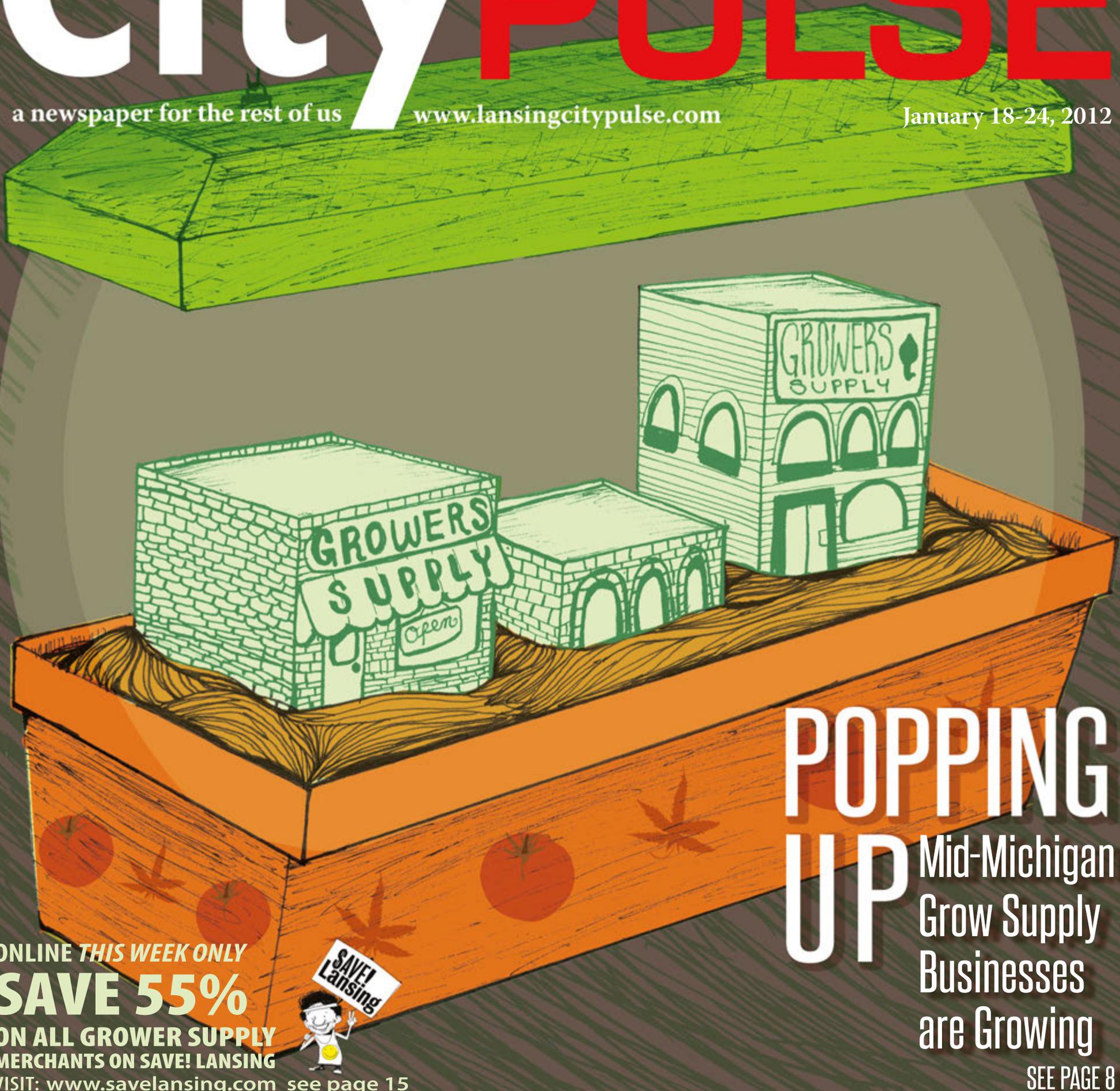


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January 18-24, 2012



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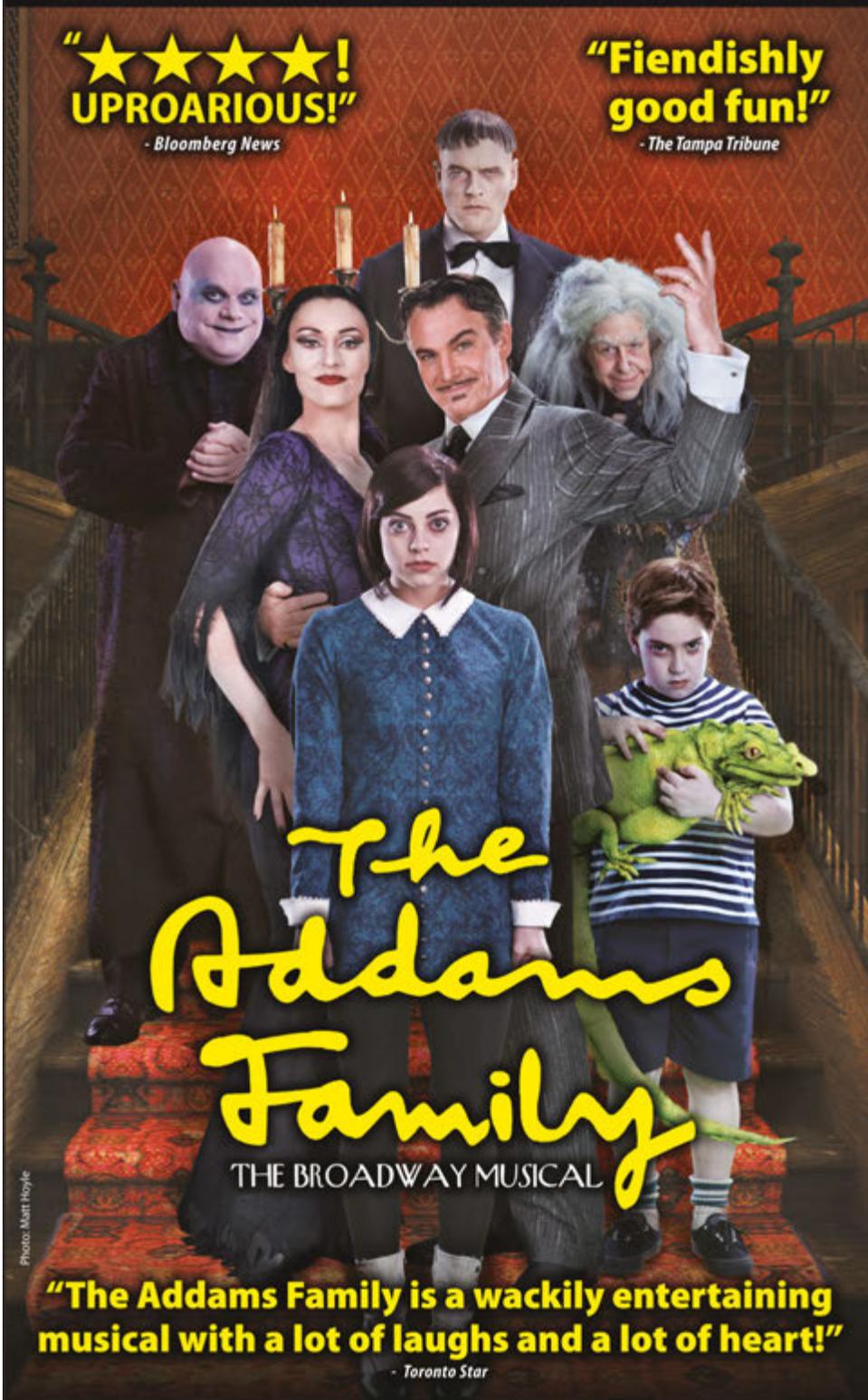


