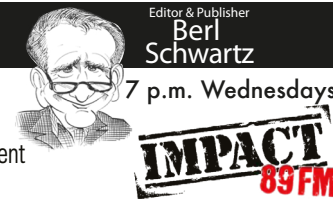


COVER
ART

FLAT FIELDS by RACHEL HARPER — PHOTOS by DYLAN SOWLE

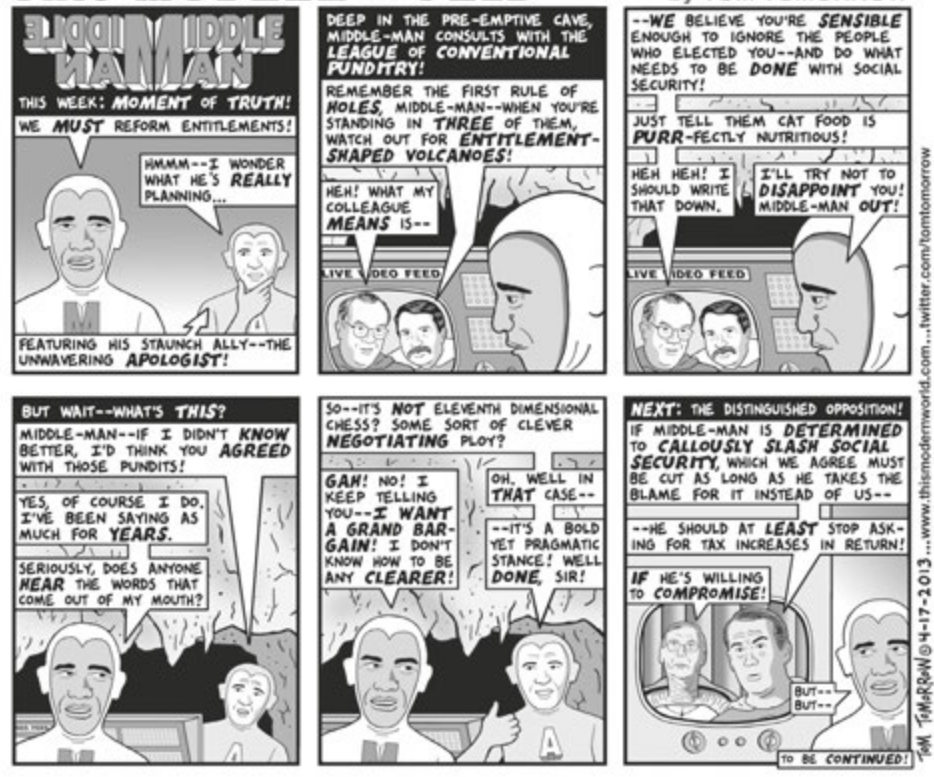
CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK
Andy Schor, state representative, 68th district
Sam Singh, state representative, 69th district
James Trosko, MSU professor of pediatrics and human development
Patricia Spitzley, deputy redevelopment manager of RACER Trust



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

The fix isn't in

The tepid response of Walnut Neighborhood residents to a proposed redo of Niowave Inc.'s pole barn has once again placed the company's request for a \$550,000 tax break on hold. Niowave says there's not enough money to budget for more changes.

Walnut Neighborhood residents see “major flaws” in a plan to fix the façade of their corporate neighbor's research facility because it does not go far enough in blending the building with its surroundings.

The rejection sets up another chapter in the dispute between the neighborhood and Niowave Inc. The company says there's not enough money budgeted for additional changes than what's been proposed.

The hesitation to the proposed façade changes — which were made public two weeks ago — also means Niowave's tax abatement request is again on hold with the Lansing City Council.

The Council was supposed to vote next week, but Bob Tresize, head of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said it's been delayed while he continues trying to find a compromise acceptable to Niowave and neighbors.

For the past week, Mary Elaine Kiener and Dale Schrader — two Walnut Neighborhood activists — have been collecting survey data from residents about their thoughts on the proposed changes. Kiener said they plan on compiling the data into a report and presenting the findings to the City Council.

The question is: “Are the proposed façade changes better than what is here now?”

“From the trending data, no one is saying: ‘Oh my gosh, this is perfect,’” Kiener said. “People are saying it's a step in right direction but it has some major flaws. So, we're not quite there yet.”

Niowave Chief Financial Officer Mark Sinila said Tuesday that the proposed façade changes are the best Niowave can offer right now.

“The changes that were proposed maxed out the allocated budget,” he said. “If we have funds down the road, if we can make alterations or improvements, I think we'd be up to negotiations — but not in today's world.”

It's been a heated battle between the Walnut Neighborhood Organization and Niowave Inc., a particle accelerator company, ever since the company erected a 14,000-square-foot pole barn in the

middle of the residential neighborhood in July. Neighbors have been pushing the company to “fix the façade” — with yard signs and through media attention — for over 10 months.

Earlier this month, residents were presented with a design from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership to address the façade issue. LEAP hired local architecture firm C2AE to draw up the designs after negotiations between Niowave and the neighbors became stuck.

Schrader and Kiener have concerns about the proposed changes to the roof. The plan that was presented to the neighborhood featured a green painted roof, but Tresize, president and CEO of LEAP, said Niowave has not agreed to that yet. Neighbors have said all along that the white steel roof is one of their biggest concerns, as it tends to create a glare that is a nuisance to nearby homeowners. Neighbors believe shingles would help remedy the glare.

Paint isn't even an

option for the roof at this point, Sinila said. If Niowave makes any changes to the roof, the 25-year warranty on the building would be void, he said.

Tresize said he hoped to have negotiations finalized by the end of the week. However, on Tuesday, he said negotiations would take more time. He couldn't say when an agreement would be reached or when the six-year, \$550,000 personal property tax exemption would be brought back before the City Council.

Along with the roof issues, Schrader and Kiener believe the fake windows the plan calls for won't look right if they're simply tacked onto the painted metal siding. They'd prefer to have the windows installed into siding like regular windows.

Schrader and Kiener are worried that the proposed façade fix may look all right on paper, but it won't make the building blend in with the neighborhood at all.

The proposal that Niowave agreed to includes covering the two lower halves of the south and east sides of the building — which face the street — with brick; fake windows on the upper portion of the

siding; and painting the building to look more like Niowave's headquarters in the adjacent Walnut Street school. The company would pay \$100,000 for the façade improvements.

The proposal also includes \$100,000 worth of landscaping and parking lot improvements, which would be paid for with money from the city's Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund.

The tax break is the linchpin of the controversy. The Council has continually tabled it in committee until the company and neighbors reach an agreement.

Most Council members have remained mum on how they plan to vote when it comes time. Councilwoman Jody Washington said she has an idea of how she'll vote, but she wasn't willing to share. Most of the other members either refused to comment or said they were waiting to hear more from the neighbors.

However, Council President Carol Wood said she is leaning against it.

“If I'm judging on what I know today, my vote would be no,” she said. “(The proposal) doesn't meet what the neighborhood was looking for when they were talking about making a difference as far as the aesthetics. (The proposed changes) may look fine if you're driving by, but if you live there, it's a different story.”

One of Wood's concerns is using the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund money to pay for landscape and parking lot improvements. The fund is paid for by capturing taxes from developers on brownfield projects and is used on other eligible Brownfield project improvements.

“The developers that paid into that ... they didn't create this mess,” Wood said. “Niowave put this in the neighborhood without consideration of how it would affect the neighbors. I believe it should be the responsibility of Niowave to take care of it.”

Karl Dorshimer, director of economic development at LEAP, said the money could be used on landscaping because the old Walnut Street School property is a brownfield site, which includes contaminated, functionally obsolete or blighted properties.

“It fits the circumstance,” Dorshimer said. “We can't do things like modification to the building but we can do things like landscaping, site prep and dirt work.”

— Sam Ingot



Property: 605 Butterfield Drive, East Lansing
Owner: James Secor
Assessed value: \$155,600

East Lansing's residential neighborhoods are fairly traditional when it comes to architectural styles, a good mixture of Tudors, Colonials, Side-Halls, Craftsmans and Cape Cods, to name a few. Every once in a while, the block is punctuated by something unexpected, like 605 Butterfield Drive.

A cool cube designed by James G. Hays III, the Hays House's smooth exterior and glass block is a contrast to its neighbors. East Lansing's own Villa Savoye is devoid of ornamentation, plain and white.

A construct of the 20th century, this international style is not everybody's cup of tea. The style was a rejection of conventional architecture. It is, in a word, unfussy. It has its place in the canon of American architecture and is fantastic for displaying a modernist art collection.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

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

What's next for Whitmer?

Checking in with City Pulse readers' favorite politician: Grateful to serve and unsure of the future

About 13 years ago, 28-year-old Gretchen Whitmer knocked her first door in East Lansing and Meridian Township as a candidate for the 69th state House district.

The eager first-time candidate had a law degree. She had a couple of years' experience as an attorney. She served on the staff of former House Speaker Curtis Hertel, Sr., father of Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel, Jr.

Whitmer enjoyed some name ID as an East Lansing native and daughter of Blue Cross Blue Shield CEO Dick Whitmer.

Still, she was an unknown political quantity running against who was seen as the heir apparent to term-limited Rep. Laura Baird — Mary Lindemann, then-wife of popular Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann. Whitmer was not deterred.

"At the time, I looked at who else was running and I said, 'You know, I could do as good of a job as any of them, maybe better than some,'" she remembered.

The remark wasn't a personal slight to her

spokesman, Bob McCann, who happened to be a fresh-out-of-college candidate that year.

"I just wanted to do it once," McCann said.

Enough voters liked what Whitmer had to offer: 281 to be exact. She won the Democratic nomination and, ultimately, a seat in the state House of Representatives. The win proved a political springboard for Whitmer, who this month was named by City Pulse readers as the area's Best Politician as part of the Top of the Town contest.

"I'm grateful for it," Whitmer said of the recognition. "I find my name on lists, but when it's my constituents, I'm grateful for it."

Whitmer is the first Lansing-area elected leader not named Virg Bernero to win the award. And it comes after the mother of two has found herself embroiled in numerous hot issues.

The Senate Democratic caucus leader has become the go-to Democrat for public responses to Republican policy initiatives.

When it appeared the Republican-led House and Senate were playing political football with anti-bullying legislation, Whitmer blew the whistle. Her passionate Senate floor speech in which she called out Republicans went national and helped shame legislative leaders into passing a more complete bill.

When then-Rep. Barb Byrum, D-Onondaga, and another female House member were banned from speaking on the House floor for a day for using the words "vagina" and "vasectomy" in debate, Whitmer

rolled out the red carpet for a public performance of the play "Vagina Monologues" on the Capitol steps.

When questions arose about House Speaker Jase Bolger's role in the party-switching fiasco last summer, Whitmer joined with then-Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer in a one-person grand jury request. The inquiry by Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina is ongoing.

When Republicans brought the Right to Work debate to the Capitol in December, Whitmer was among the vocal leaders speaking out about the Michigan State Police's decision to close the Capitol to new visitors due to security concerns.

All the while, Whitmer was asked for months about her interest in being the Democrats' gubernatorial nominee in 2014. She turned down the request.

Being elevated to the statewide and national scale, Whitmer said she fears, at times, her constituents may feel she is spending too much time on the road trying to promote the Democrats' vision.

"I've got a lot more responsibility on my shoulders, but I'll never forget where I come from," she said. "When I'm at Meijer in the produce aisle, invariably a couple people will start talking to me about the substance of bills in front of us or their frustrations in navigating state government."

It's this latter part of her work — talking with individuals in the community —

that Whitmer says she finds the most enjoyable. It's the part she'll miss the most when she's termed out of the Legislature at the end of 2014.

Whitmer says she isn't sure where she'll end up after her term ends. She's mentioned as a

potential challenger to Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette. In 2010, Whitmer was mentioned as an AG candidate, too.

At the time, she declined a run, noting the young ages of her daughters. What has changed four years later?

