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January 9-15, 2013

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SEE PAGE 9

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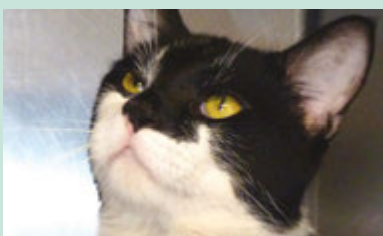
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Ingham County Animal Shelter

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Krypto

A very vocal buy with a lot of curiosity. He loves to be in the middle of the action.
In Memory of Whitey



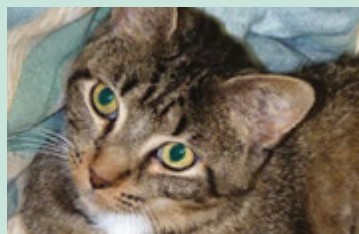
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Smart border collie mix. Some training experience.
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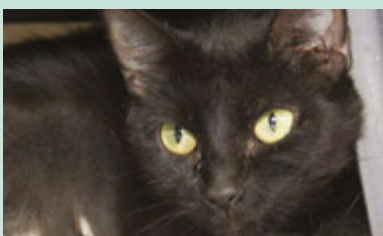
Hossey

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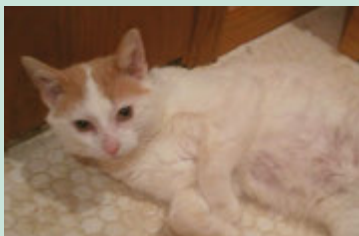
Dexter

Dexter is a very sweet loving guy. He's good with other cats, but does not like dogs.
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Khali

A little at first, but she loves attention.
Sponsored by: Golden Harvest



Whiskers

Whiskers is still waiting! He came in as a gunshot victim and is healed and ready to go.
Sponsored by: Schuler Books



Nashville

Nashville is an adult coonhound who will need some training.
Sponsored by: Dale & Matt Schrader



Archie

Very tolerant and sweet, all four declawed. He loves back scratches and getting attention.
In Memory of Tony Guerre



Queenie

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NEW YORK POST

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2013 Top of the Town Awards

BY VISITING LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM



Feedback

Slap at transparency?

Lansing Township Supervisor Kathleen Rodgers' statement, "I don't have to defend my salary to the people of Lansing, it's none of their business," ("Bernero v. Rodgers," 12/19/12) is a misguided defense of her paycheck that implies Lansing taxpayers have no reason to know or care about her pay.

Lansing Township, like virtually every municipality in the U.S., benefits from taxpayer money that is not purely derived from local taxes and fees. Grants, awards and loans from federal and state coffers bolster the ability of cities, townships, villages and hamlets to provide services to residents.

An item in the township's FY 2013 budget is "state revenue sharing," projected at \$641,912. "Grant revenues" are projected at \$57,235.

Rodgers' lack of concern over a very public expenditure — her salary, benefits and pension — speaks to an inability to understand the most basic of public policy practices as well as being an inadvertent slap at transparency. If she doesn't fully know who pays her salary, what else is she in the dark about?

— Steve Miller
Haslett

Support Lansing's Gun Buy Back

I am writing in strong support of the Lansing Gun Buy Back instituted following the Sandy Hook tragedy. The goal of the program is to raise \$10,000 to be used to get hand guns and assault guns off our streets. Please give generously to the Lansing Police Department which will use the money to buy a hand gun for \$100 and an assault gun for \$200.

No other nation in the world suffers the gun violence that the United States does in the form of both homicide and suicide. It is to our shame that we are the leader in gun deaths world wide. While we have over 10,000 gun deaths a year, other countries such a Great Britain have less than 60 despite similar social problems with poverty and race.

While getting guns off our streets is not an answer in and of itself it is a place to start and it is a concrete effort we can make. It is true that we must also address mental health issues including timely access to care. The difficulty is that predicting violent acting out behavior is very difficult and an inexact process. We must do both: get guns off the streets AND address mental health issues. Surely we can not let ourselves be forced to either/or. More guns in our schools is also not the answer. I do not want children going to school with an armed guard and remember there were armed guards at Columbine.

In the successful gun buy back in

Los Angeles, Ralph's Grocery store has underwritten the buy back with gift certificates to their stores. Perhaps Meijers could be persuaded to help underwrite this effort in our state.

As a parent, grandparent, great grandparent, psychologist, and person of faith, I invite you to write a generous check to LPD today. We must protect our children and each other.

— Linda Kron Brundage
East Lansing

Two takes on the NRA

Michael Porter's response ("Letters," 1/2/12) to Ari Levaux's article ("F*ck the NRA") in the 26 December issue provides an interesting contrast in content and style. Levaux gives several criticisms of the NRA and its opposition to gun control. These include the political power of the NRA vs. the limited number of hunters (25 %) or gun owners (4 %) who are members, the intimidating actions of the NRA regarding the public and their Congressional representatives, the limited ability of armed citizens to prevent mass murder, and the observation that gun owners and their families are more likely to be shot by their own guns than to repel an invader with them.

Porter's cites only two "facts" in his response — (1) that neither he nor any member of his family has been shot by their own guns in four generations (a minute sample of the population as a whole), and (2) that the Feds have info on all guns purchased legally. (Note that buyers can purchase them from gun owners, and at some gun shows, without registration.) The rest of his letter consists of name-calling, vulgarities, and bluster, reflecting his anger.

The editors should have rejected this letter. Ben Schenk's response to Levaux's column (same page as Porter's) is a more reasoned one and deserved publication.

— Frank Dennis
East Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

- 2.) Write a guest column:
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
or (517) 999-5061

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

CityPULSE

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Is Carol Wood content as a City Council member?



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MSU grad Rose Cooper brings hope to slackers everywhere



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Lansing's debut wine bar makes it hip to be Squared

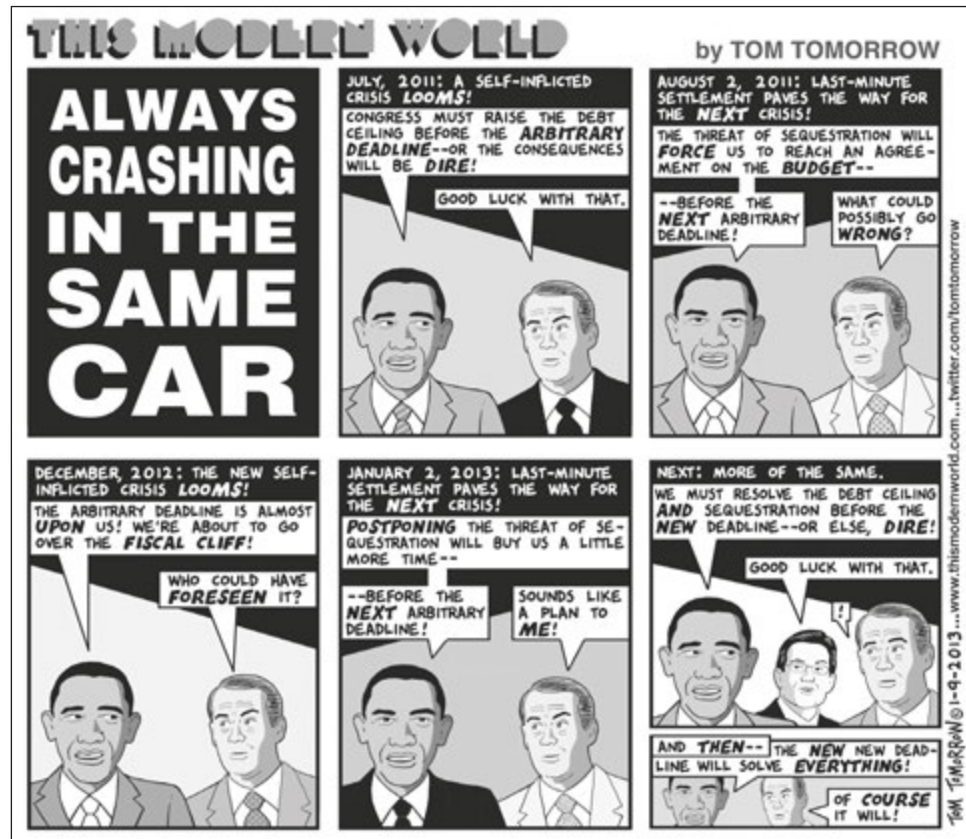
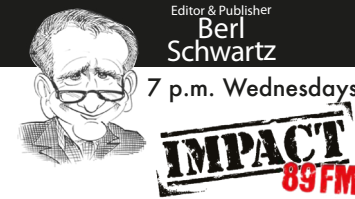


COVER
ART

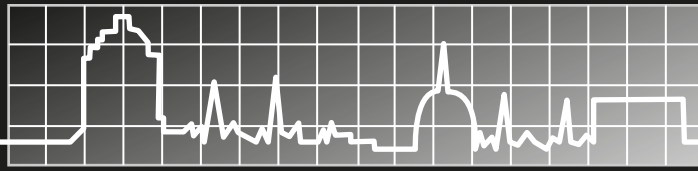
POLITICAL POP by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK
City Council President Carol Wood
Joan Bauer, former state representative
Steven Dulan, 2nd Amendment expert at Cooley Law School
Gilda Jacobs, President and CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy
Anthony Kolenic, MSU anthropology professor
Kyle Meinn of MIRS



PULSE



news & opinion

Drain project backed up

Capital Gateway project at a standstill until drain commissioner makes plans, but he says he's waiting on Bernero

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann said the proposed Capital Gateway project at the old Red Cedar Golf Course has been delayed three or four months because Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has yet to issue an agreement needed to launch a drainage study.

"I can't get the city to move forward," Lindemann said in an interview.

Randy Hannan, Bernero's chief of staff, said the City Attorney's Office is drafting a "memorandum of understanding" between the city and the drain commissioner. The document will outline the scope of work that Lindemann will undertake and will allow him to move forward with pre-engineering work of the drain. Hannan said after the memorandum is finalized, the administration will send a petition to the City Council for approval. When asked when the memorandum would be finished, Hannan would only say, "Soon." He also said any notion that the redevelopment is stalled is "completely false."

The project is poised to be the city's next prime development. It sits on the vacant 61-acre golf course on the Michigan Avenue corridor, bridging the city's east side, East Lansing and Frandor Shopping Center near U.S. 127.

Developers Joel Ferguson and Chris Jerome won't make a peep about details of how the plans for the residential and commercial project are progressing. They won't talk about buying the land; they won't talk about which businesses they've been courting; and they won't talk about any sort of timetable for groundbreaking or completion.

Ferguson said before any of that can go forward, Lindemann needs to assess the existing drain infrastructure and project costs at the site, which is part of an overall strategy to improve storm water runoff in the Montgomery Drain, which filters into the Red Cedar River.

"That's the most important thing," Ferguson said of Lindemann's task.

"Everything starts with him."

Lindemann says he's ready to start his pre-engineering assessment of the drainage district, but he's been waiting on documentation from the city for months that says it's on board with the project, which he needs before he'll start any work.

"I guess the next step isn't me, it's the mayor," Lindemann said. "I haven't seen a signed piece of paper in my hand yet, so I can't expend the kind of resources necessary to come up with a preliminary scope without that next step taking place. The ball is in the mayor's court."

Lindemann said his investigation of the watershed would give him an idea of the cost of fixing and improving the Montgomery Drain. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that drains off of it or is under it winds up filtering to one area — in this case, the Red Cedar River.

Although he's received a verbal agree-



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Drain work as part of the Capital Gateway project at Red Cedar Golf Course is stalled, says Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann: "I've asked my engineers to cease activity until I get some communication from the city of Lansing."

ment from Bernero that the city will work with him on the project, Lindemann said he needs a "letter of commitment" before he'll start.

Lindemann said when he met with Bernero in late September or early October, he told him he could have the scope of the drain project done by late January. In November, Lansing voters approved selling up to the remaining 48 acres of the park — on top of the 12.5 acres it approved selling in 2011 — to accommodate Jerome's and Ferguson's grander vision of the project, which includes student and young professional housing, retail, entertainment and green space. However, Lindemann says the work needs to be done regardless of how the November vote turned out.

Lindemann said he hasn't heard anything back from the administration, so he's keeping his engineers busy elsewhere. The investigation and analysis would

take three-and-a-half to four months, Lindemann said, pushing his completion date back to at least late April.

"We've just barely started. It's at a halt right now," Lindemann said. "I can't get the city to move forward. I've asked my engineers to cease activity until I get some communication from the city of Lansing."

When asked about how he thought the development was coming along, Jerome, Ferguson's partner on the project, said his impression was that "things are moving much faster than anticipated."

The Montgomery drainage district stretches from the Red Cedar River in the park north into the neighborhood behind the Spare Time Entertainment Center on East Grand River Avenue and west and east of U.S. 127. Lindemann said his No. 1 goal for the project is to reduce pollution going into the Red Cedar River.