SEE PAGE 8

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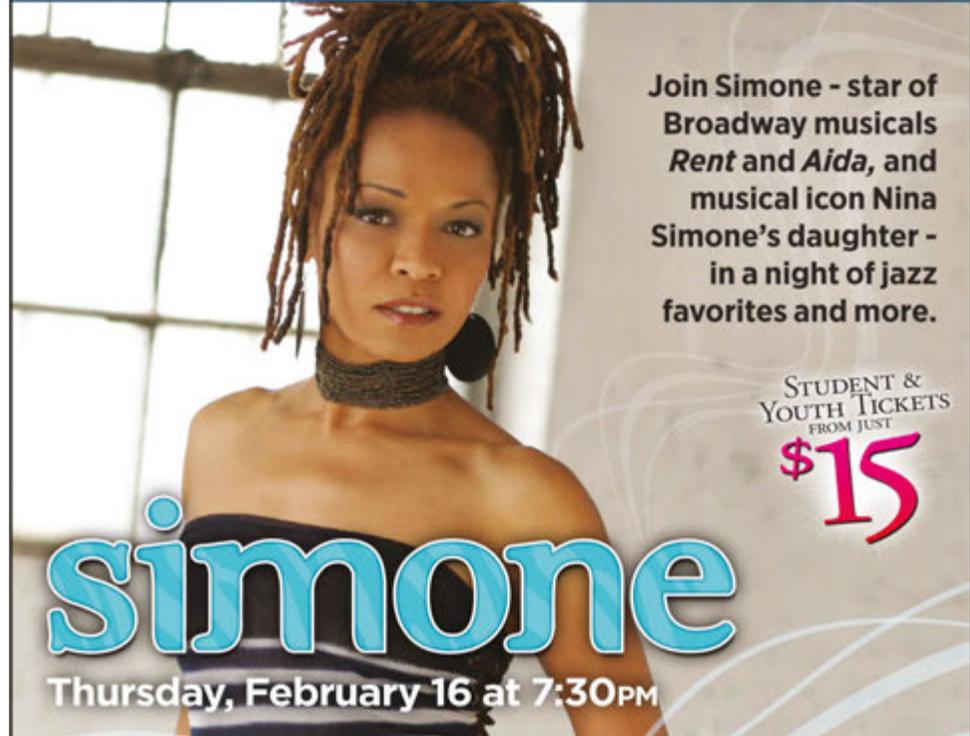
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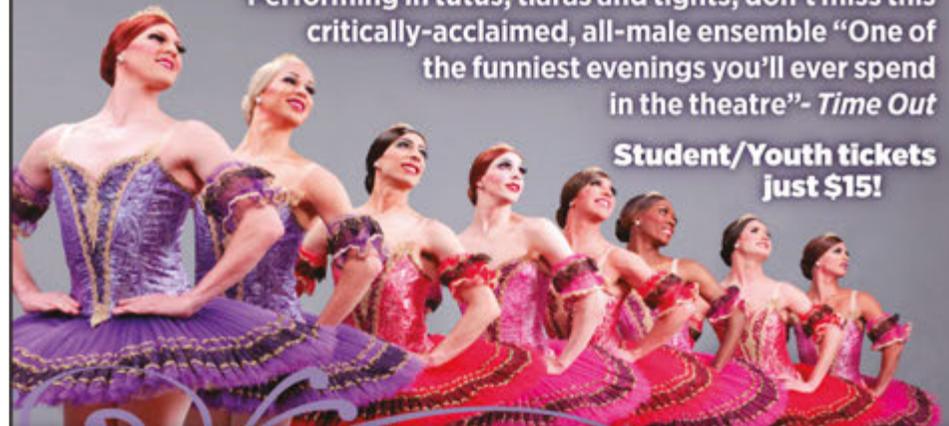
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Feedback

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an election on February 28, 2012.

Monday, January 30, 2012 is the last day to register in order to be eligible to vote at the February 28, 2012 Election. Any qualified elector who is not already registered to vote may register for the February 28, 2012 Election. Persons registering after Monday, January 30, 2012, are not eligible to vote at this election.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

- President of the United States (Democratic)
- President of the United States (Republican)

The following proposal will be submitted to City of Lansing electors who reside in the East Lansing School District:

East Lansing Schools – Bonding Proposal

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Lansing City Clerk's web site at www.lansingmi.gov/clerk.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office, your county clerk's office, or the **Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4133** during regular business hours.

Chris Swope
 Lansing City Clerk

CityPULSE

Volume 11, Issue 23

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Advertising inquiries: (517) 999-5061
Classified ad inquiries: (517) 999-5066
 or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

Editor and Publisher
 Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

Arts & Culture Editor
 James Sanford
james@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

On the Town Editor
 Jessica Checkeroski
jessica@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

Staff Writers
 Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com
 Andy Balaskovitz
andy@lansingcitypulse.com

Production Manager
 Rachel Harper
adcop@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

Advertising
 Monique Goch, Director
monique@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5062
 Allan Ross
allan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063
 Shelly Olson
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 643-1703

Contributors: Brian Bienkowski, Justin Biliicki, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Jeff Hammer, Tom Helma, Christopher Horb, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Adam Molner, Dennis Preston, Allan I. Ross, Joe Torok, Rich Tupica, Susan Woods, Paul Wozniak, Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, Ute Von Der Heyden, Judy Winter
Interns: Tony Alan, Allison M. Berryman, Alyssa Firth, Genna Musial, Christina Toscano
Delivery drivers: Abdulmahdi Al-Rabiah, Dave Fisher, Karen Navarra, Noelle Navarra, Brent Robison, Steve Stevens



7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

Eric Freeman and Steve Jones on presidents & black America

Jeff Gibson of Superior Growers Supply



POPPING UP by JESSICA CHECKEROSKI

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT-PAST: MITT ROMNEY HAS A LIFE-CHANGING REVELATION!
 MY HISTORY OF PREDATORY CAPITALISM WAS COMPLETELY AT ODDS WITH MY RELIGIOUS FAITH!
 THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO NOW!
 I'LL DROP OUT OF PUBLIC LIFE-- AND SEEK ATONE-MENT!

SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
 --AND THE LAST ANYONE HEARD, HE WAS WORKING WITH ORPHANS IN MUMBAI!
 WE'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME POSITIONING HIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY TO GIVE UP NOW!
 CAN YOU HELP US, DR. VON PHILBERT?
 OBVIOUSLY.

USING THE DNA FROM A STRAND OF MITT ROMNEY'S HAIR, THE BRILLIANT DOCTOR GETS TO WORK... AND SOON...
 GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE ROMDROID ONE! HE'S A FUSION OF CLONING AND ROBOTICS, WHOSE BELIEF SYSTEM IS COMPLETELY PROGRAMMABLE!
 HE'S THE PERFECT POLITICIAN!

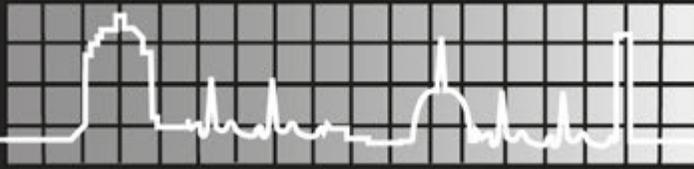
AND JUST FOR THE SAKE OF EFFICIENCY--I WENT AHEAD AND CREATED THE ROMDROID TWO!
 WE'LL CAMPAIGN TWICE AS HARD!
 WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

UNFORTUNATELY THE TWO ROMDROIDS ARE NEVER ABLE TO PROPERLY SYNC UP WITH ONE ANOTHER.
 I REFORMED HEALTH CARE!
 I'LL REPEAL OBAMACARE!
 CLIMATE CHANGE IS MANMADE!
 CLIMATE CHANGE IS A MYSTERY!
 I'M PRO-CHOICE!
 I'M PRO-LIFE!

AND CANDIDATE ROMNEY DEVELOPS A REPUTATION AS AN UNPRINCIPLED FLIP-FLOPPER.
 IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING PEOPLE THINK HE'S A TWIN PAIR OF ROBOT-CLONES WITH A PROGRAMMING GLITCH!
 EXCELLENT POINT!

BUT WAIT--WHAT'S THIS?
 NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE THE TRUTH-- BUT I MUST DO SOMETHING!

PULSE



news & opinion

Who will lead Lansing Township?

Daher's departure as supervisor after 28 years leaves open a full-time question in a disjointed township of five islands spread around Ingham County

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

For the first time in 28 years, John Daher's name will not appear on Lansing Township ballots for supervisor, forcing the township's 8,200 residents to reassess their government's

structure.

Daher, a Republican, has told the township board he would not seek re-election. He assumed the post after former supervisor Denise Arnold was recalled in 1983. He's one of the area's longest-serving heads of a local government.

His departure not only opens the door for a new successor, but begs the question of whether the township's new supervisor will serve as a full-time employee.

Daher will earn a \$65,000-a-year salary in 2012 as the government head of the township. There is no "superintendent," the equivalent of a professional manager. The position was done away with in the '80s.

Instead, everything runs through Daher, which is more a leadership decision made by those in power as opposed to anything written in the township's ordinances or charter. Daher said he would hope whoever fills his shoes would keep it that way.

"Certainly, someone could run as a part-time supervisor," Daher said. "But I believe it would be a mistake. This job demands a full-time supervisor."

First off, he argues a part-time supervisor inevitably would need to hire a full-time manager to run the township's day-to-day operations. An experienced/competent professional would demand a salary higher than what the current supervisor receives ... and that's if the part-time supervisor

doesn't draw a salary.

An appointed person wouldn't be held directly accountable to the people, something Daher prides himself on being. He also wears several hats within the township. He oversees the budget. He's the personnel chairman. He attends as many township meetings as humanly possible — parks, public works, etc.

This juggling act saves the township money, which is an obvious concern to Daher.

However, it could be argued that a full-time manager would have a broader vision of ways to save dollars and cents within this geographically separated township — possibly by expanding shared services or consolidation arrangements with its neighbors.

The township's west side consists of just about everything between Waverly Road and the old GM plant and the two rivers on the north and south.

Then there is the Eastwood Towne Center, the detached Groesbeck neighborhood to the north of Saginaw and an island of commercial property to the west of Highway 127 and north of Interstate 496.

Does this disjointed collection of five islands need its own Lansing Township services, particularly since every piece touches Lansing and/or East Lansing? Does a full-time super-

visor keep in place an entrenched system of government, where elected officials are more interested in preserving a fiefdom than making sensible decisions on police, fire, administration, etc.?

The full-time issue could chase away one of the township's more established public officials. Ingham County Commissioner Victor Celentino admits that he's "always been" interested in the supervisor position.

As a township board member between 1992 and 2000, Celentino said he admires the work Daher has done in bringing unity to the geographically separated township.

But as a special education teacher at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Magnet Academy — the former Dwight Rich Middle School — being a full-time supervisor would mean taking a leave of absence, which is something that "is giving me some pause."

Celentino is running for another term representing the redrawn 1st county commission district and already has a fundraiser planned for next month. Like most elected officials, though, Celentino isn't ruling anything out until the mid-May filing deadline, particularly if there's interest in a part-time arrangement.

"I'm always considering how I can best represent the people of my community," Celentino said.