"They're four years older," she said. "The things they are juggling are even that much more complex. At this juncture, I'm not prepared to throw my hat in any race."

"If there is an elected office in my future, it's something I'm going to have to think long and hard on before I even consider throwing my hat in."

If this ends up being it for Whitmer as a public servant, she said she's been grateful to serve.

"I've found it very rewarding and a great opportunity. I encourage everyone to think about it."



Whitmer

— Kyle Melinn

We're On A Mission.

Komen Mid-Michigan is pleased to announce that due to the generosity of sponsors, event participants, and donors like you, community grants totaling over **\$280,000** have been awarded for 2013-14, making a significant impact in the lives of Mid-Michigan women.

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- **MSU Department of Surgery** - diagnostic services to women under 40 with breast health concerns.
- **St. Joseph Mercy Hospital** – screening mammograms for uninsured women.
- **Allen Neighborhood Center Breast Health Club** – breast health education and linking women with a medical home.
- **Grass Lake Sanctuary** – Spiritual retreats for breast cancer survivors.
- **YMCA** – Turning Point breast cancer survivor programs.
- **The Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor** – yoga and nutrition classes for breast cancer survivors.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from one of these programs, please contact Komen Mid-Michigan for more information.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Ingham County seeks bids for the purpose of furnishing propane to the Eastern Garage in Williamston for the Dept. of Transportation & Roads. Info on-line at: <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #44-13. Send inquiries to jhudgetts@ingham.org. Bids due 4/22 at 11AM.

CITY OF EAST LANSING
ORDINANCE NO. 1295

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 8-101 OF DIVISION 3 - FEES AND BONDS GENERALLY - OF ARTICLE II - LICENSES AND FEES GENERALLY - OF CHAPTER 8 - BUSINESSES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO REQUIRE LICENSE APPLICATION FEES FOR A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 8-101 of Division 3 of Article II of Chapter 8 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8-101. - Schedule established.

The fee required to be paid and the amount of any bond required to be posted to obtain any license to engage in the operation, conduct, or carrying on of any trade, profession, business, or privilege for which a license is required by the provisions of this Code shall be established by the annual budget resolution of the city council. No license shall be issued to any applicant, including an application resulting from a change of ownership, unless he/she first pays to the issuing officer the fee and posts a bond in the amount required for the type of license desired.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-2-2013, 3600 Simkin Drive
Rezoning from "CUP" Community Unit Plan to "A" Residential
SLU-2-2013, Special Land Use Permit – Residential Care Facility

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple St. (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider Z-2-2013 & SLU-2-2013. These are requests by Wayne Magee on behalf Patricia & Tim Holland to rezone the property at 3600 Simkin, legally described as:

LOT 8 SIMKEN VILLAGE NO 2, CITY OF LANSING, MI

from "CUP" Community Unit Plan to "A" Residential District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit a residential care facility that would provide care for up to 16 adults on the subject property. Residential care facilities are permitted in the "A" Residential, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the Lansing Planning Office, Dept. of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1299, a request from 724 & 726 Albert, LLC, to rezone the property at 724/726 Albert Avenue, from R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential, to RM-32, City Center Multiple Family Residential. The combined property is approximately 0.09 acres.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Attarid Shakir for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 908 South Harrison Road. The applicant is proposing a group day care home in the existing house on the property. The property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multiple Family Residential District.

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

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

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2. No purchase or transaction necessary to enter or to win. See official rules at the PNC Bank Lake Lansing Road Branch.
3. New Performance, Performance Select Checking Account, or a Virtual Wallet with Performance Spend must be opened between 4/1/13 and 5/31/13. To qualify for a \$50 direct deposit reward, a qualifying direct deposit must be received within 60 days of account opening. To qualify for a \$50 Check Card reward, a PNC Bank Visa® Check Card must be issued to you and at least 10 purchases made with your Check Card must post to your new checking account within 60 days of account opening. To qualify for a \$50 Bill Pay reward, a minimum of 5 payments must be completed via PNC Online Bill Pay, within 60 days of account opening. Your checking account must remain open in order for you to receive any or all of the rewards, which will be credited to the eligible account within 60 days after all conditions have been met and will be identified as "Cash Trans Promo Reward" on your monthly statement. A qualifying Direct Deposit is defined as a recurring Direct Deposit of a paycheck, pension, Social Security or other regular monthly income electronically deposited into a Performance or Performance Select Checking Account, or the Spend Account of a Virtual Wallet with Performance Spend. The total amount of all qualifying direct deposits credited to your checking account must be at least \$750. The Direct Deposit must be made by an employer or an outside agency. Transfers from one account to another, or deposits made at a branch or ATM, do not qualify as Direct Deposits. New account will not be eligible for offer if any signer has signing authority on an existing PNC Bank consumer checking account or has closed an account within the past 90 days. For this offer signing authority will be defined by the customer name(s) and social security number(s) registered on the account. PNC Bank customers with an existing consumer checking account are not eligible for this offer. In the event that we determine in our sole discretion that your account does not meet the eligibility criteria or the activity on your account does not qualify as a Qualifying Direct Deposit, we will not be obligated to credit your account with the payout.
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Photo by Dylan Sowle, Illustration by Rachel Harper/City Pulse

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

Outside Corina Slaughter's front door, beyond a 10-foot-high wooden fence across the street, is a lifeless stretch of concrete extending past Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, appearing to become one with the Grand River.

It's a massive reminder of good manufacturing years gone by. And it'll stay that way for the foreseeable future, despite the property owner's potential \$38 million investment into the property.

General Motors has a history in this city that binds politics and capitalism. A significant employer. A major contributor of tax revenue. And a beneficiary — GM officials would call it a "partner" — of millions in tax breaks from the city. After going through Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009 and receiving billions of dollars in government loans, the new GM's presence in Lansing is physically smaller. Four former GM properties totaling 260 acres in the area are owned by a trust looking to clean them of groundwater contamination and market them for reuse. They were liquidated as part of the bankruptcy.

But at the 111-acre site of the Grand River Assembly Plant just south of downtown — where thousands of Cadillacs are made — the company may spend \$38 million on a new 400,000-square-foot "logistics optimization center" on the southeast portion of the property. GM has asked the Lansing City Council for a 12-year tax abatement worth \$4 million.

The company has no plans for the western part of the property, the vacant parking lots outside Slaughter's front door — an expanse of broken, uneven concrete, some of which is closed off by chain-link or deteriorating fences.

"It looks pretty ghetto," said Slaughter, who's lived at her Middle Street house for six years. She remembers when the lots were full of cars. "It's a lot of wasted space."

What can you envision there? "Anything. A park? A shel-

ter for the homeless? Why not donate a portion of it?"

Slaughter was surprised to learn that GM is expanding. She figured the company was struggling, which might be easy to surmise from her front lawn.

Is it fair then, to ask why the company is — at this point — not investing in cleaning up a massive eyesore while seeking a \$4 million tax break over 12 years? And should the City Council consider using the abatement as leverage to get some aesthetic improvements?

The Bernero administration, local economic development officials and City Council members are lining up behind the plan and the tax abatement because of GM's promise to bring 150 jobs into the city, as well as new income and property tax revenue. You might argue a majority of Lansing residents would do the same.

But some are not so willing to bend over backwards for a company that also has a history of environmental pollution and which has received tens of millions of dollars worth of

But why can't we ask more of GM — like brainstorming a plan to repurpose dozens of acres at a prominent intersection of the city? Is it so bad to ask for a favor while the company does the same?

THE PLAN

The Lansing City Council held a public hearing Monday night on GM's request for a 12-year, \$4 million Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate. The Council is told that GM is planning to bring in 150 new jobs and \$1.7 million worth of new property and income tax revenue. The request was referred to the Development and Planning Committee and could be up for a final Council vote Monday, committee Chairman Brian Jeffries said.

The company is unsure whether it would go ahead with the expansion if the Council votes against the tax abatement. The building would be used for warehousing and sequencing, which reportedly can save time for assembly line workers.

John Blanchard, director of local government relations for GM, told the Council Monday the new facility would "fund key manufacturing needs going forward. It's the latest example of how GM is doing business differently.

"This plant and location is a prime example of the strong partnership we view between GM, the UAW and

the city of Lansing." His comments drew a brief round of applause from the audience, a rare occurrence at meetings for comments not bashing the Bernero administration.

The company is seeking a similar tax exemption in Milford Township, where it's reportedly looking to build a new \$258 million IT facility. However, the township board there reduced the initial length of the abatement request from 15 years to 12 years, asked for assurance that GM would

"I think it's an interesting tool to have a legal agreement that gives neighborhoods what they need and deserve in investment beyond just jobs. I don't know yet what the climate or wishes of residents of Lansing are — how much more are they willing to ask for from companies or are the jobs companies bring enough?"

JESSICA YORKO, LANSING CITY COUNCILWOMAN

tax abatements from Lansing in the past two decades. Some wonder how they can leverage GM's abatements for property improvements. We saw it in 2002 when the company, backed by major politicians and business leaders in the city, stood up against environmentalists who'd hoped GM would compromise on air pollution standards. The notion of such bargaining made those politicians sour who rarely looked past the almighty jobs promises. As former Lansing City Councilwoman Ellen Beal told a City Pulse reporter at the time: "In this town you're either for GM, or a Communist."

GM

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give preference to hiring local workers, and asked the company to upgrade all of its exterior lighting by 2022. Negotiations are ongoing. But Blanchard said last week that the lighting requirement would be a “non-starter from our perspective,” according to a local Gannett publication there.

On Monday, Blanchard said he’s unsure whether the Lansing expansion will happen if GM doesn’t receive the tax abatement. As for not having plans for the rest of the property, a GM spokeswoman said some of the space was needed for parking last year.

“We will probably use it again in the future,” said Erin Davis, the Grand River plant communications manager. “We’re still in the rebuilding phase of getting things going and becoming a profitable company.”

Davis and Blanchard referenced ramped-up production at the plant, like adding Cadillac production in October 2010 that brought 650 jobs to the plant and plans to make the next generation Camaro and new Cadillac models there.

“A lot of those things are going on. That’s where our focus currently lies,” Davis said.

In the case of the Camaro, production is moving from Oshawa, Ontario, which angered union officials there — Lansing’s gain is Oshawa’s loss.

Jeffries said the new building would be built on the south end of the property near the river behind the plant.

It’s his understanding that repurposing the vacant lots on the site — “If they were to green up the area” — would cause the company to immediately address environmental contamination issues, which could be expensive. “I suspect that’s why they haven’t done anything. The good news is they keep adding to that site.”

Jeffries said he’s had “a lot of questions and concerns” from nearby neighbors about

the appearance of the property. He said it’s a concern of his as well. “I do have concerns about that and would like it to be cleaned up. It’s a major entrance to the city.”

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, praised GM for this “very significant development for the overall GM campus, if you want to look at it that way.”

That GM didn’t shed the vacant lots during the bankruptcy proceedings says to Trezise “they’re interested” in increasing production into the future. “I love an open space like that. It says to me: future jobs.”

“I think we take issues one step at a time,” he said of repurposing the vacant lots. “We are extremely pleased to be working with GM. We’re unconcerned about the parking lots.”

A New York Times report in December showed that GM has received at least \$1.7 billion in local tax incentives on properties

See GM, Page 9



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

General Motors is considering spending \$38 million on a new facility at its Grand River Plant site just south of Interstate 496 in Lansing. It’s requesting a 12-year, \$4 million tax abatement from the city. The company, as part of the expansion, has no plans to improve the crumbling, vacant parking lots on the west side of the property.

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GM

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throughout the country over the past five years. Nearly \$800 million of that came from Michigan alone in 2009 — “just a month after the company received a \$50 billion federal bailout and decided to close seven plants in Michigan,” the story says. The report also found that at least 50 properties that were liquidated as part of the bankruptcy proceedings were in places throughout the country that had given GM tax incentives.