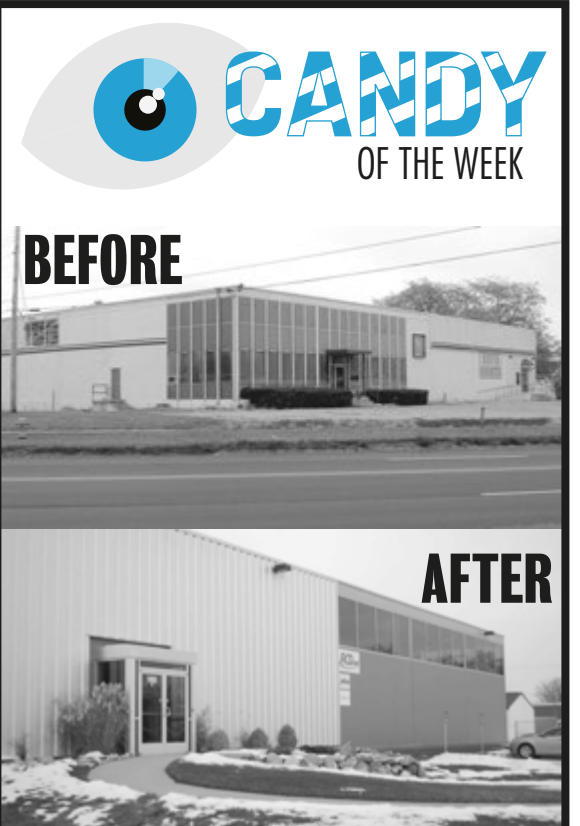
He said he knows the underground pipe system is in "relatively decent shape," but he added that there are a few kinks to work out like ensuring no sewage pipes are fed into the drain. He said the project should be "relatively inexpensive" because most of the underground infrastructure is in place. Lindemann said he plans on creating an "extended collection system" by using aboveground, low-impact elements for filtration.

Low impact elements for helping filter the storm water runoff include constructed wetlands, rain gardens, bioswales and some mechanical structures like underground cleaning filters, Lindemann said. The designs act as catch basins to filter larger items that wind up in parking lots and on the street — like cigarette butts, food wrappers and pop cans — that now end up running into storm drains.

One example of a project that could involve a bioswale is the boulevard on Michigan Avenue. If the median of grass and trees are made to be more concave, and storm water was allowed to flow into it, then the larger items would be caught at the surface and disposed of. At the same time, smaller particles of pollutants would be caught in a sand-filtration system under the ground.

Lindemann said all of the low-impact elements would wind up being a lot cheaper than completely redoing the underground pipe system. He also said the aboveground collection system would hopefully aesthetically complement the development planned by Jerome and Ferguson.

— Sam Inglot



Property: 1800 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Owner: ACD.net
Assessed value: \$296,000

You just know something high-tech is going on inside this building. This week's feature — home to ACD.net, mid-Michigan's largest independent phone and Internet provider — is a cool cube of a building with vertical cladding, ribbon windows and an ever eye-pleasing blue-hued exterior complimented by orange accents.

ACD.net has given the building a facelift, bringing the former industrial building up-to-date with its new exterior. Daylighting is a striking feature of the building's interior, which is filled with soft ambient light that reduces the need for artificial lighting. According to ACD.net President Steve Schoen, the new interior and exterior are just some of the many investments the company's made in this building and the Lansing area.

It is increasingly important that existing buildings be reused. Industrial buildings are great for adaptive reuse as they often have open floor plans that lend themselves to redesign. Lansing is not short of these.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

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

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Tuesday, Jan. 15

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For hours and locations, check cadl.org.



15TH
BIRTHDAY
1998-2013

CityPULSE
NEWSMAKERS



Hosted by
Berl Schwartz

Gun Control: Part II



Joan Bauer Former state representative

Steven Dulan Cooley Law School and Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners

Gilda Jacobs President and CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy

Anthony Kolenic MSU anthropology professor

Comcast Ch. 16 Lansing: 11 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

Comcast Ch. 30 Meridian Township: 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13; 5 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 13, through Saturday, Jan. 19; and 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19.

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

The Wood files

After being elected president of the Lansing City Council, is Carol Wood content as a City Council member?

Carol Wood moved two seats to her left on the City Council dais after being elected president last week by her colleagues. But she's still keeping an eye on another seat, one that's a floor below her Council office: the Mayor's Office.

The 62-year-old Wood, who is serving her fourth term on the Council, just laughs when asked if she'll make a second run at the Mayor's Office in this year's election. It could turn out to be a rematch from 2009, in which Mayor Virg Bernero easily defeated her, 62 percent to 37 percent. Bernero has said he plans to run for a third term this year.

"No, I haven't decided that yet," Wood said during a 45-minute interview last week. Which is to say, she's not ruling it out. Wood says she's waiting to see who else commits to the race, but concedes that she's been primarily wrapped up with Council business. "It's just not been the first priority on my plate right now."

It seems as though Wood has had the Mayor's Office on her mind since her first term on Council. Wood's only other year as Council president was 2003, when she assumed the role after former Councilman Tony Benavides took over as mayor when David Hollister left the office for a job in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration. As Wood tells it, she was in line to be Council president in 2003, not Benavides, which, as the city charter provides, would have sent her straight to the Mayor's Office after Hollister's departure.

"We all knew what was happening" with Hollister leaving, Wood said, adding that Hollister asked her to go along with Benavides' presidency. "Did I have some desire (to be mayor) at that time? I'm not going to tell you I didn't." But considering

she was only in her first term, she agreed with Hollister, which "probably was best for the city at that point."

Wood has been an at-large Councilwoman since first elected in 1999 — she was defeated by Michael Murphy for a 4th Ward seat by 201 votes in 1997. In the time since Bernero was first elected in 2005, the two have developed a working relationship that — for anyone who's sat through a Council meeting when the two of them are present — leaves you wondering who'll take the first dig at the other, whether it's for a policy position or how it's being dealt with procedurally.

Bernero says his beef with Wood has never been personal but with how he says she handles administration-backed initiatives in snail-like fashion. Wood, meanwhile, is an unapologetic populist, saying she's merely asking "tough questions" of the administration on behalf of taxpayers.

As for issues destined to cause friction between the administration and the Council, the next one to do so may be the budget. With an \$11 million anticipated shortfall heading into the next fiscal year — and a Financial Health Team poised to make what Councilman Brian Jeffries said last week could be "draconian" recommendations — how drastic is Wood willing to go with the budget? Hard to say, at this point.

"For me to step out there before seeing anything — I'm not willing to do that," Wood said, recognizing that some ideas may take time to get "buy-in from the public before



Wood

See Wood, Page 7

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 *Financial Aid available for those who qualify.

Wood

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they come together. ... Part of it is understanding what the public is expecting.”

When asked for specific ideas for raising revenues or lowering expenditures, Wood offered none. But she said one tactic is taking up city employees’ suggestions to do either. “It’s something we give lip service to — ideas that have been brought about by employees.”

For example, when Lansing Police Department employees suggested installing scales in vehicles so they could ticket overweight trucks on the expressway, she said. “Every year we have employees who put a whole list together. Let’s investigate those.”

What about selling parkland? “I would be reluctant to sell off green space that is dedicated parkland unless we’re talking about something that is a lot between two houses that someone gave to the city.”

How much should the city get for the former Red Cedar Golf Course, which voters have approved selling to developers?

“I don’t know. I have not seen an appraisal on it.”

What about consolidating Lansing, East Lansing and Lansing Township? “Regionalism is something we have to look at,” she said, citing mutual agreements among fire departments and a shared sewer system with Lansing Township. “Are there more we can do? We have to build trust. I don’t think it helps a situation where you start with name-calling” — an apparent reference to the mayor and Lansing Township Supervisor Kathleen Rodgers’ public differences over a merger.

Two years ago, Wood was part of a Council minority that suggested selling the downtown Oliver Towers for \$2 million, annexing the airport into the city so the city could collect taxes from it and closing the north and south police precincts to run the Police Department from

City Hall as a way to fix a budget deficit. While the administration dismissed the options as a “pipe dream” at the time (largely because they were long-term ideas that would have spanned years to accomplish), it has attempted to sell Oliver Towers and find a new home for the Police Department.

When it comes to getting Council business done, Wood is quick to deny any notion of voting blocs that pit Bernero supporters against her supporters. Yet she was elected president by a 5-3 vote on Thursday, with Bernero’s supporters — Kathie Dunbar, Jessica Yorko and Tina Houghton — voting against her. She, and Jeffries, have a track record of publicly bickering with the administration during Council meetings. It’s bad P.R., but isn’t it fact?

Wood prefaced our interview by handing me a typed letter for Bernero saying she’d like to “work together for the betterment of Lansing and its residents” while she’s president. She even invited him to breakfast. The mayor has accepted “on principle,” Bernero’s chief of staff said — details need to be worked out.

Opposing votes on Council “shouldn’t be perceived as for or against the mayor,” she said. “I get really upset with the media when they use this ploy out there about for or against the mayor.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

Pay up

Councilwoman A’Lynne Robinson’s state rep campaign owes the state for not filing finance report

The state has fined Lansing City Councilwoman A’Lynne Robinson’s campaign committee \$1,000 for not filing a

finance report after she was defeated in the August Democratic primary for state representative in the 68th district.

According to the state Bureau of Elections, Robinson’s committee was notified in October and November of the maximum \$1,000 “late filing fee” for not filing a post-primary finance report. The report shows campaign expenditures and contributions of the final days of the primary election.

Robinson deferred questions about the fine to her campaign treasurer, Deanna Cambridge. “Last I knew we filed it,” Robinson said Monday.

Cambridge, who worked as a record keeper on Robinson’s 2007 and 2011 City Council campaigns, said the report was filed on time electronically and blamed the state’s not having it on a computer error. However, she said the committee would pay the fine if necessary.

“We’ll get to the bottom of it,” Cambridge said. “If there’s a fee due to the fault of mine, then that will be taken care of as well. We’re not trying to not do what’s required.”

Fred Woodhams, a spokesman for the state Bureau of Elections, said the department is unaware of any glitches and that there has not been contact with anyone from Robinson’s committee.

“We are not aware of any technological issue preventing them from filing,” he said.

According to notices sent to the committee, fee collection may be turned over to the state Department of Treasury if not acted upon. Under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, Robinson and Cambridge are “equally and severally liable” for the late fees, and the Department of Treasury “may take collection actions against the personal financial holdings ... to bring the account balance to zero,” the notice says.

Robinson finished second behind Andy Schor in a field with five other candidates

seeking the Democratic nomination for the 68th state House district. Schor defeated Timothy Moede in the General Election, replacing former Rep. Joan Bauer.

Three other candidates in the Democratic primary were assessed fees related to filing late finance reports, though those have been paid. Griffin Rivers paid a \$200 fee for doing so, while Ted O’Dell and Dale Copedge each paid a \$25 fee for filing a report a day late.



Robinson

— Andy Balaskovitz



Bank on it

Newly elected treasurer wants to form a land bank in Eaton County

Bob Robinson has a plan for the rising number of tax-foreclosed properties in Eaton County.

Robinson, the newly elected Democratic treasurer there, is looking to do what Ingham and 32 other Michigan counties do to help manage property blight: set up a county land bank.

“I can tell you the blight of abandoned homes is impacting every community in the county,” Robinson said. “One way

See Land Bank, Page 8



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MID-MICHIGAN?

Land Bank

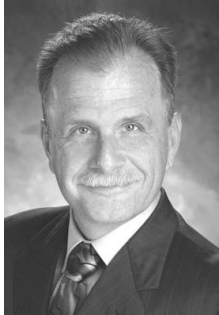
from page 7

we can deal with part of this problem is through a land bank.”

When properties are foreclosed on for taxes, in Eaton County, they are “surrendered” to the state, as Robinson put it, because the county is not what’s called a foreclosing governmental unit. The state then auctions the property off for back taxes and costs and fees. Eaton County is one of only 12 counties in the state that’s not a foreclosing governmental unit. In Ingham Co., properties foreclosed on for taxes are turned over to the county Treasurer’s Office.

Declining to become such an entity, Robinson said, has “hamstrung Eaton County.” It means the state has essentially been the steward of tax-foreclosed properties in Eaton County. More local control of those properties may yield better

results for repurposing them, Robinson said.



Roberson

First, the county will need a special purpose bill to pass the Legislature allowing it to become a foreclosing governmental unit. Then it would need to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the

state Land Bank Fast Track Authority to create a land bank.

A driving factor behind Robinson’s plan is that tax foreclosures have steadily risen in Eaton County over the past six years. They more than doubled between 2008 and 2009, from 16 to 35. Last year, there were 52 tax foreclosures — nearly five times as many as there were in 2006, according to figures provided by the Treasurer’s Office. That compares to nearly 450 in Ingham County last year.

Up until 1999, Michigan properties that went into tax foreclosure lingered for up to seven years. In that year, the Legislature allowed counties to take possession of such properties after just two years.

A statewide Land Bank Fast Track Authority was created under state law in 2003 and countywide land banks sprung up thereafter, the first in Genesee County. Ingham County was the state’s second, created in 2005.

A land bank is an authority that basically manages tax-reverted, donated and unclaimed properties, either by demolishing structures or rehabilitating them. They may be funded through proceeds from the tax foreclosure process, local units of government. The Ingham County Land Bank has been heavily funded recently through federal stimulus dollars. The county treasurer decides which properties it wants to revert to the land bank, which makes it eligible for various types of financial incen-

tives for redevelopment or demolition.

Land bank supporters say it’s advantageous to manage such blight locally rather than through the state. Moreover, they say, it doesn’t matter whether you’re in a more rural area like Eaton County or a place like Genesee or Ingham counties with an urban core.

“You can apply them to all different sized communities,” said Eric Schertzing, Ingham County treasurer and chairman of the Ingham County Land Bank. “Do you want the state of Michigan dealing with local property or would you like to do it at a county level? I think it’s a slam dunk on behalf of citizens to do it locally.”