The only candidate to file, to date, is Lansing Township Trustee John Mitchell, a local product who spent several years in federal government contracting in the Philadelphia area before moving back to the area 18 years ago.

A Democrat living in the Groesbeck community, Mitchell made his mark in township government when, as a planning commissioner, he helped lead the charge in demanding that General Motors attach a \$5 million cash bond to the demolition of the Fisher Auto Plant to protect the township from costly



of the week



Property: Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing
 Owner: City of Lansing
 Assessed value: \$0

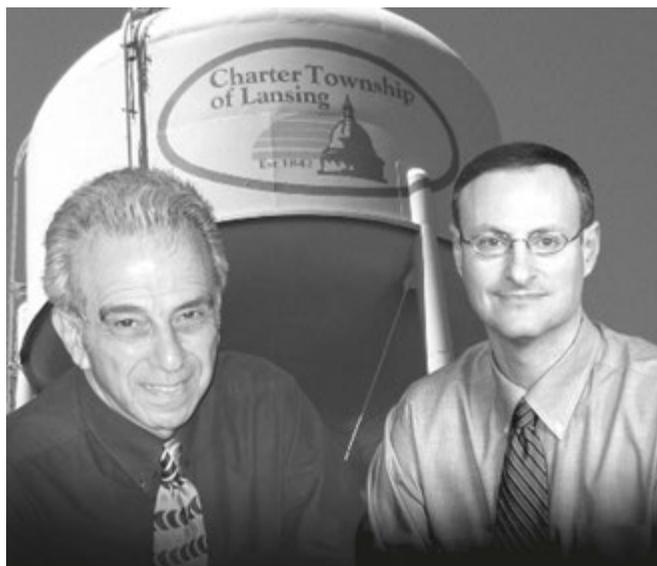
Great architecture can make you go that extra mile — literally. If you find yourself altering your route or walking a few extra blocks just so you can drive by that one particular building, you know the architecture is truly successful.

Architecture is a success when it evokes an emotional response that lifts the spirits. The Turner-Dodge House is without question one of the great architectural beauties of Lansing that just makes you feel good. It's exactly the type of building that draws you to it, time and again.

The remarkable 19th-century home-turned-museum is a true delight. In its present state, it is a Classical Revival style residence with red brick and a massive porch with corinthian columns. But look closely: See if you can spot the telltale signs of its previous life as a Greek Revival.

The Turner-Dodge house is really worth traveling those few extra blocks from Larch Street to North Grand River Avenue, or that extra quarter mile north on the River Trail.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn



Lansing Township Supervisor John Daher (left) will not seek re-election this year after 28 years in that role. Ingham County Commissioner Victor Celentino (right) is considering running.

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

Township

from page 5

cleanup costs and an unsightly mess if GM went bankrupt.

Now a first-term member on the township board, Mitchell agrees that Lansing Township needs a full-time supervisor. He's willing to sacrifice the 40-plus hours a week from his financial consulting firm to do it.

With township's "bare minimum" staffing levels, a Supervisor Mitchell sees himself getting involved in the "grunt labor," if necessary, to make sure the taxpayers are getting the most efficient government possible.

Mitchell said he believes talk of a part-time supervisor is being fanned by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, whose beliefs in consolidations are well documented. Bernero declined to comment for this story.

"I love Lansing Township," Mitchell said. "I think you need to have a passion for the township to be supervisor, and I do. I've had a lot of encouragement from members of community to serve so when John Daher decided not to run, it was a no brainer for me."

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

Lookin' good

530 Pacific Ave. gets its big makeover

(Part of an occasional series on one house being saved by the Ingham County Land Bank.)

Usually, it's a bad sign when a house makes noise, but the modest two-story home at 530 Pacific Ave. in south Lansing can be forgiven for squealing. It's just had a spiffy three-week makeover, courtesy of the Ingham County Land Bank, that would do Oprah proud.

With the help of unusually warm and dry winter weather, workers fitted the neglected house with a new porch, new roof, new vinyl siding and a full set of energy-efficient, maintenance-free windows. Eeee!

Getting its groove back after years of neglect is a big deal for an old house, but it's business as usual for the Land Bank, which is fighting the tide of tax and mortgage foreclosures in Lansing with about 40 renovations now under way in various parts of town.

The land bank bought the 1925 house in July for \$6,371 in back taxes owed by the absent owner. The renovation is expected to cost about \$50,000. It's a classic Land Bank project — a bad tooth



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

530 Pacific Ave. in south Lansing gets a makeover as part of the Ingham County Land Bank's work to rehabilitate homes.

in a healthy mouth.

"It's a nice neighborhood," land bank renovation specialist Bruce Kehren said. "All the houses around it are owner-occupied and well-kept."

Kehren has worked on over 60 land bank properties, from "major" renova-

tions like 530 Pacific to one-day paint-and-carpet jobs. "We're going to try to make the neighbors love us when we're done," he said.

On Jan. 5, Tom Horvath of Horvath Construction in St. Johns had a crew of two putting up vinyl siding.

They had already been on the job two weeks.

It was Horvath's first job for the land bank.

"It's an excellent time to get the job, for sure," he said. "Work is slow."

Kehren figures that more than 30 contractors will tromp through, over and around the house by the time the renovation is over in April, including five roofers, three men working on the exterior shell, a plumber, an electrical contractor, four painters, a carpenter, a cabinet specialist, a sewer specialist and a mysterious figure named "Little Tony."

Horvath, a laconic sort, had one word for the house's condition: "old." The first order of business was the sagging front porch, which had to be torn off and rebuilt. "It was put together old school," Horvath said. Despite what we kept on hearing from Andy Rooney, old school isn't always a good thing. At most land bank renovations, today's construction practices bump into the short cuts and technical limitations of grandpa's time.

See Home rehab, Page 7

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Home rehab

from page 6

The porch supports at 530 Pacific didn't go beneath the frost line (43 inches), as mandated now, and the wooden joists lacked the metal brackets that would have kept them in place. Result: a tiny Titanic of a porch. "The frost could just heave it up and down," Horvath said.

Next came a new roof, with proper ventilation, followed by vinyl siding and new windows, all standard land bank renovation checkpoints.

Over the holidays, neighbors stopped by to cheer the work on. One man walked across the street and plastered a jolly Santa Claus on the portable toilet in the front yard.

This week, work begins on the house's trashed interior.

Heaps of belongings left in the house are being sorted. The upright piano in the living room found a home in a local day care center — "not as a toy, but for kids to practice on," Kehren cautioned. Usable furniture, coats and other stuff will be trucked to St. Vincent de Paul.

Interior work was set to begin in earnest this week. A new furnace with 95 percent efficiency and new ductwork are already in place. After last fall's heavy rains, water collected in the basement, so a concrete specialist will install a waterproofing system, including a sump crock.

Then the dust will really start flying, as the kitchen is gutted and rebuilt to modern standards. The sink faces a wall now, but will face the window when work is done. But that's another makeover story. Tune in a couple of weeks from now.

— Lawrence Cosentino



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

By the end of last week, new windows and siding were installed at 530 Pacific Ave.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from the Capital City Vineyard Church for modified Site Plan and Special Use Permit for the property at 1635 Coolidge Road. The proposed application would permit an expansion to the building to accommodate additional classroom and nursery space.

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

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

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for **Tree and Brush Trim/Removal Services** on properties owned by the Ingham County Land Bank. The Bid Packet is available after January 23, 2011 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Proposals will be due at the Land Bank offices before 1:00 pm on February 3, 2012. The Bid Opening will be February 3, 2012 at 1:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

The Ingham County Housing Commission, on behalf of the Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for the **Identification and Marking of Hazardous Materials**, including, but not limited to, asbestos, mercury and various containerized material, located at various sites listed in the **Bid Packet# NSP2 11-008**, which can be obtained at the Ingham County Land Bank NSP2 office located at 600 W. Maple Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at the website: www.inghamlandbank.org, refer to "NSP2 11-008". Proposals will be due at the NSP2 office before 11:00 am on February 1, 2012. The Bid Opening will be February 1, 2012 at 11:01 am. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.



B/12/063 MOWING FOR VARIOUS CITY PARKS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **FEB. 9, 2012**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, email: srobinso@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.

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE

**LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION IS MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012
FOR THE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the **CITY OF EAST LANSING**,
Counties of INGHAM and CLINTON, State of Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTIES OF INGHAM AND CLINTON, AND THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, WILL HOLD AN ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 28, 2012.

For the purposes of nominating candidates of the Republican and Democratic Parties for the following partisan office:

PRESIDENT

Also to vote on the following proposal:

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING	GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$53,000,000
---	---

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of School District of the City of East Lansing, 841 Timberlane Street, Suite A, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, telephone: (517) 333-7420.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

Monday, January 30, 2012 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER OR CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS FOR THE FEBRUARY 28, 2012 ELECTION.

To register to vote, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office or your County, City or Township Clerk during regular business hours.

Clerk's offices with qualified electors in East Lansing are at the following locations:

East Lansing City Clerk, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, 48823	319-6914
Bath Township Clerk, 14480 Webster Rd., Bath, 48808	641-6728
Clinton County Clerk, 100 E. State Street, Ste 2600, St. Johns 48879	989-224-5140
DeWitt Township Clerk, 1401 W. Herbison Rd., DeWitt, 48820	668-0270
Ingham County Clerk, 341 S. Jefferson, Mason, 48854	676-7255
Ingham County Clerk, 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, 48933	483-6101
Lansing City Clerk, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, 48933	483-4133
Lansing Township Clerk, 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 48917	485-4063
Meridian Township Clerk, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, 48864	853-4300

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For complete ballot wording, contact the East Lansing City Clerk at 517-319-6914 or log on to the Ingham County Clerk's website at www.ingham.org or Clinton County Clerk's website at www.clinton-county.org.