Under the old GM, the company received a \$21 million tax abatement in 1996 in Lansing. Three City Council members at the time tried to use the tax break as leverage for a commitment from GM to fix odor and air pollution problems in the Westside neighborhood. The company threatened to leave without the abatement. The Council voted 5-3 against making the abatement contingent on fixing the air pollution.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Grand River site, like other former GM sites in Lansing, is plagued with groundwater contamination. The state Department of Environmental Quality's Part 201 list shows lead and zinc is found in groundwater onsite and that an “interim response” is in progress.

The company is putting together a “vol-

untary corrective action agreement” to clean up contamination onsite, which is overseen by the DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A prior agreement was in place, but that was halted during the bankruptcy. As the company puts together a plan, it will determine the extent of contamination on the 111 acres.

Thomas Simpson, of the DEQ's Leaking Underground Storage Tank division, said there are still more than a dozen underground tanks there leaking mostly gasoline. While GM does quarterly groundwater sampling and has a “pump recovery control system” to keep contaminated water from going into the Grand River, “there is still some substantial risk still remaining,” like leaking to surface water, wetlands, drinking water wells or the city's water supply, Simpson said. The controls “keep it contained on site, but it's a big site.”

Bob Byrnes, a DEQ air quality inspector for the site, said the department hasn't received complaints about odor after the company stopped using some solvents a year ago in its paint shop at the plant. He said based on the proposed expansion plans, “I wouldn't anticipate any environmental impacts increasing.”

It's unclear whether the vast areas of concrete cause surface water runoff pollution into the Grand River. A groundwater inspector with the DEQ wasn't familiar with any particular issues, “not anymore than any other impervious surface. If you have a hard surface, you're going to have runoff from it.”



Courtesy Photo

This wooden fence partially blocks the view of the west side of GM's Grand River Assembly Plant site from Corina Slaughter's front yard. “It looks pretty ghetto,” she said of GM's property.

The Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council said in a statement for this story: “Mid-MEAC is happy to see an industrial site reused rather than allowed to go to waste. We would strongly recommend that the City of Lansing require the removal of much of the impervious surface and place requirements that would ensure that no pollution is getting into the Grand River at the site from the former parking lots and buildings.”

MIXED EMOTIONS AND LEVERAGE

James Cheeks, who lives around the corner from Slaughter, has no problems with the company — except for an “obnoxious” smell over the past four summers from the site. It would wake up Cheeks, who has lived near the Grand River Assembly plant for all 56 years of his life, and his roommate at night.

“Other than that I have no issues with them,” he said.

Across the Grand River along the more affluent Moores River Drive, resident Larry Lee can see the vacant parking lots. He's lived there since 1999.

“There's a lot of things I wish GM would do. But since it's been so industrialized, I'm not sure what you do with it. When I go by, it certainly is not the best use for a river site. But in the scale of eyesores, it's not the worst I've seen.” According to his own “revisionist history,” it would have been nice to take advantage of the river lot, he said, with green space along the banks and residential behind.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Jessica Yorko, whose ward includes the area around the site, said she “most likely” will support the tax abatement request. She acknowledged the site is “definitely not good the way it is. It's not attractive, and environmentally having all of that surface parking next to the river is not a good thing. But it's really promising and encouraging General Motors wants to go ahead and add a new operation there.”

She mentioned GM's LEED-certified facility in Delta Township, which has been heralded for its environmentally conscious design. “I would like to see that level of in-

vestment in what I would call the curb appeal and environmental protection at the Grand River site.”

But as for using the tax abatement as leverage for seeing such improvements, Yorko said she wants to hear more from what residents want.

“I think it's an interesting tool to have a legal agreement that gives neighborhoods what they need and deserve in investment beyond just jobs. I don't know yet what the climate or wishes of residents of Lansing are — how much more are they willing to ask for from companies or are the jobs companies bring enough?”

At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood will also “probably” support the abatement, based on what she said was the company's fulfilling of past promises on jobs. “I look at them as a good corporate partner in this whole process.”

But she, too, said, “It's important they clean up that property,” referring to the vacant parking lots. “It might be their back door, but it's someone else's front door. It's important that be taken care of.”

First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington says she'll vote for the abatement because the expansion will bring “good union jobs.” And while “we probably should address some of their cleanup places” — like the lots surrounding MLK — “I'm not going to stop this because of that. I'm not one to tie-bar ... the lot and this exemption. I will look at them separately.”

Brad Vauter, a Westside Neighborhood resident, spoke against the tax abatement Monday night during the Council meeting. “I don't think it is the better part of wisdom for this Council or councils across the state to play this corporate Kwame Kilpatrick pay-to-play game GM is bringing to us tonight. I know the mayor and others have said we want to welcome GM as good neighbors. I want to welcome neighbors who are willing to help out.”


Two other speakers echoed Vauter's notion of “corporate welfare.”


When asked to respond to those comments, Blanchard, GM's director of local government relations, declined. Then added: “We definitely disagree.”

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Uvulas, Yuri, Yo-Yo and you

Wharton Center's classical and jazz lineup bring big names, big orchestras, top singers

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

There aren't a lot of classical and jazz dates on the Wharton Center's 2013-14 schedule, but what's there is "cherce," as Tracy once said of Hepburn.

Marquee names like Russia's St. Petersburg Philharmonic, star cellist Yo-Yo Ma and top-selling jazz singer Diana Krall head the lineup for 2013-14, announced Monday night.

After years of maneuvering by Wharton Center director Michael Brand and his staff, the St. Petersburg orchestra, one of the world's mightiest, with its maestro for 25 years, Yuri Temirkanov, will come to the Wharton Center for the first time next year on Feb. 24.

To double the musical attack from the Baltic Sea bloc, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra will appear at Wharton this Nov. 8.

Both orchestras and Yo-Yo Ma have the same agent, and the dates all worked for everybody, so the stars lined up for a package deal, Brand said. The Vienna Boys Choir, with "Christmas in Vienna" Dec. 3, made the package a "four-fer."

The Estonians will bring a familiar figure on the podium — music director Neeme Järvi, maestro of the Detroit Symphony for 15 years. Järvi was born in Estonia, started his career here, and returned in 2010, bringing his musical life full circle.

Brand wanted both orchestras to play music they, and they alone, can really rock. The Estonians will play stormy Baltic Sea stuff, including Jean Sibelius' Fifth symphony and an overture by Veljo Tormis. The St. Petersburg unit came through with Rachmaninoff's huge Symphony No. 2 and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. One local man who knows a thing or two about orchestras, Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt, is pretty jazzed about that.

"The real excitement is the chemistry of a Russian conductor, Russian repertoire and an orchestra that is from the heart of the culture," Muffitt said. "Russian music tends to be high-octane, and the orchestras play it that way."

Brand wanted the St. Petersburg orchestra to do an all-Russian program, with Temirkanov on the podium, not an assistant conductor, and waited a long time to get what he wanted.

"I'm tired of hiring great European symphonies, top philharmonics, have them come here and do Brahms symphonies," Brand said. "If they come over here, they gotta play big Russian works."

It didn't hurt that MSU alumnus Edward Minskoff, a Manhattan real estate tycoon and major donor to MSU's Broad Art Museum, pals around with Temirkanov. Brand hopes Temirkanov will also do a conducting master class at MSU while he's here.

"Yuri and this donor [Minskoff] love certain vodkas, so I'm sure we'll make that work," Brand said.

On the gentler side, Yo-Yo Ma, often called the world's greatest cellist and arguably the planet's most famous classical musician, will do a recital with pianist Kathryn Stott on Nov. 18. Ma

and Stott have worked together for more than 30 years.

Ma was last at Wharton in 2001, when he turned largely from recitals to crossover projects like his Silk Road Ensemble. Brand said it's very hard to pin him down.

"I've been asking for [opera star] Renee Fleming and Yo-Yo since I came here," Brand said. "It finally worked with Renee, and now it worked for Yo-Yo."

With stature to burn in the classical world, Ma has ventured into duets with people as diverse as Sting, bassist Edgar Meyer and amateur pianist Condoleezza Rice. In 2005, Timothy Muffitt teamed with Ma for a performance of the Dvorak Cello Concerto with the Baton Rouge Symphony.

"I was amazed," Muffitt said. "How many times has this guy played the Dvorak concerto? But he knows the audience and knows how to make it fresh. In many cases, he's reaching them for the first time, and he wants it to be a great experience." Ma's repertoire is pan-galactic in scope, so his recital with Stott will cover a lot of ground, from Stravinsky to Brahms to Piazzolla.

If Wharton's jazz lineup of 2013-14 were a menu item, it would be a singer sandwich, with extra singer. While Rodney Whitaker's Jazz Department at MSU holds the fort for instru-

mental jazz, with a new guest artist series kicking off next year, Wharton seems to be turning to jazz artists with broad crossover appeal.

The two mainstays next season are sultry vocal star Diana Krall, one of the top selling artists in jazz history, and Cyrille Aimée, a smoky-voiced 26-year-old singer from France who specializes in Gypsy-ish, Django Reinhardt-style jazz. Neither of them are musical lightweights. Both combine solid cred among jazz musicians with the ability to easily seduce non-jazz fans (well established, in Krall's case; spreading fast in Aimée's). Krall's slinky dominatrix rubdown of the old standard "Peel Me a Grape" has become a radio mainstay. Eight of her records have debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard jazz charts, and she comes to Wharton Sept. 28 on the heels of the latest, "Glad Rag Doll."

"That's a big one," Brand said of Krall. "We were lucky to anchor a date for her early."

Aimée will perform at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival this June and return to sing at Wharton April 24. True to her distinctive gypsy style, Aimée will sing with an unusual backing combo of bass, drums and four guitars.

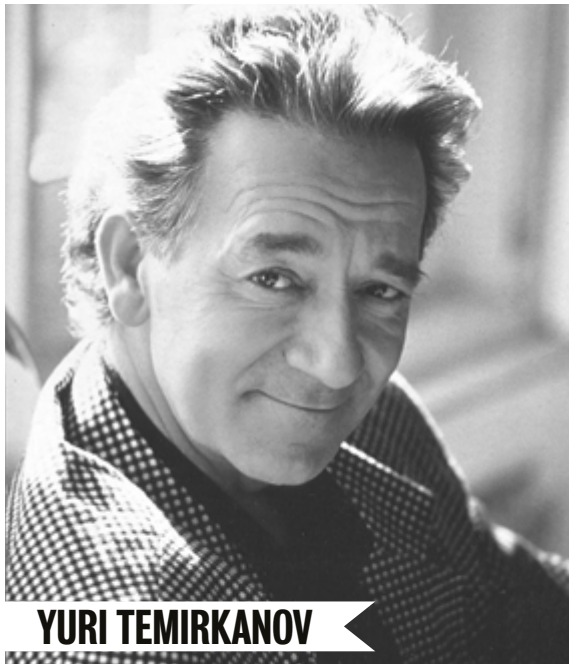
Another top jazz vocalist, Karrin Allyson, will appear with an all-star lineup March 27 for a Wharton stop on the Newport Jazz Festival's 60th anniversary tour, led by Israeli reed sensation Anat Cohen. Allyson and Cohen are conspicuously commanding female artists in a male-dominated jazzscape, but the boys in the band are stars in their own right as well: trumpeter Randy Brecker, guitarist Mark Whitfield, pianist Peter Martin, drummer Clarence Penn and bassist Larry Grenadier.

Unlike classical and jazz music, marquee names are absent from the roster of dance are coming to the Wharton for 2013-14, but a strong mix of local innovators and plucky visitors will

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Wharton

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keep dance lovers interested. More Russians are coming Jan. 9, as the Moscow Festival Ballet, an independent company formed by Bolshoi Ballet principal Sergei Radchenko in 1989 and featuring dancers from the Kirov and Bolshoi, performs “The Sleeping Beauty.” The date is also noteworthy because it’s getting rarer for visiting companies to present complete works rather than a grab bag of selections.