The state, Schertzing says, doesn’t do as much “personal outreach” when auctioning off foreclosed properties, such as an open house, which he commonly does for “decent properties.” And with more “hands-on” auctions, he added, “You can get more money into the system” through “better buyers” and avoiding “low-quality investors.”

Flo McCormack, a consultant for the Michigan Association of Counties, said the original goal of land banks was to see tax-foreclosed properties end up in “productive re-use.” Before land banks were enabled under state law a decade ago, “Many properties kept going through the tax reversion process over and over” because bidders on properties may have been from all over the country.

She called the land bank enabling legislation “one of the best pieces of legislation I’ve ever seen,” because it is “specific enough to give guidance and broad enough to let urban counties deal with (foreclosed properties) one way and rural counties a completely different way.”

Yet former Eaton County Treasurer Bill Conarton Jr., a Republican who served four terms before Robinson, never gave much thought to starting a land bank, primarily due to the relatively low number of tax-foreclosed parcels during his tenure and because of potential costs for the county, such as legal expenses that may be incurred during the foreclosure process.

State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, said it’s “probably a good idea as long as it doesn’t start costing the taxpayers a lot of money.”

McCormack pointed out that county treasurers are not statutorily obligated to put any properties in the land bank. “You just have it in the toolbox,” she said.

Robinson comes from a background of public relations consulting. He ran unsuccessfully for the state House in 2010. He and Schertzing share the idea that the land bank concept challenges the traditional duties of a county treasurer.

“I want to take it beyond the minimal performance with respect to the required obligations of the job, which are collecting taxes, issuing dog licenses and investing idle funds of the county,” Robinson said. “I will evolve this office to do a lot more than that.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

10 issues to watch in ‘13

Just when you thought Gov. Rick Snyder and the Republican-led Legislature’s 2011 mojo petered out in 2012, out pops right to work, the phase-out of the Personal Property Tax, the long-sought regional transit authority for



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

southeast Michigan and new abortion restrictions.

Smarting Democrats and unions have to be wondering, “What more can they do to us?”

Great question. With the GOP retaining an albeit smaller 59-51 majority in the House and Snyder having another year before he focuses on re-election (if that’s what he wants to do), you can count on the R’s to not stand around in 2013.

Of the 12 issues I mentioned last year, Snyder & Co. tied a bow on six of them, leaving a second six-pack for these guys to start with for 2013. But you can guarantee they won’t stop there. Here are some things on the menu:

1. No Fault Auto Insurance — This one went nowhere after a steady flow of car accident victims and their families shared gut-wrenching stories about how far up a creek they would be without the state’s unlimited lifetime benefit. However, the system is built on a house of cards with drivers paying a higher car insurance assessment every year. In 2011-12 it was \$145 a year. That got bumped up to \$175 last year and the level is likely to keep growing.

2. Medical marijuana dispensaries — The Legislature took care of Part 1 of its medical marijuana reforms when it made it clear that patients need to have some established relationship with the physician who is giving them their recommendation. Part 2 is more tricky. How do we get pot in the hands of the suffering people? Do we try dispensaries again? Run it through pharmacies? Or keep it as a home-grown operation?

3. “Obamacare” — Conservatives successfully moved the goal posts on establishing a state-run health care registry under the Affordable Care Act all year before completely letting the air out of the football in lame duck. It leaves Snyder and his administration to broker with the feds on some type of joint partnership — except the Legislature refuses to let the state spend any federal money on getting

anything going. How long will this confrontation continue?

4. Federal budget picture — Cliff or no cliff, the federal government was going to dial back the amount of money to the states. Of course, the state is running on a shoestring so it’s going to mean fewer benefits for the people who need it the most: the poor.

5. Road funding — The formula is simple: More fuel-efficient cars plus higher gas prices equals lower state gas tax revenues. It’s been an issue since Engler was governor and the situation is at five-alarm status. Snyder’s plan to re-jigger the gas tax means drivers pay a little more. But if scorned Democrats don’t help with some votes, this baby will stall ... again.

6. School choice — Snyder has asked local attorney Richard McLellan to concoct a plan that blows the lid off how public schools operate. The focus is on allowing schools to cater themselves into a specialty that attracts students from around the world. Think of a K-12 system that looks a bit like universities with instructors who are experts in the field as opposed to teachers who go through the traditional education process.

7. Income tax rollback — This purely political issue is bound to return since no Republican incumbent wants to hit any campaign trail without voting to lower the income tax rate. But Snyder thinks the current 4.25 percent rate brings in the proper amount of money and doesn’t have a cut on his priority list. Of course, right to work and stripping benefits from the same-sex partners of public employees wasn’t “on his agenda,” either.

8. More budget problems — The Legislature has itself a \$140 million budget problem in 2013 since the 1 percent tax on health insurance policies it created in 2011 didn’t bring in the money lawmakers thought. Now the state has a hole that nobody is eager to fill.

9. Snyder’s unfunded liabilities — Let’s just say the state has a couple of extra pennies left over next year. Our CPA-turned-governor said he wants to use them to continue to pay down the state’s many unfunded liabilities. Yawn. With the schools, cities, universities and health care communities all sticking their hands out, the battle for the table scraps will be fierce.

10. Union blowback — Will they try recalls? A citizen initiative? Another constitutional amendment? Lawsuits? All of the above? Organized labor is not going to take the passage of right to work lying down. One way or the other, labor groups have vowed that right to work in Michigan will not exist after 2014.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)

THE NEW WAVE: Ingham County's up-and-coming political leaders

By WALT SORG

There's a new generation starting to take over the reigns of government in Ingham County. The 2012 election brought in a new wave of political leaders. Together with a couple of "old hands" — a two-term East Lansing City Councilman and a three-term township clerk who are both under the age of 45 — they will help define the political agenda for the county over the next decade.

Not surprisingly, all of them are Democrats. Elected Republicans are becoming an endangered species in Ingham County. Democrats swept the three state House races, and swept all but one position in Ingham's two largest townships. GOP victories were mostly limited to a handful of small township races.

Without exception, the group's economic development focus is on creating a more attractive environment for young talent: vibrant cities, a higher percentage of residents with college degrees, thriving arts communities and an environment of inclusiveness. They decry Michigan's focus on lowering business costs, noting the lack of correlation between a state's business costs and economic prosperity.

While none will admit it (on the record), most of these new leaders will continue their political careers in higher offices. Some are contenders for Congress or even a statewide position, others are potential judges. Those serving in the smallest of offices — think township clerk or City Council — are potential candidates for the state Legislature. But for now they are concentrating on their respective offices, knowing that their future electability depends in large part on doing a good job now.

These are City Pulse's picks for emerging political leaders in Ingham County. The list is made up of two state reps, two township officials, two city officials, two county officials, two African Americans, one Indian-American and two women. The age range is 28 to 50.

Who: Andy Schor

Office: State representative, 68th House district (Lansing)

Age: 37

Newly elected state representatives Andy Schor and Sam Singh head up the Class of 2012.

If they choose, Schor and Singh will likely spend the next six years in the state House representing overwhelmingly Democratic districts in Lansing and East Lansing, respectively. They are both 24 years younger than the lawmakers they replaced, Mark Meadows (Singh) and Joan Bauer (Schor).

Schor moves to the Legislature after a decade serving as an Ingham County commissioner. His experience there and as a lobbyist for the Michigan Municipal League clearly give him a focus on local government issues. He is also a former legislative staffer, which gives him a head start on most of his freshmen colleagues.

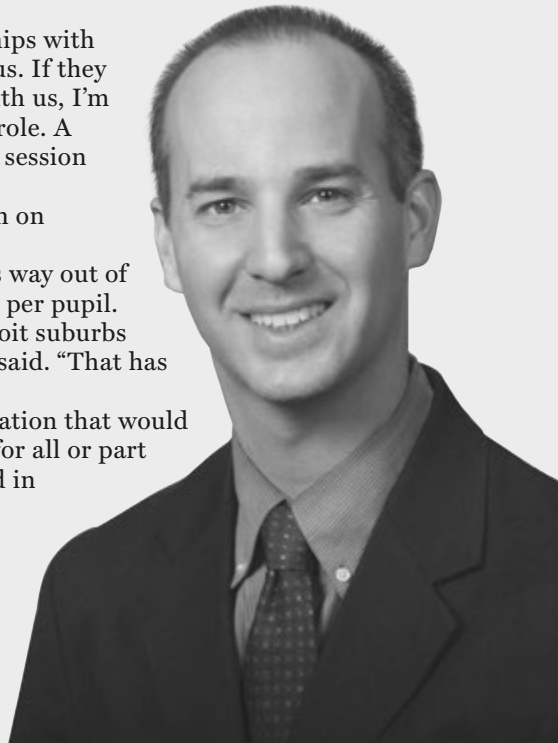
"I already have relationships with half of the Republican caucus. If they are interested in working with us, I'm someone who can play that role. A lot of it depends on how the session starts."

Education funding is high on Schor's list of priorities.

"Our per-pupil funding is way out of whack. Lansing gets \$7,000 per pupil. Some of the wealthiest Detroit suburbs get more than \$12,000," he said. "That has to be fixed."

He's also looking at legislation that would reimburse college students for all or part of their tuition if they stayed in Michigan after graduation.

Schor, a Long Island, N.Y., native, married Erin Schor 10 years ago. They have an 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter. He has a bachelor's in political science from the University of Michigan.



Who: Sam Singh

Office: State representative, 69th House district (East Lansing)

Age: 41

Singh is the second consecutive former East Lansing mayor elected to the state House in the 69th district. After working with MSU's student government, he was elected to the East Lansing City Council at the age of 24, serving 12 years and becoming mayor in 2005.

Singh is a policy wonk. Most recently he was senior consultant for the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan, a nonprofit focused on transforming Michigan to a knowledge-based economy. He also was an affiliated consultant with the Lansing-based think tank Public Policy Associates. Before that, he headed the 1,100-member Michigan Nonprofit Association.

His resume includes a well-publicized, 17-month odyssey when he traveled the world and spent time on all seven continents. His penchant for world travel was evident again last month when Singh married Kerry Ebersole on a beach in Jamaica and then honeymooned for three weeks in Southeast Asia.

"We have to position Michigan in a global economy. We need to understand our role as a trading partner in the world," said Singh. "Hopefully my international experience will be an asset as we work to expand Michigan's presence in world markets."

Singh's legislative focus will be state government investment in education, economic development and the environment (the "Three E's"). (We spoke with him while he was driving to a meeting with Ingham County school superintendents in anticipation of Gov. Rick Snyder's 2013 education agenda.)

"We have to get away from this mentality of just trying to cut all of our budgets and somehow reach success," Singh said. "Investing in the 'Three E's' will encourage innovation, attract and retain talented workers, make more vibrant communities and create jobs."

Singh, a native of Livonia, is the son of Indian immigrants. He is the first Indian-American to serve in the state Legislature.



New Wave

from page 9

Who: Sarah Anthony
Office: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, 3rd District (southwest Lansing)
Age: 29

Two newcomers on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners have the potential to be a force on mid-Michigan's least visible level of government.

The first is Sarah Anthony, who was urged to run by her now-constituents in southwest Lansing. The departure of former Commissioner Dale Copedge, who ran unsuccessfully against Schor in August's Democratic primary, meant there would be no African Americans on the 14-member commission.

She sees the county commission as a perfect fit for her background and interests.

"I want to connect Lansing's south side with county government," she said. "People need to know more about what county government does, and how it fits into their lives." As a member of the board's Finance Committee, she plans to pour

over the county's books, looking for more efficiencies to make up for a continuing decline in both property tax revenues and state revenue sharing.

As director of finance and strategic planning at the Michigan College Access Network, Anthony works to increase access to college educations for underprivileged students, first-generation college students and people of color.

Anthony is a native of Lansing with degrees from Central Michigan University (bachelor's in political science/legal studies) and a master's of public administration from Western Michigan University. She is single.



Who: Kara Hope
Office: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, 7th District (Delhi Township, Holt)
Age: 38

It was almost inevitable that Ingham County Commissioner Kara Hope would run for office. Public service is a Hope family tradition in Delhi Township, something she inherited by marrying longtime Delhi Township Clerk Evan Hope in 2006.

Bernard Hope Middle School is named after Evan Hope's late father, who served for 17 years on the Holt School Board. The Kenneth Hope Soccer Complex is named after his late uncle, who served on the Delta Township Board of Trustees, Ingham County Road Commission and Ingham County Board of Commissioners.

The Hopes became stars of local politics in November with their orchestration of a Democratic sweep of the township board (only moderate Republican John Hayhoe survived). In one of the most unusual matchups of the election, Kara Hope defeated incumbent Republican Commissioner Vince Dragonetti, while her husband Evan defeated Dragonetti's wife, Denise.

Kara Hope was motivated to run, in part, by the negative tactics used by conservative Republicans in the township over the last year. The Tea Party wing of the local GOP took out longtime Delhi Township Supervisor Stuart Goodrich in a nasty Republican primary, but came up empty in November.

Kara Hope says that, unlike the Tea Party slate, she is "not an ideologue, and I ran as an answer to that."

The Ypsilanti native attended Michigan State University and Cooley Law School.

Her legal career has included work at the Michigan Court of Appeals, in private practice and as an adjunct professor at Cooley Law School.