Marie E. McKenna
East Lansing City Clerk
Election Coordinator for East Lansing School District



Photos by Jeff Hammer & Monique Goch

Lansing-area indoor garden supply retailers credit the state's medical marijuana law and innovations within the industry for the rapid expansion that's taken place over the past three years. Clockwise from top left: Tonie Brovont, owner of Owlyn Solutions for Growers; Jeff Gibson, owner of Superior Growers Supply; Mark Sorokacs (left) and Rob Taylor of HTGSupply; Ryan Hodges (far right), Chris Harper, Jay Thorburn and mascot Layla of Capital City Growers Supply; Bryan Havens (right) and Jon Olson of H2O Hydroponics; and Mathias Hopes of Horizen Hydroponics.

Long may you grow

The high-yielding business of indoor garden supply retailers

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

The year was 1989 and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had its sights set on a new enemy in the War on Drugs: indoor garden supply retailers.

That's right: Without an inkling of actual drugs in their stores, entrepreneurs across the country had their businesses raided, records seized, inventories wiped out. What else would all that organic soil, 1,000-watt lights and reflectors be used for, the feds thought, than growing pot?

One business raided that year in the DEA's 46-state crackdown called Operation Green Merchant is Superior Growers Supply. The business was started in an un-insulated barn in East Lansing in 1983 by a Michigan State University horticulture graduate named Jeff Gibson.

Gibson, 64, cut his teeth in the hydroponics business at a time when federal agents didn't much differentiate between drug dealers and indoor garden suppliers. As a result of the '89 raids, some businesses never faced charges and just had their entire inventory destroyed, forcing them out of the business. At least one business owner in Indiana reportedly pleaded guilty to selling cannabis growing paraphernalia and aiding in illegal activity. The New York Times reported that 119 people were arrested on Oct. 27, 1989, in connection with Operation Green Merchant and 22 businesses were involved.

But for SGS, the DEA let them keep the inventory and stay open for

business as usual. Records were seized, however, and Gibson prepared for a three-and-a-half-year, several hundred-thousand-dollar court battle that ultimately ended in a federal appeals court in Cincinnati.

In *United States vs. Superior Growers Supply, Inc.*, the garden supplier was charged with "conspiracy to aid and abet the manufacture of marijuana," court documents show. One reason SGS was targeted was it placed ads in *High Times* magazine. In federal district court, the charges were thrown out "for failing to allege an illegal agreement" between the suppliers and the growers. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision and denied a final rehearing on the case in April 1993.

"After two years of difficulty sleeping and great expense, we prevailed," Gibson said. "We were accused of helping people grow pot. The thing was that we were somehow aiding and abetting them — like malt and sugar for a bootlegger. It got pretty far-fetched. ... There was this stigma that this could only be used for one thing."

Nearly 29 years after opening, SGS employs 50 people at five stores throughout the state. Gibson says the Livonia store is the "biggest hydroponic shop in North America."

"We took the commercial system and scaled it down for the hobbyist," Gibson said over coffee in downtown East Lansing last week.

In reality, indoor gardening means a variety of things on an individual

Grow

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level. For some, it's therapeutic. For others, a mere hobby. For still more, a successful business.

Almost 19 years after Gibson had his successful day in court and three years after Michigan became a medical marijuana state, the indoor garden supply market in Lansing has turned a corner. Six new stores have opened since voters approved Michigan's medical marijuana law in 2008. SGS added a third Lansing-area location. Storeowners or managers range from 27 to 64 years old. The businesses are taking the place of old auto repair shops, buffet-style restaurants, vacant strip-mall suites. They're creating jobs and promoting self-sufficiency at home, whether it's for food or medicine. And they're looking to expand.

Yet the DEA raids from the '80s and the 16 states with voter-approved medical marijuana laws suggest an underlying fuel to this business that you won't see advertised on products or on neon signs in these storefronts: Cannabis.

Five store owners or managers interviewed for this story lament a negative stigma still attached to indoor garden suppliers and argue that medical cannabis growers are but one customer-type. Others include your hobbyist vegetable growers, orchid enthusiasts and even schools looking to use equipment for horticulture lessons. These businesses operate to see to it that your yields are high, the bugs stay out of your crop and your operation is as efficient as possible.

Cannabis: The new frontier

Before 2008 in Michigan, if you were growing cannabis at home and needed, say,

some more nutrients, a 1,000-watt bulb or a reflector hood, you were smart to keep quiet about what you needed it for when you fetched supplies at the local gardening center. Or perhaps it was more of a wink and nod situation.

The freedom to openly discuss cannabis, retailers say, was one of the biggest changes after Michigan's medical marijuana law passed. However, most businesses check for a valid medical marijuana card before discussing the plant.

"Before people were carded, you couldn't tell" what they needed the supplies for. "Everyone was illegal and you didn't ask questions about it," said John Ujlaky, owner of Horizen Hydroponics. Horizen opened its Lansing store — its fourth since 2002 — in July near the Lansing Mall. "That really has been the main change: to talk more freely."

After an industrial accident in the 1990s, Ujlaky and his wife Bridgette set out on the indoor gardening retail frontier. "After the industrial accident, I thought, 'What the hell?' I don't want to work in a factory the rest of my life." After opening the first store in 2002 in west Grand Rapids, three others in Kalamazoo, Byron Center and Lansing have opened. Horizen employs 21 people total, he said.

Horizen employees, along with at least four other Lansing stores, verify that customers are valid patients or caregivers before openly discussing the trials and tribulations of growing cannabis. Customers who can't produce a valid card or paperwork are asked to leave.

If there is conflict within indoor gardening circles, it's the level of openness in using products to grow cannabis.

Jon Olson, co-owner of H2O Hydroponics less than a mile from Horizen, wonders why some stores ask for customers' credentials. He calls it an "invasion of privacy."

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Photo by Monique Goch/Moxy Imagery

Jeff Gibson founded Superior Growers Supply in East Lansing nearly 29 years ago and was the first hydroponics supplier in town. From an un-insulated barn taking only mail-orders in 1983, SGS now employs 50 at five locations throughout Michigan. "We took the commercial system and scaled it down for the hobbyist," he said.

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Grow

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H2O is the only business City Pulse interviewed that does not ask for a valid card or paperwork.

“We’re willing to talk about medical marijuana,” Olson, 33, said. “We don’t want to be known for that, but we’re there for everybody — whether you’re a tomato grower or a medical marijuana grower. ... If someone is blatantly talking about” growing cannabis illegally, “OK, maybe we shouldn’t do business with them.”

In fact, Olson estimates that 90 percent of his customers are medical marijuana growers. H2O had its grand opening in March last year. Olson said he and co-owner Bryan Havens hope to open a second store in the Lansing area later this year. H2O employs eight full-time workers. Its 7,000 square-foot showroom in west Lansing used to be a World Buffet restaurant, Olson said.

Advanced Nutrients, a popular Canada-based nutrients manufacturer, is one of the few producers to openly admit to serving the cannabis community. The company is allegedly shut out from several indoor gardening expos because it promotes its product largely for cannabis growers. A YouTube video of the company’s co-owner, Big Mike, shows him excitedly pitching his product to Tommy Chong (whose face probably belongs on a Mount Rushmore-type monument to America’s cannabis culture) at the THC Expo in 2009.

But others in Lansing have strict policies for verifying patient or caregiver credentials before discussing growing cannabis, based on advice from attorneys. Gibson, of SGS, said he went back to the Grand Rapids-based attorney who defended him in the early ‘90s, James Brady, for a “\$5,000 to \$6,000” legal opinion soon after the 2008 ballot initiative passed. “He certainly suggested we see their identification” because the grow equipment could be interpreted as paraphernalia — “the idea that you’re going to provide them with equipment.”

Ujlaky, of Horizen, said companies like Advanced Nutrients that are more explicit about serving cannabis growers are merely capitalizing on one aspect of the indoor growing market. “They’re not really innovators or designers, they’re just good marketers.”

Beyond cannabis

Retailers say that the negative stigma attached to their businesses — as only serving cannabis growers — neglects a broad customer base that also includes families, orchid- and vegetable-growing enthusiasts and educators.

“Gardening is a really large pie. Medical growing is only part of it. General gardening is a much bigger part,” Ujlaky, of Horizen, said. “Traditional orchid growers are just as frequent as medical customers.”

Tonie Brovont, owner of Owlyn Solutions for Growers at 2398 Jolly Road in Okemos, estimates that customers who are medical marijuana growers versus those who are not is about “half and half, maybe less.”

Brovont said “we’re working really hard to break that down” when asked about a negative stigma attached to her business and others like hers. “We’re not a crop-specific store. ... Peppers, petunias — you name it. We have a broad-based clientele.”

Brovont emphasized the benefits that nutrients on display in indoor gardening shops have on growing food. “It’s an amazing quality of produce you get when using these nutrients. Cannabis is a very hungry plant nutrient-wise, much more so than vegetables,” she said. “We’re very much into local food and that whole movement. That’s one reason we started: to help people who want to grow more food.”

Owlyn opened in September. Brovont pursued the business after the medical practice she worked for relocated to Pennsylvania. “I decided I was too young to retire,” she said.