The ever-popular contortions of Pilo-bolus round out Wharton’s dance slate April 8. As far as big names in ballet are concerned, Brand said he is working on a deal to get the Joffrey Ballet for 2014-15.

Wharton’s upcoming Broadway season mixes hits and classics

The Wharton Center’s 2013-’14 Broadway season was also announced on Monday. The lineup includes an irreverent hit musical that Wharton is getting on the first leg of its touring production, three movie-to-stage adaptations (including a smash Disney favorite) and a grown-up — but not “adult” — take on the Peter Pan story. Oh yeah, and a show commonly called the Great American Opera as well as the jukebox musical that launched the whole singing-along-with-radio-songs

fad 14 years ago. Talk about diversity.

The big coup is Wharton’s ability to snag “The Book of Mormon,” which won nine Tonys in 2011, including Best Musical. From the controversy-courting team behind “South Park” and “Avenue Q,” this is the first national tour for the religious spoof. It arrives next June for an eight-performance run.

This fall sees the arrival of both “Flashdance: the Musical” (Oct. 8-13) and “Ghost: the Musical” (Dec. 10-15) The former, which includes several songs from the movie, seems to lend itself naturally to the stage musical adaptation; the latter is a curious choice — but with Eurythmics musician Dave Stewart and songwriter Glen Ballard, who co-wrote some of Michael Jackson’s and Alanis Morissette’s biggest hits, the pieces are in place for a solid show. Wedged in between for a three-night show is “Mamma Mia!” (Nov. 15-17).

In late January, “Peter and the Star Catcher” soars across the Wharton stage. The musical play is an adaptation of humorist Dave Barry’s children’s book, which is a pseudo-prequel to “Peter Pan.” And with a built-in, international, all-ages audience, “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,” based on the 1991 animated feature, is sure to be a weeklong sell-out.

Finally, “The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess,” last year’s Tony winner for Best Revival of a Musical, arrives March 18-23. The opera, with music and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin, features the memorable songs “Summertime” and “It Ain’t Necessarily So.”



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Courtesy Photo
MSU Master of Fine Arts graduate Ryan Groendyk's doubly modified Mercedes runs on biodiesel and has no logos. The artist plans to drive it to Missouri at the end of the month.

Ditch the limo, Jeeves

MFA student show revs up the buzz at MSU's Broad Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A tricked-out 1973 Mercedes, hand-detailed with wicked silver worms and refitted to run on restaurant grease, was parked outside the Broad Art Museum last week. In the sculpture garden.

Move your limo out of the way, Mr. Broad, the kids are here.

For the first time at Michigan State University's ultra-sleek new art museum, five artists from the Master of Fine Arts program parked their diverse creations, from a serpentine painting to a bed made out of wooden crutches, inside (and outside) the building last week. Over 100 well-wishers and curious art lovers showed up at a reception Friday to inspect the results.

This was no pro forma nod to MSU's art and design school.

"We are a teaching museum," curator Alison Gass declared at the reception. Instead of relegating the students to an obscure side gallery, she let them run rampant in several conspicuous spots, including that prime "parking" place at the east entrance.

One painting, "The Business of Decentralization," snaked up a gallery wall, dangled from the ceiling and snuck along the floor to the emergency exit. Visitors turned their

necks in all directions as they kept finding more of Stephen Stradley's tight ribbon of color and texture. Stradley called his art "site-reactive," and he had quite a site to react to.

"This museum is a treasure for Lansing, and to be a part of the inaugural year is nothing but a privilege," Stradley said.

At the reception, Gass handed Stradley the Broad's first MFA Prize, a \$5,000 scholarship.

Far from being overawed by the privilege, Stradley had no problem messing inventively with the room. (Gass said Stradley works "in the space between painting and architecture.") His biggest work, a field of open colors with a prism-like focal point, is walled

Gallery talks

Ryan Groendyk,
Deborah Alma Wheeler,
Rebekah Zurenko
3 p.m. April 23
Broad Art Museum, MSU
campus, East Lansing

off with a special partition, so the viewer is forced to walk along the painting instead of taking it in as a glance. The partition itself has an embedded, 3-D

sculpture-thinglet that subdivides the space even finer.

"The work is a screen, an object, and an activator of space," Stradley explained.

Meanwhile, the downstairs lobby is dominated by Deborah Alma Wheeler's compelling "Family Bed," a full-size bed made entirely of wooden crutches. Zurenko takes found objects and appropriates them to her own "beautiful and disturbing" ends, in Gass' words. The speculation over the crutch bed Friday was juicy.

"There's no end of sexual connotations to this," a man told his friend, who didn't look

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MFA Show

from page 14

eager to hear them all.

Nearby, a wild multimedia tableau by Rebekah Zurenko, based on her obsessive mythology of “ancient lesbian aliens,” buzzed with sexual, political and pop cultural energy. Back upstairs, an absorbing series of paintings by Volodymyr Shcherbak planted tiny red and green figures in fantastic landscapes awash with thick colors and heavy brushwork, with a guest appearance by Godzilla.

At the opening reception, Gass said all the student artists showed “technical skill” and “dialogue with an ongoing issue.” Exhibit A, for both characteristics, was parked outside the museum. Ryan Groendyk stood happily in late evening drizzle, next to his doubly modified Mercedes, explaining his car art to one knot of curious people after another.

“I wanted to do a piece of art that would stay with me,” he said. “I didn’t want to make art that was going to end up in the trash, which actually happens to a lot of stuff.”

(When the exhibit is over April 28, Groendyk said he will drive his magnum opus to Missouri, MFA degree in hand, and “take it easy” for a while.)

“It’s just so goddamn fly,” Groendyk said. “It’s the opposite of most political activism, when you try to shove something down someone’s throat.”

The detailing on the hood forms an infinitely curled up worm that closes upon itself, symbolizing the energy cycle. Groendyk removed all the corporate logos, reducing the famous Mercedes logo to another simple circle.

To back up his symbolism with engineering, Groendyk modified the car’s primary fuel system to run on biodiesel and the secondary system to run on vegetable oil, making the car “as carbon neutral as possible.”

He compared the resulting “ready made” work of art to Marcel Duchamp’s famous urinal, only much more attractive.

What would the museum’s star architect, Zaha Hadid, say if she saw Groendyk’s old school automobile parked outside her paragon of parametricism?

“She’d ask me for a ride,” Groendyk said.

Fruit of the vinyl

Record Store Day bows this weekend



By SHAWN PARKER

Now in its sixth year, Record Store Day has become something of a cross between a scavenger hunt and Christmas. And Heather Frarey, owner of The Record Lounge, 111 Division St. in East Lansing, thinks the international event, which will be held this Saturday, could be the biggest one yet.

Record Store Day is geared toward vinyl junkies, who queue up every third Saturday of April for a chance to buy limited edition record albums. Every Record Store Day has an official “ambassador,” which this year will be Jack White of The White Stripes. The band’s 2003 album, “Elephant,” will be

reissued as a special 10th anniversary edition LP that will be black-and-red on one side and white on the other. Other participating artists this year include David Bowie, MGMT, The Notorious B.I.G. and Buddy Guy. All will release limited edition (5,000 or fewer) vinyl prints at participating stores.

Which, besides The Record Lounge, consists locally of Flat, Black and Circular (541 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing), Replay Entertainment Exchange (1385 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing), East Grand (213 ½ E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing) and both Schuler Books & Music locations (2820 Town Centre Blvd., Lansing Township, and 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos). Record Store Day is more than a one-off event for wax retailers though, for whom repeat business is a key component.

Longtime vinyl addict John Scott Warrens waxed poetic on the medium.

“Vinyl is a reminder of a past where more care was given to a product,” Warrens said.

“Vinyl is tangible, interactive, interminably cool and, most importantly, just sounds better.”

He said in this age of BitTorrent, tangible media is more important than ever.

“Vinyl is considered an artifact,” he said. “Record Store Day is a necessary vehicle to illuminate the importance of the art form.”

But it’s also, fundamentally, an international underground event, and has developed a growing buzz since its 2007 inception, attracting both diehards supporting a fetish medium some think has heard its death knells — as well as first-timers excited to participate in the latest trending topic.

But wherever you fall on the vinyl scale, one thing remains; there is more than one option for record shopping in the Lansing area, and with Record Store Day approaching, the options and variety are even greater.

Or as Warrens said: “Support local business, support your mind, body and soul (and) buy a damn record.”

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New Wave on the Grand River

LSO's summer series going back to the '80s

By **MARISOL DORANTES**

This summer is shaping up to be radical, man. The Lansing Symphony Orchestra is totally going back to the '80s to launch the 20th annual Concert in the Park series on June 5. The LSO gave Lansing residents the chance to select a playlist earlier this year with the online "Pick Your Picnic Pops" contest, and the winner was the "Music of the 80s." This is the

first time the LSO has included audience participation to put together its line-up.

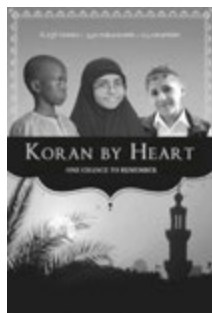
"We want public involvement because this was something we want the city to feel like they own," said spokeswoman Rachel Santorelli.

The LSO will cut loose with songs like "Footloose," "It's Still Rock & Roll To Me," "Faith" and "1999." The two-hour concert, which will include two singers, will also include hits from '80s faves David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen and Madonna.

The free outdoor concert will be along the Grand River in Adado Riverfront Park. It's free to get into the groove, but \$30 VIP tickets are available, which include reserved seating, dinner and a cash bar.

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Muslim Journeys: Koran by Heart FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION



Thursday, April 25 • 6:30 pm

Koran by Heart is a documentary about the dreams of three Muslim children taking part in a Koran reciting contest. Dr. Mohammad Khalil, assistant professor of Religious Studies at MSU, will lead a discussion after the film. This event is presented in partnership with MSU and partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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CURTAIN CALL

Faking it big Musical hits the right notes, but lacks crackle

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

The two best things about Steven Spielberg's 2002 film, "Catch Me If You Can," featuring a slippery counterfeiter and his relentless pursuer, were the Saul Bass-inspired opening credits and Tom Hanks' R-rated knock-knock joke. Guess

Review

what — neither of them made it into the musical adaptation, playing this week at the Wharton Center.

The big question is: Why? Why make a musical out of a second-tier crime caper, which itself was based on the real exploits of Frank Abagnale Jr., who, in the 1960s impersonated an airline pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, and forged nearly \$2 million in bad checks? It's not as if the story, the action or the

"Catch Me If You Can"

Wharton Center
Through April 21
7:30 p.m.
\$32-\$72
(800) WHARTON
whartoncenter.com

characterizations lend themselves naturally to the medium. It's an odd choice, to be sure, but stranger adaptations have been prosperous. The success of "Newsies" and "Billy Elliot" were all but a sure thing when they bowed within the last decade.

But with "Catch Me," there's not much to hang your hat on. The musical offers no expansion of a story that was probably best left on the video shelf. In this incarnation, are we to believe that Abagnale, this fresh-faced kid with the cracking voice, is really a chick-crazy horndog? That his foil, Carl Hanratty, who friskily skips across



Courtesy Photo

"Catch Me If You Can" is based on the movie about a con man who impersonates a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer.

the stage, is a world-weary G-Man? That Mrs. Abagnale has anything resembling a French accent?

The orchestra is cleverly incorporated into the swoopy set design, which gave the stage a signature look and a novel entrance/exit vehicle for the cast. Stephen Anthony, who plays Abagnale, and Merrit David Jones, as Hanratty, have American Idol-ready voices and nail every last one of their characters' beats. Even the supporting members of the ensemble hit all of their notes when it's their turn.

Everyone paints perfectly well within this paint-by-numbers production. But even the nearly two-dozen halfhearted new songs from Marc Shaiman ("Hairspray") run out of steam by the third number.