Hope believes the county commission is "functioning well." Her goal is to work cooperatively

with her 13 colleagues "to continue the tradition of doing smart things."



Who: Evan Hope
Office: Delhi Township Clerk
Age: 41

Evan Hope started in the "family business" at the age of 24 as a township trustee. Two years later he began what is now a 14-year run as township clerk. He's been encouraged to run for other offices several times, but he's content to stay where he's at.

"What I like about being clerk is it's the town in which I was born," he said. "I like being a part of shaping what happens. I'm able to do more at this level. There's a much different atmosphere at the Capitol."

Evan Hope's reticence to seek higher office may not extend to his wife. Evan Hope readily concedes that she could someday run for judge or the Legislature, quickly adding (like any good husband), "But that's up to her!"

The Hopes met through Match.com, and it stuck. Six months after their wedding, they took in a niece and nephew they are raising in their Holt home.



See New Wave, Page 11

PUBLIC NOTICES



Ingham County seeks proposals from qualified and experienced engineering firms for the purpose of entering into a contract to provide professional engineering services for the replacement of a 30-year old cooling tower at the Ingham County Jail. The scope of this request can be found in the proposal document which is posted on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #6-13. See proposal document for details. Proposals are due on January 22nd by 11:00 AM in the Purchasing Office. To schedule a date and time to view the worksite, please contact Mike Hughes at 517-676-8232. Direct all questions to jhudgins@ingham.org no later than 3 PM on January 14th.

B/13/052 FIRST AID SUPPLIES / STOCK BOXES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **JANUARY 31, 2013** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Darleen Burnham, CPPB at (517) 483-4129, email: Darleen.Burnham@lansingmi.gov, or for content and purpose of this bid contact Kathleen Woodman at (517) 483-4012, email: Kathy.Woodman@lansingmi.gov, or go to www.mitn.info.

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

New Wave

from page 10

Who: Brett Dreyfus
Office: Meridian Township Clerk
Age: 50

At age 50, Brett Dreyfus is the oldest of the new generation of leaders.

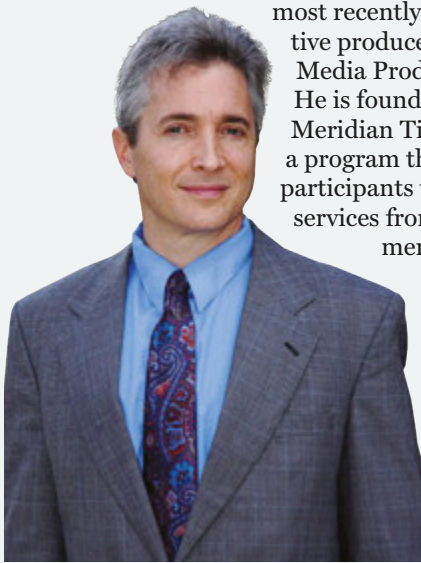
After 12 years as a Meridian Township trustee, he was elected township clerk on a promise to use technology to improve efficiency and provide more user-friendly services. He also wants to increase voter turnout in non-presidential elections.

“We need to make the voting experience easier and to incentivize the voting process,” Dreyfus said. “We’ll use an opt-in email or text notification service to remind voters of an election and send them polling location information.”

Dreyfus is also researching the viability of a lottery or raffle for people who vote, with local merchants contributing prizes. And he wants to develop “democracy ambassadors,” high school seniors who actively encourage their peers to register and vote.

Dreyfus has a bachelor’s in political science from Michigan State University. His career has been in communications,

most recently as executive producer at Digital Media Productions. He is founder of the Meridian TimeBank, a program that allows participants to pay for services from other members with their time rather than money.



Who: Nathan Triplett
Office: East Lansing City Council
Age: 29

Under 30, Nathan Triplett is already a veteran of East Lansing City Council, winning his first campaign in 2007 and reelection in 2011.

He ran, in part, out of frustration.

“East Lansing offers such a unique combination of attributes that I was looking for a way to give back. It was accepted as fact that MSU students would graduate and then leave. There wasn’t a desire to have a vibrant knowledge economy or creative economy in the area,” he said.

Triplett exemplifies his economic vision for Michigan. He has accumulated four college degrees: two bachelor’s from MSU; an M.P.A. from University of Michigan, and a J.D. from MSU’s School of Law. After passing the bar exam last summer, the Parma, Ohio, native decided to stay in mid-Michigan, joining the Old Town law offices of Clark Hill in the litigation department.

His passion for attracting young talent helps fire an unrelenting campaign in support of LGBT rights. He sees it both as a matter of simple justice, as well as economic development.

“The next generation wants to live in communities that are welcoming, that embrace diversity and looks on it as a strength. East Lansing has always done that, but Michigan has struggled with those issues and it is hurting us.”

Triplett’s five-year marriage to Sarah Triplett, assistant director of communications for the Early Childhood Investment Corp., began when both were legislative aides working in adjacent offices. Many say Sarah could someday also run for public office.



Who: Marlon Brown
Office: Mason City Council
Age: 28

Marlon Brown didn’t waste any time setting his roots down in Mason. A native of Warren, the 28-year-old moved to the Ingham County seat just three years ago. In November, the new Mason City Councilman tied Barbara Tornholm for the fourth and final Council seat.

Several days later, Brown drew a slip with the word “Elected” out of a shoebox held by Ingham County Clerk Mike Bryanton — the closest electoral victory since George W. Bush beat Al Gore. (Tornholm declined a recount.)

As a newcomer to Mason — and an African American in a city that is predominantly white — it would seem Brown couldn’t win. Neither fact hindered his campaign. He credits the welcoming attitude of the people of Mason with his quick acceptance.

“I knocked on more than 2,000 doors — nobody else running for Council was that active. People were happy to talk with me, and excited to see a new face, saying that we need new blood, new ideas.”

A full-time budget and policy analyst with the state,

Brown has a bachelor’s in political science from American University, where he met his wife, Margaret. He earned an

M.P.A. with a specialization in city management at the University of Delaware. He also graduated from MSU’s Michigan Political Leadership Program, a breeding ground for future elected officials in both parties.

He has found that he likes being on Council. “I’ll keep running for as long as I can be effective, knowing that one of these days someone will come along with some fresher, newer ideas. That’s when I’ll step aside.”



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The sweet smell of failure

At 50, MSU grad Rose Cooper brings hope to slackers everywhere

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Inspiration can be a drag. Take the guilt-inducing paragons who taunt us on the interstate: “Climbed Everest. Blind.” Desmond Tutu, Steve Jobs, Jackie Robinson. Sure, we can relate.

Thank God, millions of mortal screw-ups have Lansing’s Rose Jangmi Cooper, the singing motorcycle dreadlock woman, to look up to.

On Dec. 15, 30 years after her first stab at college, Cooper graduated from MSU with her first degree, in the Korean language. She spoke to grads at the winter commencement and took MSU President Lou Anna Simon for a spin on her Harley for a victory lap.

“What you see standing before you is a failure,” Cooper announced on the podium.

Her simple story — she kept on screwing things up and blowing things off until she stopped — is striking a chord with a lot of people. The MSU speech, the chopper ride with Simon and a poetry reading at TedXLansing last year are spreading her fame via YouTube. People are collaring her every day to tell her how inspiring she is. She’s proud but a little abashed.

“I’m an ordinary woman living an extraordinary life,” she said. “A lot of people think, ‘She never gave up.’ Not true. For a while I did give up.”

Cooper got a big smile from an MSU staffer while scheduling her commencement speech last month. Recent addresses on campus from the likes of Bishop Tutu and Magic Johnson “made her feel bad and stupid because she couldn’t be that great,” Cooper said. “I have the Everyman story.”

Cooper was the first person in her family to make it to college, but MSU was a culture shock for her in 1982. Rose and her seven sisters grew up poor, in the northwest corner of Detroit, raised by a single mom. She showed a lot of promise in school, especially in math and science, and family expectations weighed her

down.

“I went to college for all the wrong reasons,” she said. “I didn’t have a focus, no structure, no guidance. I changed majors depending on the time of year.”

Love was a big distraction. She hunkered down in northwest Lansing with her boyfriend, Michael Cooper (now her husband of 26 years) and didn’t make it to class much. When her GPA sunk below 1.9, she was kicked out of MSU in summer 1984. She didn’t tell her parents about the expulsion until last month’s graduation ceremony. (They thought she left because she was bored.)

After a four-month stint at the Okemos Taco Bell, Cooper came back to campus as a full-time secretary. She returned to classes part time in 1988, but still didn’t get it right. She copied her major, criminal justice, from a friend. Going back into the classroom felt like returning to a crime scene.

“I started having horrible, horrible anxiety attacks from feeling I was going to fail again,” she said. “It was a self-fulfilling prophecy.” In summer 1990, she pulled out again, “on my own terms, before they could kick me out.”

She began to think that school wasn’t for her. She moved up to a tech job at the computer center, kept busy raising two sons, and co-wrote a book, “Three Black Chicks Review Flicks,” with co-contributors from New Orleans and Seattle.

“I’m not ashamed of it, but it was heavily edited toward being a ‘black’ book, very sassy, and most of it is not even in my voice,” she said. “If nothing

else, it let me buy a motorcycle and go to Tahiti.”

Every
autumn,
she

fell into a funk. It took her a couple of years to realize she was feeling the tug of school, and of unfinished business.

In 1999, Cooper’s oldest son, Jumbe, now 33, was stationed in Korea. Rose and Michael came to visit. “The second I got off the plane, I fell in love with Korea,” Cooper said. “It was one of those epiphanies.”

Mother and son visited a fish market in a remote area where most Koreans didn’t know English. To Rose’s surprise, Jumbe didn’t know how to ask for fish. On a whim, she casually boasted that the next time they got together, she would speak better Korean than he did.

“That critical moment changed everything,” she said. Less than two weeks later, she was enrolled in Korean 101 at MSU.

This time, she stuck with the program. What made the difference? “It was totally me,” she said. “I didn’t do it because I was embarrassed, or somebody wanted me to.”

She loves to tell chronic screw-ups, with authority, never to say “never.”

“I wasn’t ready for 20 years,” she said. “I had to bake.”

With classes in hand, long-dormant aspirations began to bubble up. She won third place in an MSU poetry contest. Friends urged her to perform at TedXLansing in 2011, where she wept through a bittersweet poem about liberation: “Some of us finally escaped limbo/Some of us learned to smile for our own damn selves.”

She got used to stepping way out of her comfort zone, swapping her black Baptist upbringing for membership in a Korean Presbyterian church. In April 2011, she entered the fourth annual

Gayoje, a Korean singing contest, and won it with a tear-jerker called “Bogo Sipda” (“I Miss You”). “K-Pop is great for kids, but I like ballads,” she shrugged.

Whenever
somebody
tells me,
‘Black

people don’t do that,’ I want to do it more,” she said. “‘Black people don’t skydive.’ Well, I was up in the air and I came down. Black people skydive, at least that day.”

The experience of being Rose Cooper reached a surreal peak on Nov. 15 when

“I’m an ordinary woman leading an extraordinary life. A lot of people think, ‘She never gave up.’ Not true. For a while I did give up.”

President Simon charged out of the Administration Building in a helmet, gave Cooper a hug and jumped on her bike. On the road, they sang the MSU fight song, which Cooper had only recently learned. Simon was reluctant to sing, but everyone sings when they ride on Rose Cooper’s bike.

“My bike, my rules,” Cooper told Simon.

With all of this recent attention, Cooper is more worried about overexposure than exploitation. But exploitation can work two ways. Last year, Cooper learned that a former co-worker at the Computer Center, a student, committed suicide because he felt he was screwing up at school. That’s the kind of person Cooper wants to reach. She hopes her next job at MSU will be an academic adviser, helping non-traditional students like herself. In the meantime, a podium at commencement and a ride with the president aren’t bad platforms.

“I’m sincere, and I’m doing this on my own terms,” she said. “Whether I’m being exploited, or I’m exploiting my situation, there are a lot worse things to exploit.”

That leaves only one drawback to Cooper’s growing fame.

“Now I can’t do dirt in this town,” she said. “If I ever stole from somebody or hit somebody, there is no way I could get away with it.”

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Last month Rose Cooper graduated from MSU ... 30 years after her first semester there. The Korean Language major gave her class commencement speech.



A Nobel performance

Haslett-born opera singer finding success overseas

By RICH TUPICA

Mid-Michigan isn't exactly a booming opera scene — perhaps that's why vocalist Brenden Gunnell, a 2002 graduate of Haslett High School, decided to relocate to Oslo, Norway.

Finding new digs on a different continent has been an increasingly good career move for the singer whose first professional engagement was in 2007. Among other accomplishments, like recording for Challenge Records, Gunnell also played a milestone gig last month. The former Michigander was a featured singer at the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony on Dec. 10 at the Rådhus in Oslo.

Gunnell, 29, sang "Mattinata" by Leoncavallo and "Dein ist Mein Ganzes Herz" by Lehar at the event, and is one of the few Americans to ever sing at the prestigious ceremony. The audience included guests like King Harald V and other members of the royal family, members of the Nobel Committee and the heads of most European governments.

Who introduced you to Opera?

I have Erich Wangeman of Haslett High School to thank for so much. He instilled a love of classical choral music and the performing arts in all of his students, but some of us took it more to heart than others. I didn't start getting into opera until college, at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where it became apparent that I would become an operatic tenor.

Have you ever performed in Lansing?