“Gardening is a really large pie. Medical marijuana growing is only part of it. General gardening is a much bigger part. Traditional orchid growers are just as frequent as medical customers.” — John Ujlaky, owner of Horizen Hydroponics

In fact, you could argue these businesses are largely consultants who give advice as much as sell equipment. When H2O opened in March, Olson said about eight out of 10 customers came in to browse but didn’t buy anything. “Now we’re to a point where eight people buy and two people walk out,” he said.

HTGSupply, a Pittsburgh-based company, opened a Lansing location last April. HTG started in Pennsylvania about 10 years ago. The company now has nine stores in seven different states. Not all of them are medical marijuana states. Michigan is the only state with more than one store. “The market in Michigan is very ripe, apparently,” store manager Mark Sorokacs said. “We get a lot of people who just come in to talk.”

He agreed that, unfortunately, a stigma is still attached to grow supply stores as cannabis-only businesses. “It’s really a shame. There shouldn’t be. We’re an indoor garden shop, with nothing even close to being illegal,” Sorokacs said. “We cater to everybody.”

Onward and upward

With seven different businesses and nine stores operating in the greater Lansing area, one might wonder if the indoor garden supply market is getting oversaturated.

“There’s a lot of competition, but also a lot of business, too,” Brovont, of Owlyn, said.

Olson, of H2O, said: “We get all kinds of people humbly thanking us for opening, because SGS was the only one in town.”

Gibson, whose SGS stores have indeed been around the longest, thinks the market is full: “I think there will be less grow shops in a year from now. I think the market is saturated.”

Some say the increased competition ultimately benefits the customers in lower prices. Three owners or managers interviewed for this story each said they have “the lowest prices in town” when it comes to lighting, nutrients or soils.

Gibson is wary that “price wars break out and nobody wins. They get in there and don’t have much to offer other than price. They try to compete on price and it goes quick.”

Economics aside, everyone interviewed for this story agreed that the hydroponics market is expanding rapidly thanks largely to medical marijuana laws and new lighting and growing technologies. There’s a certain excitement within the industry about what will come out next and how it promises to generate higher yielding crops more efficiently.

Some even make the argument that more grow supply businesses means more people are growing crops on their own — vegetables or medicine. The benefits from that means fewer imported products with higher quality — again, whether it’s vegetables or cannabis.

“It’s solid logic: More people growing at home rather than getting it from the black market,” Ujlaky, of Horizen, said.

Gibson, who’s been in the indoor gardening business for nearly 30 years and once was a target of the DEA, agrees.

“Absolutely,” he said when asked if he thinks the rise in his business correlates to more people exploring indoor gardening. “Which means less adulterated products and a more localized market.”

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'Find things that are red'

Alison Gass is the Broad Museum's first curator

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Alison Gass is drawn to the backlit door, the hole in the garden wall, the place where anything can happen. When she was a little girl growing up in Boston, it was the Museum of Fine Arts.

"My mom and I would play a game: Go through the museum and find things that are red," she said.

Last week, Gass slipped through one of the most inviting doorways in the international art world. At 35, she was named the first curator of

Michigan State University's Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, opening April 21.

"I would like to bring art to the Broad that is potentially life-changing," she said.

As assistant curator for painting and sculpture at San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art, Gass curated a New Work series that juggled politically charged images (Luc Tuymans's stark Sept. 11 paintings) with grand aesthetic epiphanies (Allyson Schotz's room-filling webs of prismatic beads) and wild installations (Nikka Rothenburg's bizarre contorting-body videos).

"Artists are fun to work with," she said. "They live in a world where they're living

their passion, doing every day what they most want to be doing. There's something so inspirational about that."

In a special section in 2010, The New York Times named Gass one of nine American museum curators under 40 to watch in the coming years.

"There's a lot of beauty in the world as well as a lot of trauma, and I want art to reflect the whole experience back at you," she said.

Two weeks ago, Gass swapped the coastal art scene for a new home in East Lansing, with her husband, Alec Hathaway, and their two kids, 2-year-old Millie and 7-month-old Gus, with Riggins the dog and Tex the cat in tow.

Last week, to prep Millie for the strange white stuff that would soon cover her new home, Gass read Ezra Jack Keats' "The Snowy Day" to her every night. Hathaway, a San Francisco architect, is working long distance.

The plum Broad gig puts these life adjustments in perspective. For Gass, the chance to stuff a stunning stainless steel structure



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

"Instead of just fitting art into the building, I would like to have artists come and react to it," says Broad Museum curator Alison Gass. "What does this make you want to make?"

designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid with contemporary art is the ultimate professional seduction.

On Jan. 9, she walked into the museum for the first time and sized up its angular, swooping galleries.

"I was immediately inspired to do commissions that will respond to the building," she said.

"Instead of just fitting art into the build-

ing, I would like to have artists come and react to it. What does this make you want to make?"

From her Boston Museum days, she's been committed to museum education for kids.

"That was a huge start for me," she said. "Go through the museum, pick a painting

See Gass, Page 12

The song of David

Okemos native Michael Lluberes calls his show 'The Boy in the Bathroom' 'an intimate musical' about isolation

By JAMES SANFORD

There's nothing unusual about a musical being produced in the Lansing area. But a musical that's actually set in the Lansing area?

That's a rarity.

The show in question is "The Boy in the Bathroom," with book and lyrics by Okemos native Michael Lluberes and music and additional lyrics by Joe Maloney. Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

presents the Midwest premiere of "Boy," starting Thursday.

"It's an intimate musical — it's more

'The Boy in the Bathroom'

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like 'The Glass Menagerie' than 'Mamma Mia!,'" said Lluberes in a phone interview. "It's funny and sad at the same time, which is what I think everything good should be."

Don't expect chorus lines or choirs: "Boy," directed by Peppermint Creek artistic director Chad Badgero, has a cast of three actors.

Plus, Michigan itself, added Lluberes, a 1997 Okemos High School graduate.

"Michigan is really the fourth character



Courtesy Photo

Ben Cassidy has the title role in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of Michael Lluberes' "The Boy in the Bathroom," the story of a graduate student wrestling with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

in the play. These people could only come from Michigan. They talk about Michigan, and Michigan becomes very much what the show is about."

It's also about obsessive-compulsive disorder, the psychological condition that drives David (Ben Cassidy) out of graduate school and into the bathroom of his mother's home. Pam (Colleen Bethea), who has been a single mom since David was 7, does her best to deal with his condition — pancakes and tortillas are often slipped through the narrow space at the bottom of the door — but she is eventually forced to turn to neighbor Julie (Emily McKay) for help.

Although they can't see each other, Julie and David build a rapport and slowly begin to fall in love.

"The nonstop progression of the play moves smoothly and sneaks its way out of lighthearted comedy and into introspective allegory," wrote New York Theatre.com critic Dianna Tucker Baritot. "Maloney and Lluberes have collaborated on and created a funny, beautiful, solid piece of theater."

See Boy, Page 12

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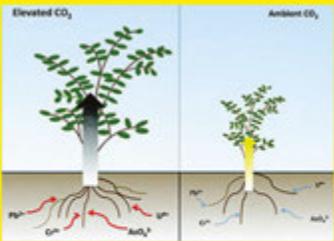

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Gass

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you like, sit down with a pad of paper and draw it."

When Gass was 10, she fell in love with a painting by impressionist Mary Cassatt. "It had a mom, a little girl and a cat," she recalled. "It stayed in my room through high school."

Later, her interest shifted from the painterly, colorful "isms" of the 19th century to the more dramatic art revolutions of the 20th and beyond.

"It became, for me, a more interesting way to think about the actual world I lived in," she said.

After college, Gass was hired as an administrative assistant at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Right away, she started looking around to see who was having the most fun.

"I learned quickly that the most interesting thing going on was with the curators," she said.

At New York University, she studied under heavyweight curator Robert Storr, now dean of the art school at Yale, and a big influence on Gass.

"He stressed listening to what artists were trying to tell you about their work," Gass said.

A big part of Gass' job is to take abstract concepts like "light," "power" or "time," show how they are explored by various artists, then shove it all against the walls of practicality. Can we afford it? Will it fit in this room?

"It's funny, but I like the logistical and

practical constraints of curating," she said. "Solving them is very satisfying to me."

Gass' contact list of artists — mostly her age or younger — is large and growing. She loves to present razzle-dazzle work like Allyson Shotz's glass-disc confections, but doesn't shy from political engagement.

At the San Francisco museum, she worked with painter Luc Tuymans, whose spare canvases deal with loaded themes like Nazi gas chambers and Sept. 11. Tuymans' Sept. 11 pieces struck a deep chord in Gass, who was studying art history in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

"They're actually quite beautiful paintings," she said. "They looked like smoke billowing out into the street. But it triggers a visual memory of that day."

Another Gass-curated show was devoted to the video creations of Nikka Rothenburg, wild visual riffs on the politics and rhythms of repetitive labor.

"She casts people with unusual bodies — sumo wrestlers, fetishists, and contortionists," Gass said. "They're installed in such a way that you enter into them. They're creepy, unsettling and funny all at once."

In the coming weeks, Gass will huddle with Broad Museum director Michael Rush to put together April's opening shows and chart the museum's long-term future. Nothing, from weirdness to politics to beauty, is off the table — except, perhaps, preaching. She wants to present art that opens a door and leaves it open for others.

"Anything that asks you to think is significant, however the artist chooses to do it," she said. "Like it, don't like it. Don't tell us what to think — just ask us to think."

Boy

from page 11

Lluberes was inspired to write "Boy" after seeing a story in the news about 15 years ago. "It was about a guy who locked himself in a bathroom and washed his hands over and over," he said. "I thought, 'Obsessive-compulsive disorder: What an interesting idea.' So I went to composer Joe Maloney and I thought we could collaborate on this show together."