In the end, it just all feels so doggone cumbersome. Aren't escapades supposed to be, you know, escape-y? Where the film was powered by the one-two-three crackle of Leonardo DiCaprio's charm, Hanks' star wattage and Spielberg's whiz-bang (if not necessarily zippy) direction, the musical has a decent jazzy score and a guileless leading young man. But that's about it — and that's certainly not enough to warrant a three-hour show.



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THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

League of extraordinary gentleman

Jackie Robinson biopic a powerful, bittersweet victory

The first time we see Jackie Robinson in the biopic "42," he's in silhouette, crouched like a tiger, leading off about 10 feet from first base at a Negro League night game.

The pitcher winds up, throws one over the plate, and Robinson (Chadwick Boseman) breaks into a loping sprint. Five, six seven strides and he slides, easily stealing second base. Then he pops up, drops instantly into his crouch again, and hungrily eyes third — all the while taunting the catcher with a mischievous gleam. It's a mesmerizing introduction to the 20th century's most revolutionary American athlete.

Robinson was, of course, the first black athlete to break into the major leagues, nearly 20 years before the Civil Rights movement legally elevated him above second-class citizenry. The film focuses on the two-year span that introduced him first to the farm team for the Brooklyn Dodgers and then his tumultuous first year in the majors.

"42" is, perhaps, a tad too earnest, but it can't really afford to be anything less. The heaping, blatantly public racist jeering that Robinson endured certainly put him in a class by himself, and to either play down the abuse he suffered or the decorum with which he maintained his poise would be a disservice to both the man and the movie. Boseman subtly conveys Robinson's pain



Courtesy photo

Chadwick Boseman (right) as Jackie Robinson and Lucas Black as Pee Wee Reese in the biopic, "42," which follows the breaking of baseball's white barrier.

of being repeatedly called a "nigger" by the opposing teams and the crowds, making it feel like a physical blow each time the epithet is spat at him. But he keeps his chin high, his shoulders squared and his eyes dry — at least in public.

Great performances abound. To portray legendary Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey, who single-handedly desegregated Major League Baseball by bringing Robinson on board, Harrison Ford undergoes an almost unrecognizable career reinvention. Long gone are the ego and swagger of his most iconic roles. In its stead is a blustery, bespectacled old fogey who sounds like he doesn't even bother to pour milk over his breakfast gravel. Ford imbues Rickey with a playful shrewdness that's fun to watch. It is a return to form

for the Oscar-nominated actor.

But this is Boseman's movie, and he absolutely owns it. As a fresh face (this is his first starring role), he's the perfect blank slate to physically become Robinson — and what a way to launch a career. He instills Robinson with an otherworldly dignity and grace that makes you understand why he — and perhaps only he — could have been the one to successfully break into the game. He gives Robinson a pride that doesn't belie the gravity of what he's doing or the danger he's inherently in. In "42," you see the true meaning of "turn the other cheek," and it's a bittersweet thing to behold.

What elevates "42" above a by-the-numbers biopic is the time and care it takes to create its world. Yes, it's a period piece, but it feels neither quaint nor antiquated. The baseball scenes feel like an organic part of the story, with the outcomes of particular games taking a backseat to iconic moments within the game: the first hit, the first home run, the excruciatingly belabored verbal abuse.

This is history, boys and girls — not just for sports, but for American equality. Extrapolate away and you get black presidents, women in combat and gay marriage. In "42," it shows you just how high the stakes were — and continue to be, for some.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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. If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

Wednesday, April 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

My Fair Lady: A Voice For Change. Speaker Marcie Ray, College of Music. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. 7 p.m. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 487-1713. cvnnews.com.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels & drawing boards provided. Bring other supplies. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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.

April Wild Ones Meeting. Presenter Cheryl English. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596.

Juicing 101. With ELFCO board member, David Johnson. 6 p.m. \$20 non owner, \$15 Co-op owners. East Lansing Food Coop, 4960 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 337-1266. elfco.coop/wp.

Writing Your Life. Write a memoir. To register, email kathleendeeganveith@yahoo.com. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$80 for 8 weeks. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

Dreams & Spirituality. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. Free. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

MFA Exhibition Artist Talks. 11:30 a.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900.

H.E.R.O. Classes. Deck repair & maintenance. Register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

IPPSR Public Policy Forum. Reservations recommended. 11:30 a.m. FREE. Anderson House Office Building, 124 N. Capitol, Lansing. (517) 355-6672. ippsr.msu.edu.

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

See Out on the Town, Page 21

WED. APRIL 17 >> 'DREAM HAVANA' SCREENING

As part of Michigan State University's Latin Is America Festival there will be a screening of "Dream Havana" today. The film's creator, Gary Marks, will join guests for a Q&A after it's shown. The 2007 documentary tells the story of Cuban writers and life-long friends Ernesto Santana and Jorge Mota, who are separated when more than 33,000 people escaped Cuba by sea in the '90s. But that's only the beginning of the award-winning film. What follows is the journey of one man who stayed and one who left, mapping their lives and friendship. 7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. latinIsamerica.msu.edu.

FRI. APRIL 19 >> BOOKS, BITES AND BIDS



The second annual Books, Bites and Bids event is a fundraiser for the East Lansing Public Library and also celebrates National Library Week, which has been held since 1966. The event will showcase local food, a local band (Now Know Quartet), a variety of activities for the little ones and a silent auction for the big kids. Proceeds will go to the ELPL's summer Maker Programs. RSVP at the Circulation Desk or to jamormi@cityofeastlansing.com. 6-8:30 p.m. \$30 & \$50 per couple, suggested donations. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

SAT. APRIL 20 >> SECOND ANNUAL EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA & SPRING SOCIAL

Starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, Fenner Nature Center hosts a day of Earth Day activities. Guests can go on wildflower identification hikes and check out the pond for tiny aquatic creatures, among other things. If you'd rather assist with habitat restoration, there will be many chances throughout the day, such as trail maintenance and removal of invasive plant species (which includes the 2013 Garlic Mustard Pull challenge). There will also be a "Picnic for the Earth" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. After a long day of activities, be sure to stick around for the Spring Social. The fundraiser will have music, dinner, live and silent auctions and keynote speaker Margaret Holtschlag, Michigan Teacher of the Year and finalist for National Teacher of the Year in 2000. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. 3:15-Dusk. \$50. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.



SAT. APRIL 20 >> 'BOOGIE STOMP!' SCREENING & TALKBACK

After a preview of the 86-minute film, "Boogie Stomp! The Movie," writer/director Bob Baldori will lead a talkback with a few members of the cast and production crew. The musical documentary discusses boogie-woogie (find out what that means, for starters) and Bob Seeley, legendary piano man. "It's about the history and origins of American piano music, not just boogie-woogie but blues, jazz, swing," Baldori said about his first movie project. "The movie explains that it all comes from the same place and we demonstrate it." 6:15 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. studiotheatre.com.

TUE. APRIL 23 >> DEWITT COMMUNITY SINGERS' ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

On Tuesday, the DeWitt Community Singers hosts its annual spring concert, "And the Beat Goes On." The group's founder, Lydia Skrllec Erickson, will direct the group while being accompanied by Chrisann Lowe. The show will include spiritual, show tunes, a '60s medley, folk and international selections. The DeWitt Community Singers were formed in 2000. 7:30 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, Dewitt.

APRIL 19-28 >> 'FUNNY GIRL'

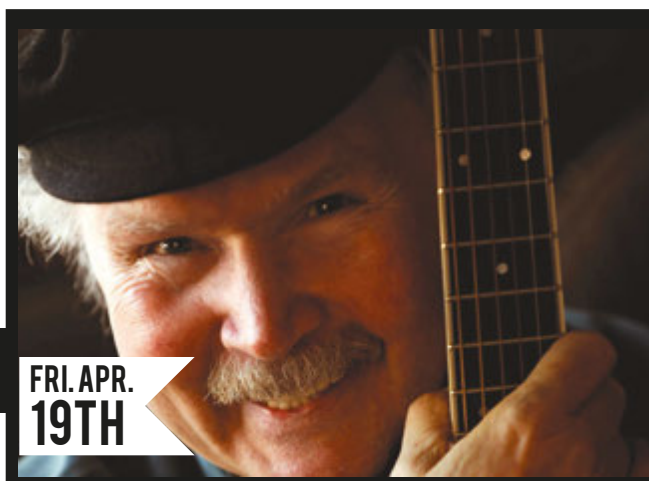


Photo by Steven VanMaele

Starting Friday, Michigan State University's Department of Theatre will conclude its season with "Funny Girl," the show that gave Babs (Barbra Streisand) a Tony nomination and an Oscar win. Watch as Fanny Brice, a Ziegfeld Follies star, goes from ugly duckling into a swan, all taking place just before and following World War I. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. APR. 19TH

TOM PAXTON AT 'THE FIDDLE'

Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, 7:30 doors, \$25 public; \$20 Fiddle members; \$5 students.

American folk legend Tom Paxton has been writing and performing music for 50 years. Four years ago he received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Some of Paxton's songs have become modern standards, including "The Last Thing on My Mind," "Bottle of Wine" and "Ramblin' Boy." Over the years Paxton's songs have been recorded by Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Willie Nelson and Pete Seeger, to name a few. Paxton has played thousands of gigs around the world, from Australia to Hong Kong — on Friday, he performs at the Ten Pound Fiddle. In describing Paxton's influence, Seeger said, "Tom's songs have a way of sneaking up on you. You find yourself humming them, whistling them, and singing a verse to a friend. Like the songs of Woody Guthrie, they're becoming part of America."

UV HIPPO AT THE LOFT



THU. APR. 18TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$12, \$8 adv., 8 p.m.

Ultraviolet Hippopotamus, a Grand Rapids-based five-piece progressive improvisational band, has been touring non-stop and developing a growing fan base across the U.S. and, more recently, Europe. Thursday the band plays The Loft. Opening the show is Covert, a Flint-based funky-jam rock band. Covert melds funk, reggae, soul and twang into a hybrid sound that's won a following across the state. UV Hippo mixes tight, funky jams with contemporary dance beats and earnest lyrics, topped off with a vibrant light. Cultivated from years of jamming, the band performs an eclectic selection of technically demanding compositions and improvised material along with unconventional and fun covers.

EIGHT BALL GRIFTER REUNION



FRI. APR. 19TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+. \$10, \$8 advance, 9 p.m.

Psychobilly punks Eight Ball Grifter have been absent from the music scene for quite some time. On Friday the band plays Mac's Bar for one of two reunion shows (the other is a Grand Rapids gig). The PBR-fueled outfit comprises Wade Royale (vocals/bass), Johnny Diablo (drums) and guitarists Knuckles and Spades. The band released a small stack of out-of-print albums, but its 2003 release, "Som'Bitch," is still available. Fans of Social Distortion, Bad Religion or Reverend Horton Heat might want to check out this show. Opening the show is the Michigan rockabilly band Cash O'Riley & the DownRight Daddies, which recently pressed the second run of its new "Jackson County Jail" album. Flatfoot, a local alt-country band, is also taking the stage.

SMOKEHOUSE JUNKIEZ AT MAC'S



SAT. APR. 20TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$12, 7 p.m.

The Smokehouse Junkiez, a Lansing-based rap duo, has been gigging in the underground hip-hop scene since 2005. On Saturday they headline a "420 Party" at Mac's Bar. The pair, made up of Mr. Jaqadeliq and Dubb Sicc, prefer a DIY ethos — they've self-recorded and promoted much of their records on their Roach Records imprint. The duo is known for its "pro-marijuana agenda" and sharing bills with both rap and rock acts. Opening the show are Str8jaket, Jimi Kanklez, Freddy Grimes and Boby Knucklez. Kanklez, aka "the Six Foot Roach," debuted in 2007 when he played his first gig opening for ABK. Since then, Kanklez, who was a finalist in this year's Top of the Town contest for "Best Hip Hop," has released three albums, including 2013's "The Mutt."