I performed in the now defunct Lansing Lyric Opera as a chorus member in 'Don Giovanni' and as Fiorello in the 'Barber of Seville' in 2000 and 2001.

How did you get to sing at the Nobel ceremony?

A dear colleague and friend of mine had been (scheduled) for the event, (but) he was taken ill with a severe head cold and was unable to travel. He recommended me as his replacement. I was called the morning before the ceremony and asked whether I knew the repertoire that was already programmed. I did, as they are two favorites of mine. So I got lucky and was asked to step in.

What's your vocal style?

I am described as a Jugendlicher Heldentenor (German Young Heroic Tenor), meaning I focus mainly on Germanic works, specifically lighter



Courtesy Photo

Haslett native Brenden Gunnell performed at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony last month in Oslo, Norway.

Wagner roles like 'Loge in Das Rheingold' or David in 'Die Meistersinger.' I also sing a large amount of Richard Strauss' tenor roles. My repertoire demands an intimate command of the libretti, as well as the ability to shade and color the texts more than in the Italian bel canto style.

What's your future looking like?

I will be moving back to Germany to start a two-year contract with the Regensburg Stadttheater beginning in September. Future engagements include 'The Dream of Gerontius' in Oslo, 'Königskinder' with the Hamburg Symphony under Maestro Jeffrey Tate in 2013 and a new production of 'The Abduction from the Seraglio' at the world renowned Glyndebourne Festival in the summer of 2015.

'Current' talk

WKAR launches bold new daily radio show focusing on local content

By ALLAN I. ROSS

When 90.5 WKAR-FM debuted in October 1948, it was Lansing's first FM radio station. For most of its 64 years, it has been content to broadcast public radio fare like "All Things Considered" and classical music while the rest of the dial slowly filled up with whipper-snapper commercial stations.

On Monday, however, the station will enter a new realm when it launches an unconventional new show that is startling only in its conventionality: a daily radio news magazine dedicated to local content.

"There's very little we've taken off the table as far as content goes," says Mark Bashore, producer and host of "Current State," which premieres at 9 a.m. Monday. "Politics is going to be a part of it, but we're consciously trying to give it a magazine-type format, so we'll be able to delve into any number of topics."

"Current State"

90.5 WKAR-FM
9 a.m. weekdays starting Monday
Repeats at noon on 870 WKAR-AM and at 6 p.m. on WKAR-FM

This format is a growing trend, with public radio stations in Texas and Pittsburgh recently starting similar shows.

Last September, 91.7 WUOM-FM, Ann Arbor's public radio station, launched "Stateside with Cythnia Canty," a Michigan-centric talk show. "Current State" is also attracting new talent to the area: Bashore says that the station has snagged Joe Linstroth, an award-nominated contributor for WBEZ in Chicago.

"Current State" is WKAR's solution to the challenge the producers set for themselves: to expand the station's footprint and devote more time to local content.



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Mark Bashore hosts "Current State," a talk show debuting Monday that focuses on local politics and entertainment.

"Our news department has covered spot news and long-form feature stories, but this explodes the whole concept with a local and mid-Michigan focus," Bashore says. "This is a great opportunity to become more engaged with local audiences and run our fingers into the Lansing area."

Some segments will be taped, but the bulk of the programming will be done live — and, Bashore says, with good reason.

"Live radio has a bite that you can't get otherwise," he says. "Having the governor or (Lansing Mayor) Virg (Bernero) in the studio has an impact that gets lost when it gets prerecorded. It's not the same."

The first episode will be dedicated to the State of the State address, which will be held that night. Bashore says that regular segments will include sports, business and local entertainment, with a weekly live music piece that will be able to utilize the baby grand piano that will soon be installed in the studio's rehabbed space.

"This is something a whole lot looser than what other people have gotten accustomed to on public radio," Bashore says. "It's serious when it needs to be serious, but we're going to have fun as often as we can."

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CURTAIN CALL

Dream house

Riverwalk undertakes ambitious play with ambitious set

By: DANA CASADEI

"If you build it, he will come" is one of the most iconic lines in movie history. Local director Emily English Clark may not have built the set for "August: Osage County," the play she's directing — or been hoping for dead baseball players to audition — but the line still rings true.

She said that after seeing the Tracy Letts-penned play in New York and "falling in love" with it, she knew that she wanted to do the show at Riverwalk Theatre. There was one catch, though: She needed someone to build a three-story house to fit on stage. Enter her stage manager friend, Tim Fox.

"It's a really, really difficult show to put on the Riverwalk stage," Clark said. "The set is so complicated, and I said (to Tim), if you can design me a set, I'm going to submit the show."

Preview

"August: Osage County"
Riverwalk Theatre
Jan. 10-20
7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
\$14 general/\$12 students, seniors, military (\$4 off Thursdays)
228 Museum Drive
Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

And he did. He built it, and then they came. "You can't help but go into a project like this with certain people in mind, hoping they will come and audition," Clark said. The "August" cast is a mix of newcomers and seasoned actors she describes as "phenomenal," and the script is no slouch either — in 2008, it won five Tonys and a Pulitzer. A show with creds like that may intimidate some, but for Clark, that was part



Photo courtesy Tim Fox

The set for Riverwalk's "August: Osage County" required the construction of a three-story house which takes up the entire stage space.

of the fun.

"My (biggest) intimidation of the whole thing is just to make sure the audience stays entertained," she said. "It's a pretty dark show."

The plot focuses on how the Weston family comes together after patriarch Beverly disappears. What ensues is a laundry list of heavy subjects: drug and alcohol addiction, death, sexual harassment, aging, generational change, family dysfunction and love. Finding the levity was her ultimate challenge.

"It has got some really sad moments, but it's still a family," Clark said. "There's still some humor in it."

While this family is dysfunctional, it's one that many will be able to identify with, Clark said. (Or if they can't, they will go home and thank their lucky stars for what they have.) The cast even discussed relatives that have had drug and alcohol problems, and losing friends to addiction.

"That's reality," Clark said. "Yes, it's magnified greatly, but it's still sort of the way the world works today. I don't think (this show) will ever go out of style because we're always going to have those screwed-up family members."

Staying on her toes

Actress draws on a lifetime of theater for role in 'Billy Elliot'

By ALLAN I. ROSS

For eight years, "Billy Elliot the Musical" has been racking up awards and knocking audiences out on both sides of the Atlantic. Whether it's Elton John's rousing music or the story's believe-in-yourself-no-matter-what-others-say sensibilities, the show seems to be that rare adaptation that's every bit as good as its source material. Local audiences will find out for themselves on Tuesday when the Tony Award-winner

Preview

for Best Musical pirouettes across the Wharton Center's stage.

Based on the Academy Award-nominated 2000 movie, "Billy Elliot" tells the story of the titular 11-year old British lad who discovers a talent for ballet — much to the chagrin of his coalminer father. The film didn't sink into American pop culture when it landed here in the States, but it developed a cult following over the years that led to its being converted to stage.

"Billy Elliot the Musical"

Wharton Center
Jan. 15-20
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday,
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2
p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. & 6:30
p.m. Sunday
\$32-\$72
(800) WHARTON
whartoncenter.com

weaknesses and backstory by phone from the road.

"Oh, Mrs. Wilkinson, she's a great broad," Dickinson said. "She tried to make it as an entertainer in London, but she had her dreams dashed and now she's back in a small mining town. Of course, it's mundane for her, but she finds this diamond in the rough that sparks something in her, and she sees (Billy's) potential to follow his dream that she didn't do."

Wilkinson joined the "Billy Elliot" cast in June and worked with members who had toured with versions of the show in Australia and London. Before this show, she was also part of another film-to-stage-musical adaptation, "9 to 5." It's all been part of one long, unintentional acting career.

A Minnesota native, Dickinson grew up in a musical family, where she took dance "like a lot of girls." But unlike all those other girls who hang up their ballet slippers once they get bored, Dickinson's passion intensified, and after high school she decided to pursue music as a career.

"But then I got involved in theater and started making money at it," she



Courtesy Photo

Janet Dickinson (left) plays Mrs. Dickinson in "Billy Elliot the Musical," which leaps onto the Wharton stage next week.

says. "I moved to New York and always thought of myself as more as a dancer, but I quickly shifted to musicals and straight plays."

Which isn't all that dissimilar from her character, right?

"Yes, it's a fine line between myself and my character," she said with a laugh. "There's a lot of me in her, and vice versa. The more you connect (a character) to yourself, the more you can create a world that you can relate to so you can just step into it every night, like putting on a cloak."

"But I've met these women. I've worked with them. They pursued their dreams and for one reason or another have to shift out of it. A lot of women and men decide they want to have something more stable, so they quit. But then some of them, like Mrs. Wilkinson, open up dance studios — thank God — to help the next generation of dancers."

Dickinson said that "Billy Elliot" is actually rolling through East Lansing at a particularly poignant time, which will really enhance its appeal with local audiences.

"The union aspect is really going to resonate with Michigan people, specifically," she says. "It's set during the time when Margaret Thatcher broke the back of the coal mining union (during the '84-'85 U.K. miners strike) and destroyed these chains of little towns. At this point, nearly every American has been affected somehow by the economy. This show takes a peek inside the lives of some people who were dealing with a very similar kind of adversity, and demonstrates how there is always hope."

So here we have a woman who has successfully pursued her dreams of being a professional actor/dancer playing a woman who has failed at her dreams of dancing. It's almost enough to make you feel sorry for this fictional character Dickinson dons every night.

"Well, she's imperfect, as are all the characters — as are we all," Dickinson says. "This isn't 'Hello, Dolly' — this is about a real story based on actual events. It's just that it's a real story that also has singing and dancing and comedy and a heart."

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S A L E !



Woed, wowed and overwhelmed

Lansing Symphony, violinist
Philippe Quint go for the jugular
in first concert of 2012

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Imagine two contrasting romantic scenes. In the first, a beautiful person comes into sudden view, coils around you and bite-kisses your lower lip without mercy for about 17 minutes. In the second, you spot a breathtaking beauty under a waterfall in the woods, sit down and swoon quietly on a crag for an hour, unobserved.

What is more delicious: a blatant seduction or a private discovery? Why pick? At Saturday night's Lansing Symphony concert, the audience got both kinds of love, along with some weirdly snaky foreplay.

This was not a frivolous evening. From the start, the music had an air of exotic menace, verging on voluptuous sadism. Instead of blasting out with an overture, music director Timothy Muffitt seemed to raise a tiny door and let the notes slither into the hall on their own. High, glassy tones and low, earthy murmurs brought the tropics into our zone of dirty snow in an insinuating performance of Ottorino Respighi's rarely heard gem, "Brazilian Impressions." After a slightly shaky start, the sections of the orchestra dovetailed into a delicate mosaic of dance fragments and rippling washes of tone. The string section, sounding fuller and lush than ever, provided rich undergrowth, while the brass sent shafts of light through the velvety tangles. To paint a sonic portrait of a reptile house near São Paulo, Brazil, the woodwinds morphed eerily into snakes, but nobody overdid the schtick. Muffitt's disciplined reading preserved a hermetic atmosphere of mystery and coiled-up power.

The question remained: Would there be an uncoiling? Need you ask? The red slash running down guest violinist Philippe Quint's throat was a tipoff that there would be no dozing in the seats. Quint took the stage with the insouciant air of a young hussar, clad in satiny Russian Mafia-black from head to toe, except for a blood-red necktie. The atmosphere was already tense when Muffitt shot a quick runner-on-third look at Quint and they proceeded to go straight for the jugular. John Corigliano's "Red Violin" Chaconne is based on a recurring, up-up-up-and-up theme that's meant to screw your emotions tighter and tighter. With each turn of the melodic ratchet, Quint's



Courtesy Photo

Guest violinist Philippe Quint seduced the audience at last weekend's LSO concert.

flamboyant tango with the orchestra grew more compelling, skirting the edge of melodrama but never falling in. It helped that Quint isn't much of a vibrato man. He cut a bold, clean incision straight through every note, as if he were wielding a scalpel, not a 1723 Stradivari axe. About two-thirds into the chaconne, after an unbearable buildup of tension, a giant blast of orchestral sound laid everything to waste. Right away, Quint began to pluck the fateful four notes, alone, with redoubled ferocity, as if to rebuild the whole universe with his bare knuckles. Then his bow came back down on the violin, his hair got irretrievably mussed (uh-oh) and everything really hit the fan.

After all that wowing and wooing, the LSO's frictionless, fabulous performance of Brahms' First Symphony offered a completely different form of seduction. From start to finish, Muffitt and the orchestra seemed completely wrapped in Brahms's seamless web of spinning, shimmering melodies. They nailed the doom-laden pounding of the symphony's first minute, like a doctor coming down the hall with a bad diagnosis, with as much conviction as any top-notch recording I've ever heard. Monumental, colliding slabs of sound played out a metaphysical drama that resolves with a conciliatory, valedictory fanfare in the last movement — first played nobly, by principal horn Janine Gaboury, for the catch in the throat, then tenderly, by principal flute Richard Sherman, for the full-on sob. When Gaboury's horn fused with the sweet violin of concertmaster Seunghee Lee for an unutterably beautiful duet, the hall was swept with the sort of apotheosis only Brahms can conjure. The world simply vanished and was replaced by something better, at least for a minute. Never much for showing off, Muffitt was even more of a human tuning fork than usual, maintaining the energy of the longer passages by making slow double circles, like infinity signs, with his arms. (He was conducting this complex, long symphony completely from his head, without a score.) I couldn't shake the feeling that the musicians would have sat there and played this thing whether there was anyone around to bear witness or not.