"As it turned out, I was less interested in OCD than the idea that someone could be so afraid they would lock themselves away for a year — and how would they get out of there?"

"In this world now, after Sept. 11, there exist a lot reasons for people to be afraid, whether it's all in your head or whether it's happening outside your door."

Everyone in "Boy" is fenced in somehow. While David grapples with OCD, Julie builds a personalized prison of her own through her fear of moving out of

Michigan. Pam, who is recuperating from an accident, is trapped indoors.

"I think everybody has something in them that can identify with the idea of locking themselves away for a day," Lluberes said. "What if that turns into a week? What if it turns into a year?"

Unlike his characters, Lluberes did make his way out of Michigan, heading first to the North Carolina School of the Arts and then to New York, where he initially focused on an acting career (he was part of the national tour of "Dirty Dancing: The Musical").

These days, he's concentrating on directing and writing: His latest work, "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Hated Mothers," had a reading at the Kennedy Center's Page-To-Stage Festival last September, and opens Feb. 8 at Washington's No Rules Theatre Co.

"It's a really dark adaptation of the story," Lluberes said, adding with a laugh that "arrested childhood" seems to be a recurring theme in his plays: "If the boy isn't stuck in the bathroom, I guess he's trying to get out of the bathroom and into Neverland."



Michael Lluberes

THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Fassbender and Mulligan rock the Naked City in 'Shame'

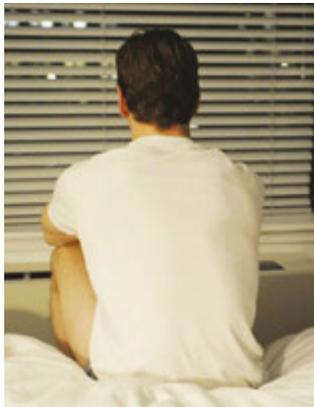
Their eyes meet. They are seated across from each other on a New York subway train, but it's immediately apparent each of them is imagining how much closer they could get. She smiles shyly while glancing at him slyly. He stares at her intently, almost — but not quite — smiling. In the silence, you can almost hear their blood boiling and the crackle of electricity in the stale air.

The man is Brandon (Michael Fassbender) and the woman (Lucy Walters) has no name.

Many of Brandon's conquests in "Shame" are similarly anonymous. Just as the jaguar doesn't make a habit of chatting with its prey, Brandon avoids chatter when he can communicate in other ways. If you want to see Brandon squirm, send him out on a date; faced with having to make small talk with his co-worker, the bewitching Marianne (Nicole Beharie), Brandon is as awkward as a teenager at his first school dance.

Director Steve McQueen's simultaneously searing and chilling film has attracted attention because of its NC-17 rating. But the real high-voltage content in "Shame" comes from what we don't see. Although "Shame" provides an explicit portrait of Brandon's addiction to all things erotic, it refuses to disclose the exact nature of the fascinating central relationship in his life, the connection with his sister, Sissy (Carey Mulligan), a bohemian who's sometimes flighty and just as often fiery.

When these two are together under the wrong circumstances, the atmosphere is charged with an almost toxic tension. The screenplay by McQueen and Abi Morgan leaves us to guess exactly what happened



Courtesy photo

Michael Fassbender can't face the truth about his sexual appetites in "Shame."

in their pasts, but it's safe to assume it was something unsavory. Although they seem to be completely different — he's slick and low-key; she's rough around the edges and erratic — a closer look reveals they're both bedeviled by insatiable appetites: They are compelled to chase what they think will bring them pleasure, even if that pursuit leads them down the most painful roads.

"We're not bad people," Sissy rationalizes. "We just come from a bad place."

Fassbender and Mulligan give astonishingly vivid performances, masterfully modulating their emotions and sustaining a sometimes frightening level of friction through the lengthy takes McQueen uses to tell the story. "Shame" is

both highly cinematic (in one knockout sequence McQueen's persistent camera follows Brandon as he jogs down block after block) and semi-theatrical in the demands it makes on the actors.

The movie's most unsettling moment arrives when Sissy delivers an elegiac version of "New York, New York" at an upscale lounge where Brandon and his boss, David (the excellent James Badge Dale), are having cocktails. Midway through the number, McQueen cuts away to Brandon's face and allows us to see how every note of the song is hitting him like a drop of hydrochloric acid. While the aggressively enthusiastic David cheers, Brandon fights back tears and, one suspects, decades of repressed feelings.

"You force me into a corner and you trap me," Brandon will later tell Sissy. "I'm trying to help you," she replies.

But neither of them seems genuinely capable of compassion. The shame at the core of "Shame" is that while Sissy and Brandon know exactly how to get under each other's skins, they will never understand each other's minds.

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Before sunrise

David Andrews anchors the expanded WILX morning newscast

By JAMES SANFORD

Getting up early in the morning is nothing new for WILX news anchor David Andrews. He's been married to WFMK-FM morning-show DJ Monica Harris for 24 years, and she's been starting work before sunrise the entire time they've been together.

As of this week, the couple will be working similar hours: Andrews, 51, has taken over WILX's expanded morning news show, which starts at 4:30 a.m. every weekday.

"It's funny," Andrews said. "In terms of lifestyle, I always went to bed early anyway. So even when I wasn't on this shift I was getting up at 4 a.m. or 4:30 anyway."

Andrews, a 14-year veteran at WILX who previously anchored the 5 and 6 p.m. newscasts, prepared for his new assignment last week by going in at 3 a.m. each day to observe how the morning show is put together. He plans to punch in at 2 each morning to allow himself extra time to do some writing and research.

"I want to be there a full two hours before the news begins," he said. "I want to be prepared when that camera light comes on."

Andrews originally came to Lansing almost 25 years ago, when he was an anchor at WLNS. He says he's grateful he and Harris have managed to find stability, even though the TV and radio fields are notorious for their lack of employment security.

"In these two jobs where you're work-

ing contract to contract, you never know if you're going to be here, if audience wants to watch you listen to you," he said. "We've been very fortunate — and I stress that word — that we've been able to live here and raise a family." (Andrews and Harris have three daughters, ranging in age from 11 to 20.)

Adding an extra half-hour to the morning newscast makes sense, according to WILX news director Kevin Ragan, who points to the expanding audiences for early morning programs.

"It's sometimes referred to as the new prime time," Ragan said. "It's changed, like banking on Saturday: It's what the audience wants."

Reporter Caroline Vandergriff joined the WILX team last fall to gather fresh material for the morning show. "Not just overnight accidents and fires — she's covering real news," Ragan said.

WLNS news director Jam Sardar says he's not worried about the competition.

"They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. If so, we're very flattered," Sardar said. "6 News This Morning' hired a morning show reporter (Maria Hechanova) in July. They did it a few months later.



David Andrews

We went to 4:30 a.m. in September. Now they're following in our footsteps again. They don't call us 'Your Local News Leader' for nothing."

Another change as of Monday: Jason Colthorp and Lauren Evans are teaming up to anchor the 5, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts, with Andy Provenzano as meteorologist. Tim Staudt is the sports reporter for the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts.

Colthorp and Evans will continue to report as well as anchor, Ragan said. "Having two people on the desk gives them the flexibility to have one of them going out and covering stories."

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Perspectives on the past

Documentary 'Nostalgia for the Light' examines Chilean history, both ancient and recent

By ROBERT SANCRAINTE

"Nostalgia for the Light" begins slowly, with beautiful images of celestial bodies shining brightly in the sky, interspersed with shots of titanic mountains dried out in the desert sun.

Review

Chile's Atacama Desert is an expansive plain with the perfect environment for stargazing: Isolated and removed from civilization, its perpetually clear skies and seeming lack of life give it grandeur not unlike outer space. Like the cosmos, the desert holds secrets well preserved by its vastness, and the desire for discovery burns in the hearts of scientists and non-scientists alike.

This desert is peopled mainly by astronomers staring upwards and archaeologists looking down, both groups trying to make sense of the universe by looking at artifacts from the past. But elsewhere in this desert, the remains of Chacabuco concentration camp provide yet another lens through which the past can be viewed. This camp is one of many places where Augusto Pinochet's regime perpetrated its killings of

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Courtesy photo

The Chilean skies hold secrets in "Nostalgia for the Light."

thousands upon thousands of Chileans in the 1970s.

The quests of the astronomers and archeologists to observe and understand the past are mirrored by the intense searching of women probing the desert for loved ones

lost during Pinochet's wanton dictatorship. Locating "disappeared" loved ones is critical for them and to all Chileans who are searching for meaning years after the military dictatorship left its deep scars.

The film plays out like a choreographed ballet between the subjects of astronomy and archaeology and their relationship to

the Atacama Desert, as well as their importance to the history and culture of Chile. Director Patricio Guzmán displays the breathtaking sights of the desert and the clear night sky above, then interviews the scientists about their fascination with the past. In the course of telling their stories, though, they become less astounded by stars and ancient remains as they are by the recent past.

It becomes clear that Chile's obsession with the stars above and the ground underfoot may have as much to do with advancing scientific knowledge as it does with finding a way to cope with the immeasurable loss of so much human life.

One astronomer, Valentina, relates how her hobby has helped her to deal with the loss of her parents. Astronomy is comforting to her because of its themes of cycle and re-birth, and its affirmation that the universe began long before the cruel acts now held in the memory of the survivors, and that it will not end for eons to come.

"Nothing really comes to an end," she says. Not as long as we remember the past.