BLACKFLAG'S GINN AT MAC'S



SUN. APR. 21ST

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

Good For You, a duo made up of punk legend Greg Ginn and Mike Vallely, a professional skateboarder and musician, plays an all-ages gig Sunday at Mac's Bar. Another Ginn project, Greg Ginn & The Royal We, co-headline the event. The Plurals and Bert, two local bands, will also perform. Ginn is known as the founder, guitarist and driving influence behind Black Flag. Through his legendary record label SST, Ginn has performed, produced and released new music by himself as well as from an eclectic array of independent artists. Vallely turned into a pro skater in 1987. He formed his first band, Mike V And The Rats, in 2001. In February of 2012, Ginn and Vallely began work on their 2013 debut, "Life Is Too Short To Not Hold A Grudge."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

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Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Cryn Wolf, 9 p.m.	Cryn Wolf, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Mike Stanley, 8 p.m.	Mike Stanley, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Mike Stanley, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dinner and a Suit, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Wine Night, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 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, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Tyme 2 Play Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	D.J. Beltran, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.	Hydrophonic, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Kid Ink, 7 p.m.	Ultraviolet Hippopotamus, 8 p.m.	Kings of Hollywood, 8 p.m.	Anberlin, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Sexfist, 9 p.m.	Eight Ball Grifter, 9 p.m.	Smokehouse Junkiez 4:20 Party, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	The Burnsides, 9:30 p.m.	The Harvestmen, 9:30 p.m.	Franco & the Americans, 9:30 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, 7:30 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.		Various artists, 9 p.m.	Haphazard, 9 p.m.	Diamond Head, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	3 of Clubs, 8:30 p.m.	3 of Clubs, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 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 Friday, 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 19

EVENTS

Lansing Photo Meetup. Informal event. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. SmarterPics, 708 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 897-4172. www.smarterpics.com.

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

Preschool Visit Day. Call to reserve a day. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107.

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

"Pink Smoke Over the Vatican" Screening & Discussion. With appearance by Roy Bourgeois. 7 p.m. \$10 donation. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 980-5802.

MSU Science Festival. Activities, demonstrations, discussions, lectures & tours. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

Great Lakes Awards Celebration. Music, food and drinks. RSVP. 5:30 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 203-0754. cleanwateraction.org/mi.

MUSIC

Faculty Recital. Molly Fillmore & Alan Nathan, piano. 8 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Silk Road Chinese Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

The LCC Concert Choir. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Lansing Matinee Musicale Study Club. "Say It with Music: Irving Berlin Favorites and More." 2 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 485-1363.

THEATER

Boogie Stomp! The Movie. 6:15 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. (517) 393-7469. studiotheatre.com.

"Catch Me If You Can." True story of Frank W. Abagnale, Jr. 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. "Diamond Hollow," Helen Frost. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

DTDL Book Club. "The Irresistible Henry House," Lisa Grunwald. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Pajama Party Storytime. With Michigan picture-book author Leslie Helakoski. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Thursday, April 18

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

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.

Business Resource Meeting. Speaker Marie

Mireles. 11 a.m. \$10. MSU Brody Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

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

EVENTS

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

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

Taco Dinner. Takeout available. 6-7:45 p.m. \$8, \$7 seniors, \$3 10 and under. Redeemer Church, 2727 West Holmes Road, Lansing. redeemerslansing.com.

Pink Up the Town. Volunteers check in at plaza. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Hall Plaza, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-1661.

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

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

Kindergarten Round-Up. Check out Kindergarten program. Activities. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, 730 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 485-5379.

MSU Science Festival. 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

Latin American Imprints. The legacy of Gabriel García Márquez. Activities. 7 p.m. FREE. Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690. theatre.msu.edu.

MUSIC

33rd Annual Jazz Spectacular. Jazz Octet I, II, III, IV. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & those under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

Marshall Music Drum Circle. Facilitated by Ian Levine. Instruments provided or bring your own. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Mike Vial. 7-10 p.m. Walnut Hills Country Club, 2874 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-8647. walnuthillsgolf.com.

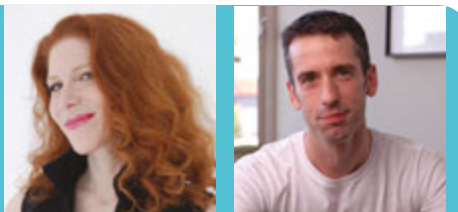
THEATER

"Catch Me If You Can." 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

"Shirley Valentine." One woman's journey to re-shape her life. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

Advice Goddess & Savage Love
CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE
www.lansingcitypulse.com



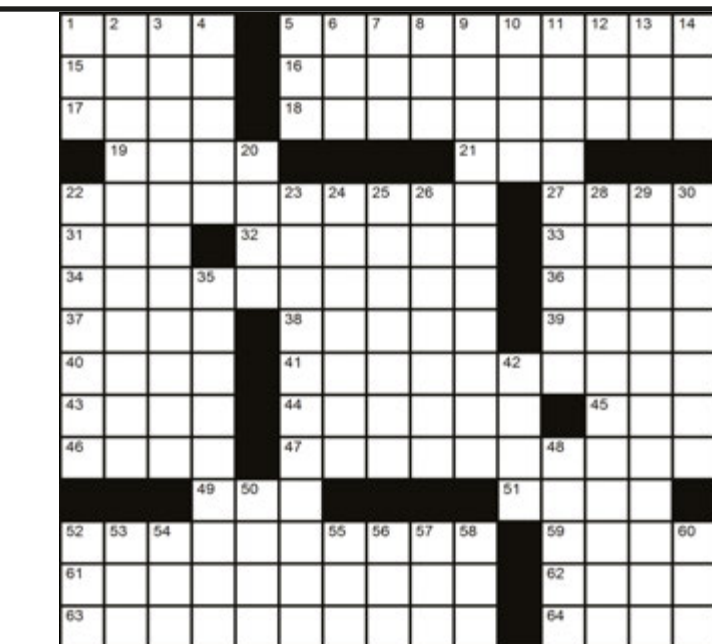
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Freestylin"--no theme for you!
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 It's about two weeks into the month
- 5 1959 post-apocalyptic classic
- 15 Fine covering
- 16 Sweltering, perhaps
- 17 Box a bit
- 18 Bold evening wear
- 19 One of the Oasis brothers
- 21 Non-professional
- 22 Celeb who tweeted about hemp oil for cancer treatment
- 27 Struggle in ancient Greek drama
- 31 "Te ____" (Valentine's card phrase)
- 32 Microseism
- 33 Acronym that triggered protest blackouts in 2012
- 34 Willie Mays' first wife
- 36 Two fives for ____
- 37 Palm with berries
- 38 Suffix meaning "form of government"
- 39 Like some minims
- 40 Melinda's husband
- 41 Self-made leader
- 43 System where A = 4
- 44 Fairy tale figures
- 45 Fred in the oldest surviving motion picture
- 46 ____ quam videri
- 47 Turn in front of traffic, maybe
- 49 Twisted Sister



- frontman Snider
- 51 ____ occasion (never)
- 52 Street View's program
- 59 Seymour Skinner's love interest, once
- 61 Lacking substantiation
- 62 Folk singer Phillips
- 63 They hold a biker's stuff
- 64 Silents star ____ Negri

Down

- 1 Contacts, in a way
- 2 Tactful affairs
- 3 Actor from "Caprica" and "NYPD Blue"
- 4 Winning coach in Super Bowl IV
- 5 Word before Town

- or Gang
- 6 Compass pt.
- 7 Not yet known: abbr.
- 8 Rapcore band ____
- pe
- 9 Drink flavored with bergamot orange rind
- 10 Orange County city
- 11 Simple
- 12 Crunch targets
- 13 The Indians, on scoreboards
- 14 Fellows
- 20 Debunked idea
- 22 Easily broken
- 23 Frosting ingredient
- 24 MxPx vocalist Mike
- 25 O
- 26 What the rich need, according to the riddle
- 28 Stopped procrastinating on
- 29 Running

- 30 Sid's comedy partner on "Caesar's Hour"
- 35 Like some Bible pages
- 42 City where 60-down was formed
- 48 Winning, but not by much
- 50 Airline that translates as "skywards"
- 52 Gloomy sort
- 53 ____ whim
- 54 Former California military base
- 55 The 100, in "1 vs. 100"
- 56 Chris's "Suburgatory" co-star
- 57 Identify
- 58 Campus protest gp. restarted in 2006
- 60 "Take on Me" group

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE



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.

Answers on page 25

MARU SUSHI & GRILL



Allan Ross/City Pulse

Robert Song opened the third Maru Sushi & Grill location this week in East Lansing. At 2,800 square feet, the new location is the biggest one yet. It's also the first one to feature draft beer.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Maru Sushi & Grill opened in its new East Lansing location this week. This is the third restaurant for owner/operator Robert Song's 4-year-old enterprise, following Maru's expansion in Grand Rapids last summer and the original restaurant in Okemos. At 2,800 square feet and with a seating capacity of 86, it's also the largest.

"My philosophy is, if you're not growing, you're doing something wrong," Song said. "Creating opportunities is what I do, and I'm going to continue to do that."

Maru moved into a plaza suite on the corner of Coolidge and Lake Lansing Road. The spot was formerly occupied by Middle Eastern restaurant Ali Baba and upscale American eclectic All Seasons Bistro, but after Song's complete renovation of the space, it would be unrecognizable to anyone who'd been into either of those places.

"We replaced absolutely everything, up to the bare ceiling and the cement floors," Song said. "Thank goodness we had a good

shell to work with."

Song, 38, spent about six months fixing up the location, with work including a new sushi bar, a new kitchen and completely new interior.

"The old one just screamed '80s," he said. "I Maru-fied the interior to match my food."

And the food, Song says, will maintain the high standards of quality he's set for his other locations.

"We still use California short grain rice, which is the best rice possible for making sushi," he said. "It's difficult to deal with if you don't know how to treat it right, and it's pricier, but I insist on having the best. I also still use the four or five best fish suppliers I can find, and as many local fruits and vegetables in our dishes as possible."

Since Song opened the first Okemos location, the farm-to-table concept has taken off, with notable local representation coming from **Red Haven, Fork in the Road** and **Wandering Waffles**.

"Farm-to-table has reached the mainstream, and I try to incorporate that concept as much as possible," he said. "If I can use blueberries from Holland or local asparagus, I'm going to do it — and I can't wait for the Michigan asparagus to come in season."

Song said he realizes that high quality food doesn't come cheap, and so to avoid alienating customers, he's committed to featuring sushi specials at two times every day. There's a mid-day special every day from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a happy hour — with specialty drink prices — coming with exact times to be announced.

"I remember what it was like being a student and everything over \$10 becomes a push," he said. "I want to make it possible for everyone to be able to eat here every day."

Another aspect of Maru that's unique among Song's locations is the presence of draft beer, which includes two Michigan craft beers.

"Our Grand Rapids restaurant is located right next to Brewery Vivant, which is one of the beers we have on tap," he said. "I remember eating at The Green Well, which is right across the street, and daydreaming about the day when I could have three restaurants. And now that I do, it's just so surreal."

Maru Sushi & Grill

1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing
11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday
marurestaurant.com

Out on the town

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williamstontheatre.com.

"Fiddler on the Roof." Musical about Tevye & his family. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 students with ID & seniors. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

International Book Club. "A Fortune Teller Told Me," Tiziano Terzani. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Friday, April 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Our Daily Work/Lives. Wage-slaves and radicals: 1913-14 Michigan Copper Strike - Aaron Goings. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Breaking the Rules of Art-Making. Ages 13-18. Art meets movement. 3:45-4:45 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Oil Painting. For all levels, with Patricia Singer. 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.

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

EVENTS

Eco-Scholars Day 2013. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College West Campus, corner of W. Mount Hope and Snow roads, Lansing. (517) 483-1325. lcc.edu/techcareers/ecoscholars.