January 24 - February 24, 2013

End Days



by Deborah Zoe laufer

Directed by Tony Caselli

A hilariously funny and achingly poignant journey exploring love, loss and the healing power of family.
(Contains mature themes and language.)

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Thursday, Jan. 24 @ 8PM

\$15 Previews
Jan. 25 @ 8pm, Jan. 26 @ 8pm
Jan. 27 @ 2pm and Jan. 31 @ 8pm

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Potent notables

Annual event celebrates Michigan-based literature

By BILL CASTANIER

The 11-year-old program Michigan Notable Books, which is coordinated by the Library of Michigan, highlights local authors and stories and promotes reading. To be selected, books must be published in the previous calendar year and must be about Michigan (or the Great Lakes region) or written by an author with Michigan ties. The list includes both nonfiction and fiction books.

Noted novelist and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford — whose book “Canada” is on the list — told me he is still “astonished that anyone reads my books at all. To think that readers in Michigan both read and even like my

book is stirring to me.”

Ford, who received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in the mid-’60s, said that Michigan’s influence on him was important as a writer.

“I’d always thought the real America was someplace north of (Mississippi), where I was born,” he said. “(Michigan) was the first place that persuaded me of its authenticity as American.”

“Canada” relates the story of what happens to 15-year-old Dell Parsons after his parents rob a bank and his sense of normalcy is forever altered. Ford tells the story with a richness of language and suspenseful dialogue that has you leaning forward in your reading chair. It is a haunting tale that reminds us that one misstep can forever change our lives.

In “**American Poet**,” another intense coming-of-age story on the list, Midland’s Jeff Vande Zande tells the story of a young poet who orchestrates a plan to save the Theodore Roethke House, the real childhood home of Roethke, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning poet.

Vande Zande said that his book has brought huge attention to the building and said he is “excited to see fiction having real-world implications.” (He donates a portion of the sale of each book to the restoration project.)

The rest of the list consists of:

“**The Amphibians and Reptiles of Michigan**,” by J. Alan Holman (Wayne State University Press). All of Michigan’s 54 species of amphibians and reptiles are covered in this illustrated volume.

“**Balthazar Korab: Architect of Photography**,” by John Comazzi (Princeton Architectural Press). The life and career of one of Michigan’s most eminent photographers, including several hundred of his images.

“**Bear Has a Story to Tell**,” by Phillip

C. Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead (Roaring Brook Press). The Ann Arbor creators of the Caldecott-winning “A Sick Day for Amos McGee” offer another charming story about the nature of friendship.

“**The Boy Governor: Stevens T. Mason and the Birth of Michigan Politics**,” by Don Faber (University of Michigan Press). The first-ever book on Michigan’s first governor — he was 23 when elected — and dominant political figure in the state’s early development

“**Death Dance of a Butterfly**,” by Melba Joyce Boyd (Past Tents Press). Boyd’s poetry examines relationships with family, friends and colleagues and the complexities, joys and sadness of life.

“**Detroit City Is the Place to Be**,” by Mark Binelli (Metropolitan Books). Binelli, a Rolling Stone writer who grew up in the Detroit area, explores the pride, grit and hope of Detroiters who fight to revitalize their city.

“**Detroit’s Historic Places of Worship**,” compiled and edited by Marla O. Collum, Barbara E. Krueger and Dorothy Kostuch (Wayne State University Press). Detroit’s 37 architecturally and historically significant places of worship are documented.

“**Dust to Dust: A Memoir**,” by Benjamin Busch (Ecco). In his debut book, Busch offers an extraordinary memoir about life and death, peace and war, and the innocent adventures of childhood.

“**Fishtown: Leland, Michigan’s Historic Fishery**,” by Laurie Sommers (Arbutus Press). Okemos resident Sommers tells the story of this northern Michigan city’s past and present through the remembrances of commercial fishermen and ferry captains.

“**Imperfect**,” by Jim Abbott/Tim Brown (Ballantine Books). Raised in Flint, Abbott reveals the challenges he faced in becoming an elite pitcher (he was born without a right hand) and the insecurities he dealt with both before and after baseball.

“**Ink Trails**,” by Jack Dempsey and Dave Dempsey (Michigan State University Press). Michigan comes alive in this book that explores the secrets, legends and



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

MSU grad and Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Ford’s book, “Canada,” is one of the 2012 Michigan’s Notable Books.

myths surrounding some of the state’s literary luminaries.

“**Kirtland’s Warbler**,” by William Rapai (University of Michigan Press). An exploration of the relationships between the warbler, its environment and state and federal policies.

“**Michigan’s Historic Railroad Stations**,” by Michael Hodges (Wayne State University Press). The writer-photographer presents depots ranging from functioning Amtrak stops to converted office buildings and spectacular abandoned wrecks. REO Town’s iconic Grand Trunk Western Rail Station is included.

“**Mighty Miss Malone**,” by Christopher Paul Curtis (Wendy Lamb Books). Curtis crafts a story about a young girl growing up in the Depression-era Flint.

“**Skeleton Box**,” by Bryan Gruley (Touchstone Books). Gruley brings us his third imaginative mystery set in the fictional Starvation Lake in northern Michigan.

“**Summer of ’68**,” by Tim Wendel (Da Capo Press). Baseball is seen against the backdrop of one of the most turbulent years in American history.

“**Woman Like Me**,” by Bettye LaVette (Blue Rider Press). LaVette chronicles her decades-long career as singer on the fringes of the Motown music scene, and dishes about the stars she met on her way.

“**World of A Few Minutes Ago**,” by Jack Driscoll (Wayne State University Press). The award-winning author writes short stories from the point of view of characters, aged 14 to 77, set against the northern Michigan landscape.

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In Brad Taylor’s third Pike Logan thriller, a tentative peace between Israel and Palestine has been brokered by the United States. But the Taskforce—a clandestine team operating outside of US law to protect the country from terrorism—gets wind of an assassination attempt on the American envoy sent to solidify the treaty. The Taskforce must devote every resource to saving his life—and preventing another bloody outbreak of violence.

Brad Taylor was born on Okinawa, Japan, but grew up on 40-acres in rural Texas. Graduating from the University of Texas, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. Brad served for more than 21 years, retiring as a Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel. His final assignment was as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at The Citadel in Charleston, SC.

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OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, January 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Escape & Rejuvenate. Meditative movement & guided meditation. 12:15 p.m. FREE. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. massageandwellnesslansing.com, meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit.

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

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

After School Youth Gardening Program.

Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Leadership for the Future. Speaker Dr. Pam Bellamay. Teens must be with parent. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Day's Inn, 7711 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 879-1886.

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525. mooreparkneighborhood.org.

Old Everett Public Safety Meeting. 7 p.m. Ingham Regional Medical Education Center, corner of Washington & Greenlawn Avenues, Lansing.

EVENTS

Paws for Reading. All reading levels. Read to therapy dogs. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

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

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

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

Community Reinvestment Fund. Information session. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 292-3078.

Community Reinvestment Fund. Info session.

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.

JAN. 11

No weezing the juice

MTV launched the careers of many up-and-coming Hollywood players, including Jenny McCarthy, Carson Daly and Colin Quinn. Probably the wackiest of these — Pauly Shore — will be gracing Connxtions Comedy Club for a one-night-only performance this Friday. After shooting to superstardom in the '90s with hits like "Encino Man" and "Son in Law," the stand-up comedian's film career got a little bumpy, but he's never stopped working. In 2003, he wrote, directed and starred in the semi-autobiographical mockumentary "Pauly Shore is Dead" and has appeared on TV shows such as "Entourage." 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$24.50. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-4242. connxtionscomedyclub.com/lansing/shows.

Gray matter

This Saturday, the MSU Biomedical Physical Sciences building will host the third annual Neuroscience Fair, in conjunction with the Brain Bee competition for high school students. While Dr. McDreamy may not be in attendance, there will be plenty to fawn over. For neuroscientist and professor Cynthia Jordan, the best part is "seeing a kid get delighted or see something really cool," of which there is plenty. Guests will be able to meet local celebrities in neuroscience, touch a human brain and partake in many other neuroscience activities. 1:30-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building, MSU campus, East Lansing.



Courtesy Photo

JAN. 12



Courtesy Photo

No squeezing the fruit

Have you ever wondered if it had been an hour or a few days since that pear in the grocery store was put on the pile? This Saturday, there will be no need to question freshness at the Community Supported Agriculture Fair. Guests will get to learn about the organization, meet local farmers and sign up for the upcoming season. There will also be a drawing for a free share, which typically consists of a box each week during the farming season that contains seasonal vegetables. Some farmers include those from Giving Tree, MSU Student Organic Farm and Hunter Park Gardenhouse. 1-5 p.m. FREE. ELFCO Community Center, 4964 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 337-1266. elfco.coop/wp.

Cake batter

Some of the best birthday memories are not the presents or who showed up — sometimes it's all about the cake. Getting to blow out the candles and make a wish, then scrape their fingers through the rich, creamy frosting. (There's a reason most first birthdays have photos of the child sticking their face in the butter cream goodness.) The Capital Area District Libraries, which opened on Jan. 2, 1998, will be celebrating its 15th birthday this Tuesday, as part of a yearlong celebration — its quinceanera, if you will. And yes there will be cake. Each branch will host its party at different times throughout the day, making sure that sugar high can last the rest of the day. Guests will also have a chance to win movie passes, courtesy of NCG Cinemas in Lansing. 3-6 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing. FREE. All CADL locations. cadl.org.

JAN. 15

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. JAN. 11TH

LATIN XPLOSIONAR AT FIRM

The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square, Lansing, 21+, \$5, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

A night Latin entertainment happens Friday at The Firm. The event, dubbed "Latin Xplosionar," is "a celebration of culture and dance," according to the organizers. The night will feature two DJs spinning the hottest reggae-ton, cumbia, merengue and salsa. Hitting the decks is DJ E-Nyce (a.k.a. Emilio Nyce) and Jeremy "Jaiese" Helton. Nyce is a Lansing-based DJ who has also spent time living in Flint and Detroit. Nyce also spins hip-hop, R&B, Top 40 and pop music. He started his career at house parties, but in 2008 he began taking it more seriously after getting involved with the Mic Club showcases. He's also become a mainstay at the Capital City DJ Olympics. Locals may have seen him perform at X-Cel, Fahrenheit or Mac's Bar.

JOE HERTLER AT MAC'S



FRI. JAN. 11TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$10 advance, \$12 door, 7 p.m.

Joe Hertler and his band the Rainbow Seekers have been increasingly busy these days playing indie-folk shows across the state. Friday, the band plays an all-ages show at Mac's Bar, along with Detroit-based openers Flint Eastwood and El Dee. Local indie-soul band East Harvest opens the show. Hertler's latest release, "On Being," helped create a buzz beyond Michigan and garnered positive reviews and hype across the Midwest. MostlyMidwest.com called Hertler "a burgeoning Michigan talent bound to be on everyone's radar soon." While the band has become a headliner on its own, the Rainbow Seekers have also opened shows for notable acts like the Electric Six, The Civil Wars, Matt Pond PA, and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

CRAIG DOEPKER AT THE LOFT



SAT. JAN. 12TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$5 advance, \$8 door, 8 p.m.

Owosso native Craig Doepker has become a fixture in the Lansing music scene over the past few years. When he's not bartending at Mac's Bar, Doepker is producing electronic tracks and also spinning disco-house music at clubs across the city. Saturday he will perform between bands at the first installment of "Space Zookeeper: Music of Split Genres, Vol. 1," featuring a roster of five diverse local bands and "gypsy carnival games." Opening the show is Cavalcade (weird metal), Pacifier (funk), The Devil's Cut (folk-punk) and Mr. Denton on Doomsday (progressive-rock). This show will also hold a 50/50 raffle with some of the funds going to benefit Ele's Place, a local, non-profit healing center for grieving children and families.

TRUE FALSETTOS AT PUMP HOUSE

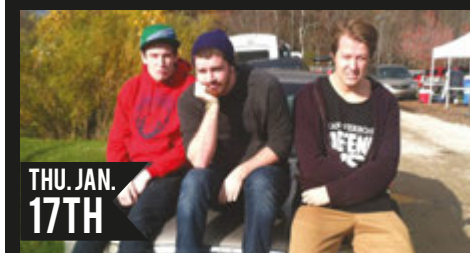


SUN. JAN. 13TH

Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing, all ages, 7 p.m.

The True Falsettos are a swing duo featuring Joe Wilson (steel guitar, guitar, vocals) and Kevin Gills (bass, vocals). Sunday, they play the Pump House. Locals might recognize Wilson from Steppin' In It — he's been with the band for over a decade. Meanwhile Gills performs with Traverse City's traditional country group, Sister Wilene, along with Wilson. The True Falsettos embrace the hot jazz and swing styles of the '30s and '40s, playing lively, danceable music. In addition to originals, the pair also covers Nat King Cole, Bob Wills and Louis Jordan. Wilson has played some of the nation's top festivals, including the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Wheatland, Blissfest and the Woody Guthrie Festival. Acoustic duo Genna & Jesse will also play at this event.

GREAT LAKES COLLECTIVE AT (SCENE)



THU. JAN. 17TH

(SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing, all ages, \$5 advance, 8 p.m.