Pretty Vacant

Mystery sells tickets for Vacant Lansing event

By CITY PULSE STAFF

"Expect Nothing" promises the website for Vacant Lansing (www.vacantlansing.com). But there must be something going on.

The \$20 general admission tickets to the Feb. 29 "Inaugural VACANT Experience" are already sold out; you can pay \$150 for "two entry tickets; VIP seating; framed, limited-edition silk-screened poster, and other enticing VIP loot."

What you're getting for your money is anyone's guess. Vacant's violet-colored logo of a blindfolded tiger is cryptic. Even the address of the event is a mystery: The site says it will happen "Somewhere in REO Town," between 7 and 11 p.m., but gives no more information.

"You'll need to use your wits and connections to figure this one out," notes a blurb on the site. "Be prepared for an all-new kind of experience. Don't worry, we'll be in touch with a hint or two."

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The sound of Chenille

The Sisters shine in 'Backstage Pass' spotlight

By ROBERT SANCRAINTE

It doesn't take long to realize the Chenille Sisters' appearance on the season opener of "Backstage Pass" (which premieres Jan. 19) is going to be an hour of non-stop entertainment.

The three members, led by the talented and hilarious Grace Morand, alternate between heartfelt ballads and more comedic fare. Quirky tunes like "Regretting What I Said" and "NaCl" are silly enough that they grab your attention, but none of these lighthearted ditties distract from showcasing the singers' masterful ability to harmonize.

In fact, it's their more serious material that brings out the talent of the Chenille Sisters. In "Long Ago," Cheryl Dawdy belts out a melancholic tune that astounds with its beauty, and in "Memories of You," Connie Huber strums the guitar as the other two Sisters follow her lead through a great ramble that evokes the style of the Dixie Chicks.

Their comic take-off on Bob Dylan's



Courtesy Photo

The Chenille Sisters provide a batch of heartfelt and humorous tunes in their 'Backstage Pass' appearance.

"Blowin' in the Wind" is a particularly biting satire about the annoyances of men, and although the new lyrics they give to Dylan's tune are not quite as original as their other comic songs, this track fits in well with the rest of their repertoire.

About halfway through the show, the Sisters are joined by the Royal Garden Trio, which brings a light jazz flair to several songs that blends well with the Sisters' style. In "Mood Indigo," in particular, both groups have time to shine in the collaborative setting.

Documentary-style segments occasionally break up the performance to tell us more about the women, their upbringing, and their musical training over the years. The segments give the viewer insight into the Sisters' great offstage camaraderie.

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The play's the thing

Riverwalk makes a noble stab at Stoddard, but the long-winded script defeats the capable cast

By TOM HELMA

He takes a mighty whack at it: Riverwalk's émigré from Russia, Leo Poroshin, directing "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." One can imagine him crumpling up pages of Tom Stoddard's unwieldy, overly long script, then unfolding the pages and trying again and again and then yet again to make it work.

He is aided in this herculean effort by two of Lansing's finest young male actors in the title roles, and by his costume designer, Brittney Benjamin, who dresses the "tragedians" as a cast of Cirque de Soleil Fellini film refugees.

Set designer Alina Poroshina dazzles with vibrant vermillion panels of Asian bonsai and bamboo. There are times, however, when all of a director's actors — and two good designing women — cannot pull a tedious script together.

Stoddard's piece suffers primarily from being nothing more than a faux-outtake from Shakespeare's "Hamlet," a questionably clever idea to begin with, and essentially an empty experience to observe.

Joe Dickson, as the good-hearted Guildenstern, is the more affable of the title characters, an ordinary, average, everyday kind of guy, a little like the lovable family dog, while Justin Brewer as Rosencrantz is both more analytical and detached.

The chemistry works, as they bounce off each other with a mindless, seemingly purposeful pointlessness, loose associa-

tions and oblique conversations worthy of the world's two most lost souls. Where are they going, what are they seeking, how will they end up — why will we care?

Occasionally they are funny, and when we care for them, it's because we do understand their disorientation to person and place.

Those who excessively celebrate everything remotely Shakespearean, of course, eat this up, the post-modern God-is-dead era nihilistic idea that life, all life, on stage and off stage, has a beginning and an end and has only what meaning we bring to the moment.

Aha? Meh! Been there, thought that. Can we go home yet?

A subtext of the plot, near the end of Act II, brings someone else out on the stage to rescue these two stalwart journey-men from themselves and the confines of the script.

Mark Gmazel is "the player," heading up a road show of tragedians. Gmazel is furiously and outrageously flamboyant, getting many laughs, while Brian Kardell, Angela Wright, Kayla Green and Scott Crandall melodramatically enact and re-enact falling-down death scenes that illustrate the existential theme of the play. Good job, a worthy effort.

Various characters from "Hamlet" wander on the stage from time to time with hints of Denmark in their demeanor. Uh huh.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's purposeless journey from beginning to end turns out to be merely to make a point about life being short: In the end, what, if anything, really matters? A downer message on a cold January night.

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Write to work

Author Jim Daniels' job is telling the stories of other people's jobs

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's tough being Jim Daniels. He's often confused with another Daniels: Jeff, the actor and filmmaker who writes scatological comedies involving flatulence. Jim Daniels' writing can be dark, but it's never stinky especially when he weaves his favorite theme — working in the Motor City — into his short stories and poems.

He has been doing that for more than 40 years.

Daniels' work has been compared to Raymond Carver, Flannery O'Connor and Tobias Wolff, but those aren't totally fair comparisons since Daniels' voice is truly one of the Midwest Rust Belt and the workers who keep it running, sometimes in work that is pure drudgery.

For the last 30 years, Daniels has been teaching creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, a job he calls a "good gig." But his roots are still in his hometown of Detroit.

Daniels said he has always been attracted by what he calls Detroit's "straight forward quality; there's no bullshit."

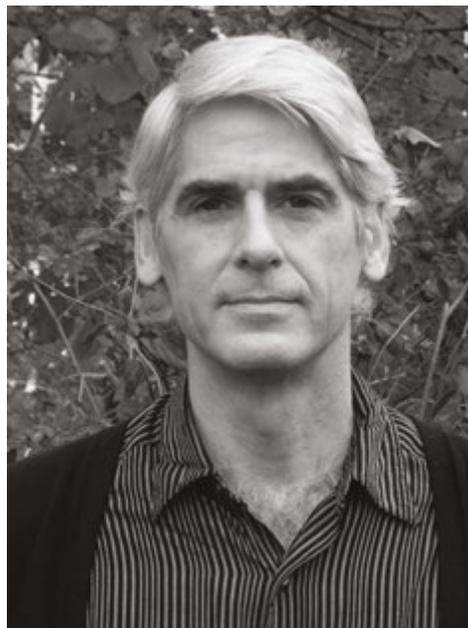
Jim Daniels

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His writing is intertwined with work and the influence it has on a person's life beyond the job. In fact, his first "real" poem, which he wrote in

high school, was about his job at a party store. "Growing up in a Party Store" is like a first love to Daniels, one he talks about with deep affection.

Daniels said he turned to writing when his classmates in middle school started teasing him about his then speech impediment. Writing was a perfect outlet for an introspective personality. His history teacher would become his first mentor



Courtesy photo

"Work is who you are, and it drives your personal life," says poet and screenwriter Jim Daniels, a Detroit native who once worked on auto plant assembly lines.

after recognizing that Daniels was writing poetry in his papers.

"When I wrote the poem about a party store it was kind of a revelation," Daniels says. "Work is who you are, and it drives your personal life."

Daniels was also deeply influenced by working in auto plants during summers to pay for his college tuition at Alma College.

One of his favorite and recurring figures, Digger, is an amalgam of people he met during those days on the line.

He also admits that some of the writing is autobiographical: "All writers reveal some of themselves through what they write."

He said "writers are shameless" in the way they borrow from things they hear or observe. "I hear someone say something, and I've got to write it down."

Daniels has pretty much kept the 3 x 5 index card business alive over the years by writing down what he hears. He even keeps cards at his bedside, in case he wakes up during the night with an idea.

"Not that I can always read it in the

morning," he admits. A recent card has "brouhaha" scrawled on it. "I'll use it someday."

Daniels is quick to list his writing influences, including Stuart Dybek, Tobias Wolff, Canadian writer Tom Wayman (whose writing also examines work), Detroit native Philip Levine, the nation's current poet laureate, and Jim Harrison, Michigan's emotional poet laureate.

Daniels still has his copy of Harrison's book of poetry "Letters to Yesenin" nearby him at work.

Another significant influence in Daniels' writing life was James Baldwin. As a graduate student at Bowling Green University, Daniels took a class from Baldwin, which is something not many writers around today can say.

"He had a big effect on me," Daniels recalls. "It was right after the last summer I worked in the plant. Baldwin challenged the class. He didn't teach in the traditional sense, but he challenged us to be a little more honest and get beneath the surface."

"He would tell us, 'I'm the son of a slave and you're the son of a slave owner.'"

Daniels admits he may have gotten a little defensive about his writing during that time. "But as I got a little more distance from the class, I understood."

In 1993, he wrote "Time, Temperature," a poem about the 1967 Detroit riots as what he calls a "late paper for his class": Daniels dedicated the poem to Baldwin.

One of Daniels' goals is to get people to "encounter literature in places where they normally wouldn't expect it." And one of his own poems — about the Detroit Tigers, of course — appeared in a baseball collector's magazine.

He has also stretched his limits in unfamiliar territory. On a sabbatical in Italy he took the contrarian approach: Instead of writing about Italy, he's working on a collection of poetry about the Middle East. His poems also have covered the lives of painters and musicians.