LAP Respite Center Fundraiser. 6-9:30 p.m. \$75, \$120 for two. Lou & Harry's Sports Bar and Grill, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 372-6671. laprespitecenter.org.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Scentsy Fundraiser. 6-9 p.m. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-8467.

CATA's 14th Annual Community Health Fair. Variety of screenings & services. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. CATA Bus Transportation Center, 420 S. Grand Ave., Lansing. cata.org.

Residuum Opening Reception. Opening exhibit. 6 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

Used Book Sale. Hardcover, paperbacks & more. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.

Public Observing Night. Weather permitting. 9-11 p.m. FREE. MSU Observatory, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

Museum Studies Day. FREE. Spartan Garden Party, 10:50 a.m. MSU 4-H Children's Garden. Internship fair, 2 p.m. MSU Museum. Opening reception, 5 p.m. Broad Art Museum.

4th Annual Indian Gala Celebration. Dinner, music & more. 7-9 p.m. \$25, \$10 students advance, \$30 & \$15 door. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (734) 476-0960.

MSU Science Festival. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

Singles TGIF. Hors d'oeuvres, door prizes & music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. \$12. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272.

Latin American Imprints. The legacy of Gabriel García Márquez. Activities. 9 a.m. FREE. International Center, 450 Administration Bldg., East Lansing.

MUSIC

Ten Pound Fiddle. Tom Paxton. 8 p.m. \$25, \$20 Fiddle members, \$5 students. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Karaoke Night. Sing, eat & more. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Grand River Radio Diner. Featuring Steve D'Angelo & Arielle Puuri. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

33rd Annual Jazz Spectacular. Swing Dance, Jazz Orchestra I, II, III. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & those under 18. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

Velocity Shift. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 699-3670.

MSU Russian Chorus. 45th anniversary concert. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Emanuel First Lutheran Church, 1001 N Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 646-9626. emanuefirst.org.

Sam Corbin. 8 p.m. FREE Piece of Mine Pottery, 202 S Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 622-0727.

THEATER

"Catch Me If You Can." 8 p.m. \$32-\$72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

"A Walk in the Woods" & "Aesop? Who's Aesop?" 7 p.m. \$7 adults & students, \$5 pre-school. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686.

"Shirley Valentine." 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details April 18.)

"Fiddler on the Roof." 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 students with ID & seniors. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (Please see details April 18.)

"Funny Girl." Story of Ziegfeld Follies star, Fanny Brice. 8 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. theatre.msu.edu.

"The Beatles Slept Here." Children's comedy. 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 child. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Sweeney Todd." Stephen Sondheim musical. 7 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Everett High School, 3900 Stabler St., Lansing. (517) 755-1080.

Saturday, April 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Advanced Couponing. How to stay organized & save money. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Floral Design Workshop. Learn basics of floral design. Call to register. Noon-2 p.m. \$5. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327.

Guided Imagery & Affirmation for Healing. Instructor Mike Limauro. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., \$30. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

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

Arabic-English Bilingual Storytime. With author Hanan Daqqa. 2-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

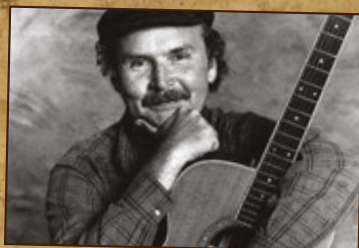
Typing & Mouse Use Class. Improve your typing speed & accuracy. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community

Ten Pound Fiddle

Concert Series
EST. 1975

We're Saving a Seat For You!

April 19 | 8 p.m.



TOM PAXTON
Grammy Award Winner

April 26 | 8 p.m.



SETH BERNARD & MAY ERLEWINE
Contemporary Folk Duo

May 3 | 8 p.m.



SANDY O. AND PAT HUMPHRIES
Pete Seeger's 94th Birthday Bash!

VISIT US ONLINE FOR VENUE
LOCATION AND TICKET SALES

ph: 517-337-7744
www.tenpoundfiddle.org



Free Community Health Fair

In partnership with the MSUCOM Community Integrated Medicine and Tri-County Office on Aging

Friday, April 19, 2013
10:00AM – 1:00PM

CATA Transportation Center (CTC)
420 South Grand Avenue



FREE Screenings & Services:

- **Cholesterol & Glucose**
- **Blood Pressure**
- **Body Mass Index**
- **Height & Weight**
- **Nutrition Counseling**
MSUCOM Community Integrated Medicine
- **Senior Services & Resources**
- **Medicare & Medicaid Assist Program**
Tri-County Office on Aging
- **Ingham Health Plan**
- **Breast & Other Health Resources**
Allen Neighborhood Center
- **Osteoporosis Screenings**
Beals Institute
- **Michigan Health & Wellness 4x4 Tool**
Capital Area Health Alliance
- **Access to Mental Health Information**
Community Mental Health Authority - Tri-County Area
- **Counseling for Homeless & Runaway Youth**
Gateway Community Services
- **Food & Nutrition Education**
Ingham County-MSU Extension
- **Family Outreach Services**
- **Children's Special Health Care**
- **WIC Enrollment**
- **Asthma Prevention**
- **Prenatal & Family Planning Services**
Ingham County Health Department
- **Do 1 Thing Emergency & Safety Information**
Lansing Emergency Management
- **Vision Screenings**
- **Eyewear Adjustments & Cleanings**
Lansing Ophthalmology
- **Oral Cancer Screenings**
LCC Dental Hygienist Program
- **Stroke Risk Assessments**
McLaren Greater Lansing
- **Celiac Disease & Gluten Free Diet Information**
MI Capital Celiac Group
- **Substance Abuse Treatment Information**
National Council on Alcoholism
- **Ingham Health Plan***
- **MiChild**
- **MI Bridges**
NorthWest Initiative
- **Senior Legal Services**
Sixty Plus Elderlaw Clinic
- **Spinal Screenings**
- **Postural Evaluations**
Waverly Chiropractic Center

**Photo ID and proof of residency and income needed to sign-up for Ingham Health Plan.*

To learn more about the Health Fair and how to use the bus to get there,
call: (517) 394-1100, email: info@cata.org or visit: cata.org.

Out on the town

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Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392.
Compost 101. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

EVENTS

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

Michigan Women's Studies Association Conference. Register. Noon-4 p.m. \$20, \$10 students. Cooley Temple Conference Center, 217 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-1880 ext. 203.

Chicken Dinner. All-you-can-eat. 3-6 p.m. \$9, \$4.50 kids 5-11, FREE under 4. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. (517) 468-3316.

Lansing RIF Community Used Book Exchange. Bring gently used books. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-4167.

Celebrate Earth Day. Campfire program and guided walk. 7 p.m. \$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Taste of the Town. MSU Community Club fundraiser. 5:30-7 p.m. \$25. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 332-6683.

Used Book Sale. Hardcover, paperbacks & more. Fill a box or bag, \$5. 10 a.m.-Noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.

Do It Together. Artist's marketplace, workshops & more. Noon-5 p.m. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Public Observing Night. Weather permitting. 9-11 p.m. FREE. MSU Observatory, located at the corner of Forest and College Roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

GeoCache Bash. GPS treasure hunt. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$6 non-members, \$4 members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Roller Derby Doubleheader. First bout, 6 p.m. Lansing Derby Vixens vs. South Bend Roller Girls. 5 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 day of, FREE kids 10 & under. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

MSU Science Festival. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)
Comedy & Improvisation: Chicago City Limits. 7:30 p.m. \$22, \$12 students. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5690. CPACpresents.com.

Mobile Food Pantry. Bring a box or bag for food. 9-11 a.m. St. Casimir Church, 815 Sparrow Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4477.

Document Destruction Day. Bring paper documents only. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Friedland Industries, 405 E. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 482-3000.

MUSIC

Essentially Ellington. High School Jazz band competition. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

33rd Annual Jazz Spectacular. Jazz Orchestra I with MSU Professors of Jazz and judges jam. 8 p.m. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$15 students. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Concert. Temesgen, Jen Sygit and The Lincoln County Process & Eight Beat Measure. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Foods For Living, 2655 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 324-9010.

STAR Fest Concert. Featuring Jared Lee & Taylor Taylor. 7 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

THEATER

“Catch Me If You Can.” 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$32-\$72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

“A Walk in the Woods” & “Aesop? Who's Aesop?” 3 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

“Shirley Valentine.” 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$22 & \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details April 18.)

“Fiddler on the Roof.” 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 students with ID and seniors. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (Please see details April 18.)

“Funny Girl.” 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

“The Beatles Slept Here.” 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 child. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

“Sweeney Todd.” 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Everett High School, 3900 Stabler St. Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

Sunday, April 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing Meeting. 2-5 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 482-8357.

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

Lansing Symphony Orchestra Family Series. Music exploration. 3-4 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. One of Mata Yoganandaji's "Inspiring Talks." 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

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.

Firekeepers Casino Bus Trip. Williamston Eagles Auxiliary #4091 sponsoring. Must be 21 & older. 10 a.m. \$30. Williamston Aerie, 835 High St., Williamston. (517) 655-6510.

Young Authors' Conference Fundraiser. Open mic. RSVP to phill594@msu.edu. 4-6 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Kayak/Canoe Trip. Bring boat, lifejacket & snack. 1 p.m. FREE. Grand River Park, 3001 Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 648-9115. cityoflansingmi.com.

MSU Science Festival. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

MUSIC

Bluegrass & Folk Jam & Concert. 2-6 p.m. \$4 suggested donation, \$2 seniors, FREE kids.

Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing.

An Afternoon of Jazz. Elizabeth & The Arlene McDaniel Trio. 3 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 & \$5 students at door. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St. Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1443. gloperahouse.com.

Concert. The Fabulous Heftones & Cuatrosur. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Foods For Living, 2655 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 324-9010.

MSU Russian Chorus. 45th anniversary concert. 3 p.m. FREE. Trinity Episcopal Church, 201 E. Jefferson, Grand Ledge. (517) 646-9626.

THEATER

“Catch Me If You Can.” 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. \$32-\$72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details April 17.)

“A Walk in the Woods” & “Aesop? Who's Aesop?” 3 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

“Shirley Valentine.” 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details April 18.)

“Fiddler on the Roof.” 2 p.m. \$10, \$8 students with ID & seniors. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (Please see details April 18.)

“Funny Girl.” Pre-show discussion, 1:15 p.m. 2 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

“The Beatles Slept Here.” 2 p.m. \$7, \$5 child. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

Monday, April 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Kundalini Yoga. No experience needed. Taught by Emily Emersen. 5:30 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing.

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout. Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

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.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Photography Class. With Ron St. Germain. 6:30 p.m. \$55. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Better Vacation Photos. Bring back the best possible memories. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$30. SmarterPics, 708 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 897-4172. smarterpics.com.

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.

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.

macsbar.com.

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Blues, rock and spoken word. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

THEATER

Auditions for “Monster in the Closet.” Mid Michigan Family Theatre. All ages welcome. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing.

Boogie Stomp! The Movie. 6:15 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. (517) 393-7469. studiotheatre.com.

Tuesday, April 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Today's Special Program. Session on nutritional topics. Battle of Fiber vs. Fat. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

Tai Chi & Qigong. Taught by Bruce Ching. Drop-ins welcome. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

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

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

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

Coachlight Neighborhood Meeting. 6-7 p.m. New Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 3800 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (989) 944-3239.

The Basics - Class 2 - Knobs/Menus. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$30. SmarterPics, 708 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 897-4172. smarterpics.com.

Intermediate Microsoft Word. Registration & experience with Word required. 6-7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

EVENTS

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

4th Tuesday Networking Night. 6-8 p.m. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

MUSIC

The LCC Vocal Pop/Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

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

Auditions for “Monster in the Closet.” 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community

Out on the town

from page 24

Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (Please see details April 22.)

"Funny Girl." 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Girls' Night Out. Julia Pandl, author of "M memoir of the Sunday Brunch." 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Wednesday, April 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels & drawing boards provided. Bring other supplies. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 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.