For over two years local music buffs Nick Berry, Adam Klein and Rich Whitman have been operating the Great Lakes Collective, a local record label and promotion venture. Aside from releasing discs and vinyl from area artists, the indie collective also hosts shows at venues across the city. Thursday, it hosts an all-ages show at (SCENE), featuring Small Town Victory, Skyline and squeezebox. Fans of New Found Glory might dig Small Town Victory, who headline. The Grand Rapids-based band describes itself as an "unapologetic pop punk band." In December, the band released "I Hope This Kills You," a five-song collection featuring tracks like "KFC Sucks Anyway."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		D.J., 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Tommy Thompson, 8 p.m.	Pauly Shore, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Tommy Thompson, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Systo Lay Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree, 9:30 p.m.	The Blues Junkies, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Homegrown Throwdown, 7 p.m.	Mr. Denton on Doomsday, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers, 7 p.m.	Beast in the Field, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.		The Lash, 10 p.m.	The Lash, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			DR.ME, 9 p.m.	Various Artists, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Late Edition, 8:30 p.m.	Time to Play, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Eyia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Shelagh Brown, 9 p.m.	Shelagh Brown, 9 p.m.
Sunday	Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.			
Monday	Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.			
Tuesday	Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.			

Out on the town

from page 17

1-2 p.m. FREE. Eaton Conservation District, 551 Courthouse Drive, Charlotte. (517) 292-3078.

Library Film Series. "Billy Elliot" screening. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

MUSIC

Together, Let's Jam! All ability levels. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

Thursday, January 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Yoga for Beginners. With Gaby Kende. 9:30-11 a.m. FREE new students. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640.

Making the Most of your Gmail Account. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

Knee High Naturalist. Ages 2-5. Hike, craft & more. 10-11 a.m. \$5 per class per child. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

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

EVENTS

Battle of the Books Kickoff. Learn about book trivia competition. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

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

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

(SCENE) MetroSpace Benefit Party. Desserts, drinks, music & more. 6-8 p.m. \$50 per person, \$75 per couple. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

Informational Workshop. Learn about the Individual Artist Grant Program & application. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St., Old Town, Lansing.

MUSIC

MSU Community Music School Choir Auditions. Six choirs. Call to set up audition time. 4-7 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661 ext. 10.

THEATER

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

Friday, January 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Infant Massage Class. Bring your infant & baby blanket. 6-7:30 p.m. \$30 adult, \$40 2 adults. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

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

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

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$50 for 4 weeks.

Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

EVENTS

Artist Reception. "Bright Futures: An MSU Showcase." 6-9 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner. Featuring Gary Cimmerer & Iron Cowgirl Missy. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

Gary Cimmerer. Opener Eric Jerome Brodberg. 8:30 p.m. \$5 donation. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 525-5850.

Showdown. 9:15 p.m. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-2013.

THEATER

"August: Osage County." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 10.)

Saturday, January 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Staying Connected with Facebook. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. ITEC Lansing, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

Home Buyer Education. Registration required. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

Birding By Ear. Recognize birds by their song. Dress for the weather. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Docent Recruitment Day. Learn about volunteering at the zoo. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710. potterparkzoo.org.

Intro to Beekeeping. With Jeremy Sprague & Matt Wojack. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

Wet Burrito/Taco Dinner. 4-6 p.m. \$7 adults, \$4.50 kids 5-11, FREE under 5. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. (517) 468-3316.

Gateway to Infinity. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 11.)

EVENTS

Second Monday Artists Reception. 2-4 p.m. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 256-8335. secondmondayartists.com.

Pancake Breakfast. 9 a.m.-Noon. Donations.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Mixology"--take two ingredients and stir.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Chill, as with your homies
- 5 Perro's housemate
- 9 Champion skier Phil
- 14 Epps of "House"
- 15 Tortilla's cousin
- 16 How storybooks are read
- 17 Long-running PBS show
- 18 Stud stakes
- 19 Describes in words
- 20 Chess computer + thick directory?
- 23 More up to it
- 24 Like some January forecasts
- 25 Obedience school command
- 27 Carrier based in Sigtuna, Sweden
- 28 News notices
- 32 Bop on the head
- 33 Hit, in olden times
- 34 Samuel on the Supreme Court
- 35 Source of wealth + source of mozzarella?
- 39 Ready to rest
- 40 Seize
- 41 Award given by a cable station
- 42 Aziz of "Parks and Recreation"
- 44 They house engines, for short
- 47 Biblical verb ending
- 48 ___ standstill
- 49 Toto's type of terrier
- 51 Colorful bubbly + Dallas Mavericks shooting guard?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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23								24			25	26		
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47					48					49	50			
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56								57				58		
59								60				61		
62								63				64		

- 56 Home of Jumeirah Beach
- 57 Hot rock
- 58 Figure on a car sticker
- 59 Insts. of higher learning
- 60 Corporate honcho
- 61 Take ___ from
- 62 Gives the thumbs-up to
- 63 Benedict of "The A-Team"
- 64 His ___ (cribbage term; anagram of SNOB)

Down

- 1 Fit and Civic
- 2 "The Far Side" organ-ism
- 3 Subjects of gazing
- 4 Trix flavor
- 5 Metal band known for its foam costumes
- 6 Duncan appointed to the Obama cabinet
- 7 "Damages" actor Donovan
- 8 Gift giver's command
- 9 Peninsula in SE Asia
- 10 Sacha Baron Cohen character
- 11 It's reached after returning from a long journey
- 12 Meets by chance
- 13 Mag workers
- 21 One of 26 for Stevie Wonder
- 22 They can crash
- 26 Ring decision
- 29 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 30 Airport abbr.
- 31 Picture puzzle
- 32 Put your hands together
- 33 "Ghost Hunters" network
- 34 Continent home
- to the world's newest nation
- 35 Genre for Talking Heads and Killing Joke
- 36 Class including salamanders and toads
- 37 Olympics chant
- 38 Teddy bear exterior
- 39 Average grade
- 42 Place where you need a PIN
- 43 Completely got
- 44 Total disaster
- 45 Marinade alternative
- 46 Website to see if your favorite urban legend is really true
- 48 "Prelude to ___"
- 50 Jordan's capital
- 52 Army's football rival
- 53 Skirt length
- 54 Done with
- 55 Fire
- 56 The Swell Season, e.g.

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

MEDIUM

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

TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit www.SundayCrosswords.com

Answers on page 21

JERRY'S HAIRPORT & MODERN BARBERS



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Pat Zopf (left) gets a snip from his mentor, Jerry Doyle, founder of Jerry's Hairport in north Lansing. Zopf, who's worked there for for 17 years, bought the barber shop from Doyle last month.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

On Dec. 28, the ownership of two longstanding Lansing barbershops — **Jerry's Hairport** and **Modern Barbers** — changed hands. The common date was nothing more than a coincidence, but both situations are strikingly similar. In each case, the torch passing was friendly, with an employee taking over the reins. The new owners have pledged to keep the same name, and any planned changes are merely cosmetic. Incredibly, both businesses date back to the 1950s.

"The Hairport has been here for 53 years now, and it's not going anywhere," said Pat Zopf, 42, who recently took over from the business's namesake, Jerry Doyle. "I'm going to keep the name, but I'll give it a small facelift. Maybe a chin tuck, you never know."

Renovations include wallpaper removal, a fresh coat of paint, new carpeting and flooring and new back bars and counters. Zopf, who's been working at the three-chair barber shop since graduating from Lansing Barber College in 1996, says that Doyle will stay on two

days a week, in addition to full-time cutters Mike Norris and Mary Rosas.

So, with 17 years under his belt, does he think he can last as long as his mentor?

"I should be as lucky," Zopf said. "My philosophy to barbering is that if you like what you do, it'll never feel like work. And I love coming in every day."

Although Daniel Moore has only worked at Modern Barbers for two years, he's spent 28 years hovering over a special group of mid-Michigan heads. Well, besides a brief stint out West. "I worked in Arizona until I discovered I don't care for Arizona," Moore says. "Except for the areas that look like Michigan."

Moore, a licensed cosmetology instructor, received his first degree in theater arts, which is still his passion. In fact, take a look at lansingtheater.com and you'll find his name attached to nearly three dozen community theater productions for hair and make-up (one of which he won a City Pulse Pulsar Award for in 2007). He also does the hair for touring companies at the Wharton Center, although he declines to name names of anyone famous he's worked on.

"I tend to focus more on the hair than the person," he says. "But I love working backstage — doing hair is so much fun. To be backstage

when an actress is having a meltdown because she thinks she looks terrible and she sits in my chair and I can make her look fabulous again — that's the best feeling in the world."

Moore says he's the fourth owner of Modern Barbers, which has been around since 1950. His decision to settle down with his own business after working at various other places comes from entering a new stage in his life.

"I'm just tired of moving," he says. "So I brought in a friend I've worked with for 17 years and now we're looking for someone younger who will fit in with us."

He says the decision to keep the name was a no-brainer.

"At this point, it would be silly to change the name," he says. "The only change I'm making is putting a sign out by the road. It's a little hard to find, unless, of course, you had your first haircut here 60 years ago. So many people have come in and said, 'I got my first haircut there.' This place has incredible client loyalty."

Jerry's Hairport

4613 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
(517) 321-9126

Modern Barbers

2225 E. Grand River Ave. (Apple Market)
Lansing Township
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday
Saturday by appointment
(517) 482-7789

Out on the town

from page 19

Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 882-0661.

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

Cash Bash. Auction, music, 50/50s & more. Noon. \$50, include dinner & two drink tickets. Eagles Club, 835 High St., Williamston. (517) 655-6510.

MUSIC

MSU Community Music School Choir Auditions. 12:30-3:30 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St. East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 10.)

Heartland Klezmerim. 7:30 p.m. \$6 donation. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

Drum Care. All ages welcome. Geared towards beginner drummers. Noon. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

THEATER

"The Velveteen Rabbit." Featuring the Enchantment Theatre Company. 1:30 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$15. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"August: Osage County." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 10.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books and Bagels. Grades 4-6. Discuss "Eight Keys," Suzanne LaFleur. 2-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Sunday, January 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Zumba. Instructor Becky Newcombe. 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

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

Gateway to Infinity. 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 11.)

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

EVENTS

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

Vegan Potluck. Bring vegan dish to pass & recipe. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Clerical Technical Union, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-5485.

Lansing Matinee Monthly Meeting. Performance by The Renaissance Singers. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-9495.

MUSIC

Eric Jerome Brodberg Acoustic Show. 6 p.m. Colonial Bar & Grill, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 525-5850. brodbergband.com.

THEATER

"August: Osage County." 2 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors

& students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, January 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tech Bytes: Library ebooks for Nook. Noon-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Recipe Club. Make a favorite comfort food to share. 6-7:45 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

JAMM Monthly Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

eBook Basics. Bring device. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Potter-Walsh Neighborhood Meeting. 6:20 p.m. Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

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

Escape & Rejuvenate. 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 2.)

EVENTS

Monday Morning Movie. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

Homework Help. Grades K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

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

Tuesday, January 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Journey to Adoption. Information session. RSVP. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Adoption Associates, Inc. 800 E. Thomas L. Parkway, Lansing. (517) 327-1388.

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.

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

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

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

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

After School Youth Gardening Program. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 10.)

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

Compassionate Friends of Lansing. For grieving parents who have lost a child. 7:30-9:30

Out on the town

from page 20

p.m. Salvation Army South Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 339-3553.

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Bring own supplies. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Café Scientifique. Science discussion group. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.
Coffee with Professional Organizer. Speaker Rita Wilhelm. 7:30-9:30 a.m. FREE. Espresso Royale Cafe, 1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing.

MUSIC

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

THEATER

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Wednesday, January 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Long Term Health Care. Learn the basics. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Library eBooks. How to access free ebooks. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Escape & Rejuvenate. 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 9.)
Drawing Class. For all levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
Genesis-Christian/Jewish Dialogue. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-484-7434.
Community Yoga. For all levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
After School Youth Gardening Program. Ages

11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. "Half Broke Horses," Jeanette Walls. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.
Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 9.)
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Grande Paraders Square Dance. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 club members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

THEATER

"Billy Elliot: The Musical." 7:30 p.m. \$32-72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Jan. 15.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

City Pulse Classifieds

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

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

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

City Pulse is seeking candidates to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to monique@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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

H	A	N	G	G	A	T	O	M	A	H	R	E					
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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

January 9-15

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Writing at io9.com, Charlie Jane Anders provides "10 Signs You Could Be the Chosen Savior." Among the clues are the following: 1. "How often does someone comes up to you on the street, point at you, gibber something inarticulate, and run away?" 2. "How many robot/clone duplicates of yourself have you come across?" 3. "Is there a blurry black-and-white photo or drawing from history that sort of looks like you?" 4. "Have you achieved weird feats that nobody could explain, but which nobody else witnessed?" Now would be a good time for you to take this test, Aries. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when your dormant superpowers may finally be awakening — a time when you might need to finally claim a role you've previously been unready for. (Read Anders' article here: <http://tinyurl.com/AreYouChosen>.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Dear Rob the Astrologer: I have a big question for you. If I could get access to a time machine, where would you suggest I should go? Is there a way to calculate the time and place where I could enjoy favorable astrological connections that would bring out the best in me?" -Curious Taurus." Dear Curious: Here are some locations that might be a good fit for you Tauruses right now: Athens, Greece in 459 B.C.; Constantinople in 1179; Florence, Italy in 1489; New York in 2037. In general, you would thrive wherever there are lots of bright people co-creating a lively culture that offers maximum stimulation. You need to have your certainties challenged and your mind expanded and your sense of wonder piqued.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Will archaeologists find definitive evidence of the magical lost continent of Atlantis in 2013? Probably not. How about Shambhala, the mythical kingdom in Central Asia where the planet's greatest spiritual masters are said to live? Any chance it will be discovered by Indiana Jones-style fortune hunters? Again, not likely. But I do think there's a decent chance that sometime in the next seven months, many of you Geminis will discover places, situations, and circumstances that will be, for all intents and purposes, magical and mythical.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There's a spot in the country of Panama where you can watch the sun rise in the east over the Pacific Ocean. In another Panamanian location, you can see the sun set in the west over the Atlantic Ocean. Nothing weird is involved. Nothing twisted or unearthly. It's simply a quirk of geography. I suspect that a similar situation will be at work in your life sometime soon. Things may seem out of place. Your sense of direction might be off-kilter, and even your intuition could seem to be playing tricks on you. But don't worry. Have no fear. Life is simply asking you to expand your understanding of what "natural" and "normal" are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Metaphorically speaking, a pebble was in your shoe the whole past week. You kept thinking, "Pretty soon I've got to take a minute to get rid of that thing," and yet you never did. Why is that? While it wasn't enormously painful, it distracted you just enough to keep you from giving your undivided attention to the important tasks at hand. Now here's a news flash: The damn pebble is still in your shoe. Can I persuade you to remove it? Please?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Even when you know exactly what you want, it's sometimes crucial for you not to accomplish it too fast. It may be that you need to mature more before you're ready to handle your success. It could be that if you got all of your heart's desire too quickly and easily, you wouldn't develop the vigorous willpower that the quest was meant to help you forge. The importance of good timing can't be underestimated, either: In order for you to take full advantage of your dream-come-true, many other factors in your life have to be in place and arranged just so. With those thoughts in mind, Virgo, I offer you this prediction for 2013: A

benevolent version of a perfect storm is headed your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Artists who painted images in caves 30,000 years ago did a pretty good job of depicting the movements of four-legged animals like horses. In fact, they were more skilled than today's artists. Even the modern experts who illustrate animal anatomy textbooks don't match the accuracy of the people who decorated cave walls millennia ago. So says a study reported in Livescience.com (<http://tinyurl.com/CaveArtMagic>). I'd like to suggest this is a useful metaphor for you to consider, Libra. There's some important task that the old you did better than the new you does. Now would be an excellent time to recapture the role you played.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): After evaluating your astrological omens for the coming months, I've decided to name you Scorpios the "Top Sinners of the Year" for 2013. What that means is that I suspect your vices will be more inventive and more charming than those of all the other signs. Your so-called violations may have the effect of healing some debilitating habit. In fact, your "sins" may not be immoral or wicked at all. They might actually be beautiful transgressions that creatively transcend the status quo; they might be imaginative improvements on the half-assed way that things have always been done. To ensure you're always being ethical in your outlaw behavior, be committed to serving the greater good at least as much as your own selfish interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Here's the horoscope I hope to be able to write for you a year from now: "Your mind just kept opening further and further during these past 12 months, Sagittarius — way beyond what I ever imagined possible. Congrats! Even as you made yourself more innocent and receptive than you've been in a long time, you were constantly getting smarter and sharpening your ability to see the raw truth of what was unfolding. Illusions and misleading fantasies did not appeal to you. Again, kudos!"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What does it mean when the dwarf planet Pluto impacts a key point in your horoscope? For Capricorn gymnast Gabby Douglas, it seemed to be profoundly empowering. During the time Pluto was close to her natal sun during last year's Summer Olympics, she won two gold medals, one with her team and one by herself. Luck had very little to do with her triumph. Hard work, self-discipline, and persistence were key factors. I'm predicting that Pluto's long cruise through the sign of Capricorn will give you an opportunity to earn a Gabby Douglas-like achievement in your own sphere — if, that is, you can summon the same level of willpower and determination that she did. Now would be an excellent time to formally commit yourself to the glorious cause that excites you the most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'nice doggie' until you can find a rock," said humorist Will Rogers. I hope you've been taking care of the "nice doggie" part, Aquarius — holding the adversarial forces and questionable influences at bay. As for the rock: I predict you will find it any minute now, perhaps even within an hour of reading this horoscope. Please keep in mind that you won't necessarily have to throw the rock for it to serve its purpose. Merely brandishing it should be enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do you know the word "cahoots"? Strictly speaking, it means to be in league with allies who have the same intentions as you do; to scheme and dream with confederates whose interests overlap with yours. Let's expand that definition a little further and make it one of your central themes in the coming week. For your purposes, "cahoots" will signify the following: to conspire with like-minded companions as you cook up some healthy mischief or whip up an interesting commotion or instigate a benevolent ruckus.

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



HE ATE

SHE ATE



It's hip to be Squared at Lansing's debut wine bar

A paucity of pretension

By **MARK NIXON**

When someone in our family mentions a good wine they tried recently, the standard response is: "Did you detect notes of baby powder and asphalt?"

It's an inside joke. Several years back, there was a wine connoisseur whose weekly column's main objective was to ensure his palate would be enshrined in the pantheon of wine experts, thus rendering mere mortals weak and humble. In one column, he exalted over one wine's complexities, including notes of baby powder and asphalt.

We gagged. What a pretentious ass.

Which brings us to P Squared, Lansing's one and only wine bar — and, thankfully, the polar opposite of pretension. This place is about love of wine, the flow of conversation, and a little food on the side to make it all come together.

P doesn't stand for pretension, but for the names of the two owners, Paul C. Fox and Paul Bussard, who aim to disarm customers who may not know the difference between a shiraz and a shitake mushroom. The menu arrives "pre-stained" with red wine; compliments, apparently, of a tipsy customer from the night before.

Sure, it's a gimmick, but it's also a signal: Kick back. Enjoy. It's a wine bar, not a bar exam.

Granted, P Squared may try a bit too hard to put customers at ease. Its website insists "we are normal people" and "no snobs allowed."

But I'll take that over someone lording over you with their viticulture expertise. P Squared's approach to customers is straightforward. Servers offer helpful and knowledgeable advice, but they don't insist that, say, a pinot grigio from California is superior to a Michigan chardonnay. Decide for yourself over time and several visits, which is the adventure of wine-tasting.

If there is anything daunting about P Squared's menu, it's the torrent of wine choices. There are 94 wines and champagnes listed. (At ease, beer drinkers, there are 16 brands of brew or cider as well — most, if not all, from Michigan). I tasted 10 wines during two visits, and loved the unoaked chardonnay from Michigan's Chateau Chantal. Just saying "unoaked chardonnay" makes me feel like that pompous wine columnist ...

Anyway, unless you know precisely what

See He Ate Page 27

Perfect for the peckish

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

It goes without saying that P Squared has an extensive wine selection. Therefore, I won't focus much of this effort on exploring the wine side of the menu, focusing instead on the food that plays a supporting role.

After a much-hyped grand opening a few months ago, I didn't hear much chatter around town about P Squared — and the chatter I did hear wasn't quite complimentary. The chief complaint was that the place is expensive — too rich for Lansing's blood. However, I pushed any preconceived notions out of my mind when I went to meet a girlfriend for lunch. She is a state employee and dabbles in vegetarianism, so many meals are eaten downtown and she is always searching for something veggie-packed, with quality protein.

My attempt to order a club soda was rebuffed when the server informed me that P Squared only carries bottled sodas and doesn't offer a fizzy water at all. I decided that the next best thing to do would be to rot my teeth with a Faygo Rock & Rye, which was nostalgically pleasing but didn't last me through my meal. I was seduced by the prospect of making my own mini-sandwiches and ordered the Ploughman's Lunch — a platter of white cheddar cheese, rosemary ham, ciabatta, mustard, apple slices, pickles, tomatoes, and cucumbers. I requested that my allotment of olives be replaced with extra apples.

The shining stars of the platter were the ham and, surprisingly, the mustard. I love a tangy, eye-watering, grainy mustard, and this one fit the bill. I slathered it onto the ciabatta and loaded it up with ham and cheese, wishing that I had a salt shaker within reach (there were none to be found.) The sad, rapidly browning apples and obviously jarred, uninspired pickles went largely ignored.

My girlfriend decided upon the Pesto Veggie Panini and a cup of chicken and wild rice soup (like I said, she only dabbles in vegetarianism). The soup was extremely thick and gelatinous. It looked unappetizing and I declined her offer of a taste. Her panini, on the other hand, was colorful and jam-packed with fresh vegetables. She loved it, proclaiming that it was "the best panini you can get downtown."

A few weeks later, I returned for dinner with two friends. One, a fledgling sommelier, had just gotten a book about wine for Christmas and was eager to dazzle us. His wife and I sat bemused as he carefully chose

See She Ate, Page 27

P Squared Wine Bar

107 S. Washington Square, Lansing

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He Ate

from page 26

you want, I recommend one of several wine flights — six different wines to each flight, with each flight roughly amounting to two glasses of wine. And if you're still boggled by the wine menu, ask for one of their pair-your-food-with-wine iPads, which can help you navigate the menu.

Hey, buddy, is this a wine column or a food column? Uh, yeah. Let's move on.

We visited P Squared twice, both on weekday mid-afternoons. The lunch menu is scaled back considerably after 3 p.m. However, we noticed on our second visit that "Bigger Plates" were added for the hungry evening crowd.

The best by far were the tasting plates, a mix-and-match choice of cheeses and smoked meats. The one offering the most variety isn't cheap — \$28 for a total of six choices — but included are plates of olives, bread, toasted pecans with dried cranberries and warm marmalade. The 11 cheese choices range from mild gruyere to Michigan white cheddar, and there are several excellent smoked meats, including a fine prosciutto. Put all that together with a glass of wine and you have a meal, my friend.

Our dinner group was unanimous about the bread. P Squared ought to go shopping for a sturdier, more substantial bread to serve with tasting plates. The ciabatta slices didn't

do justice to the cheese, meats and olives. A good baguette, or that wonderful calabrese bread from Roma Bakery, would do the trick.

A friend also suggested the cheese and meat platter could use a bit more eye appeal, such as a sprig of fresh rosemary nestled with the slices of rosemary ham. Good idea.

On separate visits, we had mixed success with our dining choices. The lobster bisque was sub-par. They should consider starting from scratch. Several area restaurants — Soup Spoon Cafe, Troppo, English Inn — have bisques worth emulating.

The Chicken Bacon Mac was a good choice, with smoky bacon complementing three types of cheeses that are baked with macaroni. I had to send the dish back for a quick warm-up, though.

My dinner companion raved about the beef sliders: slow-roasted beef with pepperoncini cheese, artichoke hearts and Roma tomatoes, sandwiched between grilled, thinly sliced panini. Agreed. This was a tasty dish, and the portion was substantial.

P Squared is a newcomer to downtown Lansing. It's stylish without trying too hard. Black and white photos virtually pop out from red walls. On closer inspection, many of the photos are of corkscrews. Who knew corkscrews could look so artsy?

For small groups, the best seats in the house are a circle of easy chairs surrounding a small, round table. Just the place for sipping, snacking and good conversation.

And not a speck of baby powder or asphalt in sight.

exercise discretion over your level of preferred spiciness. I spiced the little babies up well and loved the play between the sliced artichoke hearts, salty and crisp bread, and tender roast beef.

The chipotle chicken sliders were similarly presented, with the chipotle mayonnaise alongside. They were also well-received, and not a single slider remained at the end of our meal.

The chips/salsa/guacamole trio was the only disappointment. The guacamole was very evidently store-bought and lifeless. The fire-roasted salsa had a faintly metallic tinge to it. At least the chips weren't stale.

Our server was knowledgeable about the wines and the food, a strength that became apparent as soon as we sat down. The former Pita Pit has been beautifully renovated, with cabernet-red walls and a lounge area. As a veteran of the downtown social scene, I would suggest a few unprecedented happy hour specials to boost their audience — maybe a \$10 wine flight or \$2 glasses? Let's face it: most people don't know or care whether they're swilling Two-Buck Chuck or Opus One. Frankly, I had to Google the latter to make sure that I was invoking the name of something expensive.

The place was fairly empty on the weeknight, but I hope attendance picks up. P Squared offers a fine meal, if you're feeling peckish.

She Ate

from page 26

what they would drink and showed us the proper way to taste. He was impressed by the selection and liked what he was drinking.

I didn't have high hopes after studying the small dinner menu, but we decided to order a wide array of items to share. We chose a tasting plate with three items: the chipotle chicken sliders, pepperoncini roast beef sliders and chips with salsa and guacamole. I like the build-your-own tasting plate option. Diners can choose from a bevy of cheeses and a few charcuterie options, and the plates are finished with wedges of ciabatta and bowls of olives, trail mix and orange marmalade. We chose baby Swiss, gorgonzola and prosciutto, all three of which were fresh and flavorful. The trail mix was an odd addition until we struck upon the idea of slathering the bread with marmalade, then studding it with the salty nuts and cranberries. These little concoctions became table favorites.

Both of the slider varieties were fantastic. The sliders were actually bite-sized pieces of a sliced panini as opposed to most "slider" varieties that require you to unhinge your jaw in order to take a bite. The pepperoncini cheese spread that accompanied the roast beef sliders came in a ramekin for you to

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