Michigan Creative Educators Summit. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/event/5547231920/eivtefrnd.

Writing Your Life. Write a memoir. To register, email kathleendeeganveith@yahoo.com. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$80 for 8 weeks. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

Earth Day: The Green Dragon. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Prayer & Meditation. Improve practice & experience. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Immigration Reform and Its Impact on Our Community. Panel discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 323-4734 ext. 1202.

Intro to DSLR Cameras. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$30. SmarterPics, 708 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 897-4172. smarterpics.com.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First

Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

EVENTS

SLBA Meeting. Networking, lunch & speaker. 11:30 a.m. \$10. Chisholm Hills, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. slba.biz.

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

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

Hills Cheese Celebration. Cheese tasting, prizes & music. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive,, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

MUSIC

Ukulele Basics Workshop. Facilitator Chris Zatzke. Instruments provided. All ages welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

"Funny Girl." 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (Please see details April 19.)

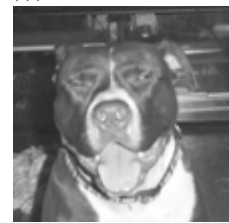
City Pulse Classifieds

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

Hip WM 50 seeks 2F's of fire/air sign 4 live-in FWB. Call (517) 290-9952 or drnatural@myway.com.

LOST DOG!!! MUST FIND!! REWARDS!!!

\$\$\$ cash reward for safe return of Angel. Last seen on March 5th in the MLK/Holmes area. She is sorely missed and has been gone March 2nd. Angel is a female American Pit Bull Terrier. She has a brown coat with white on her face, chest, belly, and paws. She is seven years old, weighs approximately 50 pounds, and was wearing a pink and beige collar with a Rabies tag. Angel is a friendly girl who will likely approach a stranger. She is the companion to a disabled man. Please help guide Angel back to her adoring family! Spread awareness and call 517.575.5599 with any information.



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.

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

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

April 17-23

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The writer Oliver Burkeman has some advice that would be helpful for you Aries folks to hear right now: "When you assume your current preferences won't alter, you'll make bad decisions: embarking on a career or marriage, say, not with a view to its durability, but solely based on how it makes you feel now." I am most definitely not predicting that you are about to make the kind of bad decision Burkeman refers to. I'm sure my warning here in this horoscope will derail any temptation you might have to make short-sighted moves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I'm happy to report that help from the invisible world is available to you right now. Of course you won't be able to use it, let alone tune in to it, if you don't believe there is any such thing as help from the invisible world. So if you are the type of person who is very sure that reality consists of nothing more than what your senses reveal, I suggest that you temporarily suspend that belief. And if you are someone who has had direct experiences with blessings that come from the unseen realm, be aware that the imminent delivery is quite different from those you have known in the past.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In her book *A Monster's Notes*, Laurie Sheck describes the nuances of the term "ghost" in the German language. A mediocre wine may be called unghostly, she says. A witty, lively person is "Rich in Ghostliness," whereas a dull, blank type "has no ghost in him." In this spirit, Gemini, I suspect you will have some pretty fine ghostliness working for you in the coming weeks. And there's a good chance that part of your extra-special mojo will arise from your creative engagement with energies that resemble the more traditional definition of "ghost."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A one-minute video commercial for The Cosmopolitan luxury resort in Las Vegas shows an elegant woman at a sumptuous feast. She's eagerly holding her dinner plate up to her face so she can lick it clean of its last delicious taste. The scene shifts to a well-dressed man who's down on all fours serving as a chair for a chic woman. She applies her make-up while gazing into the shiny mirror-like surface of a high-heeled shoe. New scene: An 80-year-old woman pats the butt of a handsome young stud with whom she's slow-dancing. At the end of the ad, a catchphrase appears: "Just the right amount of wrong." I say, let that be your mantra in the coming week, Cancerian.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Albert Einstein published his General Theory of Relativity in 1916. It had radical implications for the field of theoretical physics, but remained an unproven concept until 1919. Then a British physicist verified its accuracy with evidence gathered during a solar eclipse. The *Times* newspaper in London announced the event with the headline "Revolution in Science: New Theory of the Universe, Newtonian Theories Overthrown." Not wanting to be left behind, *The New York Times* assigned one of its own journalists to cover the revolution. Unfortunately, the person they sent was a sports reporter whose specialty was golf. His article was less than illuminating. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned, Leo: When big developments are underway, show up at full strength, with all your powers engaged.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Never to get lost is not to live," writes Rebecca Solnit in her book *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*. In fact, she says that not knowing how to get lost is unhealthy. These are useful ideas to consider right now, Virgo. It will probably do you good to get at least semi-lost. As you wander around without a map or compass, I bet you will stumble upon important teachings. At the same time, I hope you will put some thought into how you're going to get lost. Don't just leave it to chance. Make sure there's a method in your madness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the English language,

"low man on the totem pole" is an idiom that refers to a person who has the worst job or the least status. He or she is considered to be at the low end of the hierarchy. But it's an incorrect metaphor. The creators of the original totem poles were indigenous Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest, and for them the figure at the bottom of the pole was the most important one. I foresee the possibility of a similar situation arising in your sphere, Libra. Be alert for a misapprehension that needs to be righted. It may be the case that what's last should actually be first. Something that has been beneath or behind "more important" matters should perhaps get higher priority.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In his book *Karmic Traces*, Eliot Weinberger describes the life story of naked mole rats. They're animals that never leave their underground tunnels. Normally you Scorpios have nothing in common with them. But in the coming days, I'm hoping there will be one resemblance. According to Weinberger, the naked mole rats "change direction by somersaulting." Metaphorically speaking, I think this would be an excellent strategy for you. There's no need to mope cautiously as you alter your course. No need to be lackadaisical and fitful and full of doubts. Just spring into action with a cheery bounce, and move on with a renewed sense of purpose.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The famous philosopher John Searle unleashed a witty dig about the famous philosopher Jacques Derrida, saying he is "the sort of philosopher who gives bullshit a bad name." One of your fun assignments in the coming week, Sagittarius, is to do the opposite of what Derrida's work does. In other words, give bullshit a *good* name. How? Well, you could engage in creative verbal expressions that boost morale and propagate delight and lubricate worthwhile connections. Make up noble fictions that are more accurate and useful than the literal truth. Spread uplifting gossip that heals and invigorates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The ideal piano player is the one who wants to be the piano," says a character in Thomas Bernhard's novel *The Loser*. He continues: "I say to myself every day when I wake up, I want to be the Steinway, I want to be the Steinway itself." Your assignment, Capricorn, is to apply this attitude to your own personal situation. In other words, merge with the tool you want to master. Immerse yourself in the skill you're working to perfect — disappear into it. In your imagination, become completely united with the thing or person or experience you desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "The trouble with our age is that it is all signpost and no destination," said writer Louis Kronenberger. I'm concerned that you may have fallen under the sway of this kind of myopia, Aquarius. A steady stream of useful tips and clues has been appearing, but you're missing some of them. Your long-range goals aren't sufficiently clear, so you don't always recognize the significance of new revelations. Here's the cure: In your imagination, create a vivid picture of your next big destination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A group of bicyclists in Southern California challenged a blogger to a race. They said they could cover the 38.4 miles from North Hollywood to Long Beach faster on their bikes than the blogger could get there by plane. As it turned out, they were right. Their trip took an hour and 34 minutes. As for the blogger, he had to drive to the airport, wait for the plane to depart, fly to a different airport, then catch a cab to the designated destination. He arrived about an hour after the cyclists. Can you guess which of those two modes of travel is the preferred metaphor for you this week, Pisces? The earthy, simple, stripped-down approach will get you where you need to go better than the big, elaborate, expensive method.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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Return of the mac

Old Town barbecue eatery wins with comfort food staple

By ALLAN I. ROSS

In 1993, Canadian pop rockers Barenaked Ladies released their signature song, “If I Had \$1000000 Dollars,” which included the cute (but bizarre) segment:

“If I had a million dollars/we wouldn’t have to eat Kraft dinners/But we WOULD eat Kraft dinners, we’d just eat more ...”

In concert, this prompts audience members to hurl packages of macaroni and cheese at the stage, but crowd antics

this sentimental contain a truism for a generation raised on boxed meals. And that is: macaroni and cheese is damned good eatin’, no matter how much loot you’re pulling.

Primarily viewed as a budget-friendly comfort food, macaroni and cheese can be traced back to 14th century England.

Thomas Jefferson, who encountered the dish in Paris, where it was served as an upper class delicacy, brought it to the states. And in Lansing, it’s come full circle — it can be found on the menus of several local dining establishments — albeit in a form far superior to that of the pre-packaged variety. (Case in point: Tavern 109 in Williamston mixes its with lobster.) But when asked who had the best mac and cheese in town, City Pulse readers overwhelmingly picked Meat Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine.

“It’s my all-time favorite food,” said owner Sean Johnson, who opened the Southern-style eatery in Old Town last summer. “If I could do a restaurant with just a mac and



Gaëlle Cassin-Ross/City Pulse

Meat’s decidedly non-vegetarian spin on macaroni and cheese, pictured here with bacon and jalapenos.

cheese, I’d do it. I’d have 15 different kinds.”

Heck, Meat’s menu already allows you to do better than that. You can get a small portion of mac and cheese as one of the sides that come with meals and sandwiches, but you can also get a made-to-order dish as an entrée for \$10.50. When you order it that way, you get a choice of any two items, including four meats — bacon, pulled pork, chopped brisket and chopped Texas links — and five vegetarian items — mushrooms, caramelized onions, fresh garlic, jalapenos and roasted red peppers. Even a ninth grader studying permutations will tell you that you get way more than 15 combinations playing mix-and-match.

Johnson said he developed the sauce himself, which falls more toward the thicker end of the floury-to-cheesy continuum. Obviously, we couldn’t get the recipe from him, but he said it consists of the basics: heavy cream, flour, butter and a couple of different kinds of cheese, with garlic and red pepper giving it some kick.

“We make the sauce from scratch every morning,” Johnson said. “And we go through

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The Dish

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at least 10 to 15 gallons a day, especially on weekends.”

When an order comes in, some of that cheese sauce is mixed with the pasta, which, interestingly, isn't truly macaroni. Instead, Meat uses cavatappi noodles, which are thicker, corkscrew-shaped tubes.

“I experimented with different kinds of noodles and found that cavatappi worked best,” Johnson said. “It’s a heavier noodle, and it has ridges, which helps it hold on the sauce better.”

After pasta meets cheese, two more types of cheese are sprinkled on top. The whole thing then goes in the oven and 10 minutes later — the best mac and cheese in town.

Heavy demand has prompted Johnson to remodel his dining room, with construction starting this week. He said he’s adding

10 to 15 seats inside as well as a patio, which will fit another 12 outside.

“And I’ve got more changes coming too, that will give us more of that southern barbecue feel,” Johnson said. “I’ve got some exciting things planned.”

Just, you know, don’t throw any at him if you get too excited. Save that for Barenaked Ladies, when they roll into Common Ground in July.

The Dish is a new monthly feature that allows Lansing-area diners to vote on our Facebook wall for their favorite menu items from local restaurants. Next month's contender: Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches. Be sure to “Like” us and vote for your favorite.

Meat Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine
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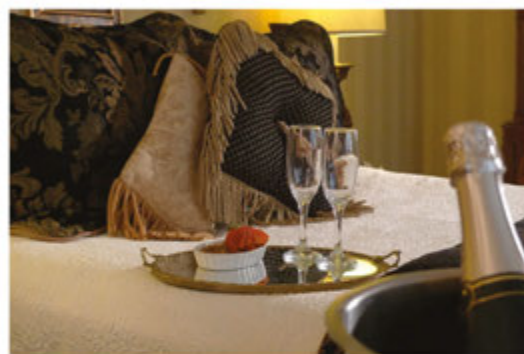
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