One of the most challenging writing assignments Daniels has taken on is script writing. He likes how it stretches his capabilities as a writer.

"I like the collaborative process (of scriptwriting)," he says. "I don't feel so pro-

prietary in my writing."

While at Michigan State University for the Michigan Writers Series, Daniels will bring a little bit of short story writing and script writing to the table. He'll read from his new collection of smart, sometimes snarky short stories, "Trigger Man: More Tales from the Motor City," and will show his short film "Mr. Pleasant," an adaptation of one of his books of short fiction.

For Daniels, films exposed a whole new side of creativity. He points to being able to work on "Mr. Pleasant" with director John Rice, who got his start as a filmmaker by working with George Romero on the cult classic "Dawn of the Dead."

However, Daniels didn't stray far from his focus on work in "Mr. Pleasant": The storyline follows a working-class kid from Detroit who hopes to leave that environment behind him when he goes to college.

"We all have our own Detroit," he says, "and we each experience place in a different way."

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AMY ALKON
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Q: I'm a retired pastor in my 50s. A nearby church wanted my help with their Christmas musical, and I asked my wife of five years, who played bass at my church, to join me. She became angry at this suggestion and said I should do my own thing on Christmas and she'd do hers. She then announced that she'd be spending Christmas Eve with her (single, lonely) ex-boyfriend, staying the night at his place and hiking with him on Christmas Day. I was taken aback. I said this had the "whiff of adultery" and wondered if she wanted to end the marriage. She flew into a rage. How could I even think of calling her an adulteress, etc.? Their overnight got canceled because his son came home for Christmas, but she's still mad — barely talking to or looking at me. I confess, I'm a conflict avoider and in counseling for it. But what do I do about a woman whose rage can last for several hours to a month or more? Who gives me lengthy, pedantic lectures about how pathetic and hopeless I am? If I say "Then why don't you leave me?" she says "Because I love you."

—Stuck

A: Your wife has some creative interpretations of classic Christmas songs: "I'll be home for Christmas"? Naw. "You'll be home for Christmas, and I'll be sleeping over at my ex-boyfriend's." Question this in the slightest and the burning smell will be *your* chestnuts roasting over an open fire.

First, the obvious: Unless there's some previously agreed-upon "interesting" marital arrangement, wives do not get to have ex-boyfriend sleepovers. As for a pastor's wife picking Christmas for hers, what's the matter, was he busy on your wedding anniversary?

A "love" like hers sends chills down a man's spine — that is, when the man happens to have one. Did you forget yours at the airport?

Maybe leave it at a hotel? Although your wife is engaging in outrageous emotional abuse, your reaction — your fear of her rage, which she uses to control you and get her way — is what keeps it going. You might have had a different relationship dynamic (or a different woman altogether) if only you'd put your foot down — stood up to her instead of always lying down and rolling over so she could better kick you in the head.

You should read "No More Mr. Nice Guy," by reformed doormat Dr. Robert Glover. Glover lays out how conflict-avoidant men go limp in the face of abuse because of their approval-seeking (driven by low self-worth and fear of abandonment) and their hiding of flaws and mistakes (instead of accepting themselves as fallible and human). Transforming oneself from a chewtoy among men doesn't happen overnight. Until you build self-respect, act like somebody who has it. Set standards for how you'll be treated, and inform your exploding wife that you expect them to be met (which may take anger management), and tell her that you'll walk if the rage and unloving treatment continue. And mean it. So, if she wants to have a little overnight with her ex, tell her that's her prerogative — when your divorce is final. Remember, you're never too old to be happy, and to instill healthy behavior, and to have something a little warmer and sexier at Christmas than a lecture about what a pathetic loser you are under the mistletoe.

Q: I love good food and wine, but I hate cooking and I'm bad at it. When you're dating, it seems like you're supposed to cook your partner dinner at a certain point, especially if you're a woman. I think I'm at that point now, and I'm considering setting a nice table and ordering takeout. Will he think I'm not that interested if I don't break out the cookbook?

—Food And Whine

A: According to needlepointed pillows, the way to a man's heart is through his

stomach. Actually, it's through his sternum with a big saw. I say that a bit defensively because I, too, love good food but spend all of my time slaving over a hot computer. (I don't cook; I heat.) Luckily, I have a boyfriend who likes to cook for me, but for some guys, a woman who doesn't cook is an automatic dealbreaker. For others, it's a bit of a bummer, but what matters is whether the woman otherwise is giving and shows in various ways that she wants to take care of them. You'll find out which kind of man you have when you're honest with him about who you are — a woman who sets a beautiful table and serves a delicious dinner right out of "The Joy Of Calling Up The Chinese Restaurant And Giving Them Your Credit Card Number."

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at www.lansingcitypulse.com

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

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

www.LAHRonline.org

Jonesin' Crossword

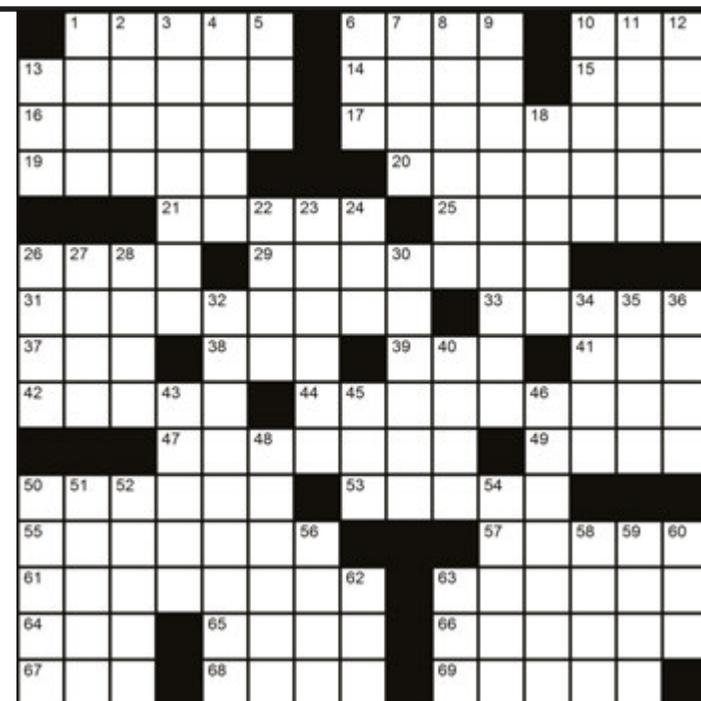
By Matt Jones

"Happy 100th, Universal!"—the studio's restoring 13 of its classics; these 5 didn't make the cut.

Matt Jones

Across

1 "Happy 100th, Universal!" -- the studio's restoring 13 of its classics; these 5 didn't make the cut.
Matt Jones
Across
1 "___ wish" (line from "The Princess Bride")
6 Makers of the 90, 900 and 9000
10 "Gnarly!"
13 Sorer than sore
14 Gp. that'll teach you how to serve
15 "It was 20 years ___ today..."
16 Universal's 1985 Chevy Chase comedy
17 Burger chain with a bird mascot
19 Invasive crawling plant
20 Universal's 1976 Richard Pryor comedy
21 Pronoun separated by a slash
25 Have the desire
26 "Later!"
29 Late writer/philosopher/"psychonaut" McKenna
31 With 44-across, Universal's 1977 Burt Reynolds comedy
33 "Did I do that?" character
37 Chew toy filler
38 MCD divided by X
39 Movie role played by George Burns and Morgan Freeman
41 "Gangsta Lovin'" rapper
42 Twin Falls' state
44 See 31-across
47 Not at sea



49 Capital home to the Viking Ship Museum
50 Result
53 "Had you fooled for a second there?"
55 Universal's 1984 Emilio Estevez flick
57 Knuckle-cracking, e.g.
61 World capital within the Distrito Federal
63 Universal's 1980 Olivia Newton-John musical
64 "Breaking Bad" network
65 Abbr. for a president
66 Adjective for fairy tales and Nick Jr. shows
67 Vote shown on C-SPAN
68 Spoiled kid
69 Come after

4 With perfect timing
5 "That's disgusting"
6 Big ___ (California region)
7 "Hey, wait ___!"
8 When duels take place, often
9 Scary-looking fish
10 Morocco's capital
11 Like some hiring practices
12 "Tiny Bubbles" crooner
13 "I'm not typing right now" acronym
18 "For sale by ___"
22 "Kilroy Was Here" group
23 One wish for the new year, on many a greeting card
24 West end?
26 Fusion chef Ming ___
27 In the thick of
28 ___ Bora (mountain area in old bin Laden news)
30 Lawn tools

32 Friedrich Hayek's field
34 Adidas alternative
35 Resident ___ (PlayStation game)
36 Actor Jared who sings in
30 Seconds to Mars
40 Follow instructions
43 Hostess snacks
45 Move like a wallaby
46 Words after "Look, ma!"
48 Soviet monster
50 Country singer Keith
51 Prefix before tan or frost
52 Not focused
54 Pen-desk connector, at some banks
56 "The Godfather" film scorer ___ Rota
58 Singer Erykah
59 "This'll be the day that ___..." ("American Pie" refrain)
60 One day: abbr.
62 Be a thespian
63 Classic Jaguar

City Pulse Classifieds

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

Creative General Manager Lansing's Top Gay Nightclub is seeking a full-time creative general manager. Must possess a high-school diploma and have bar management experience. Must be highly organized and have great people skills. Send cover letter and resumes to clubspiral@aol.com. Please no calls.

Auction 2002 Express van. 1-30-12. 8:00AM. 3330 S. Waverly Rd. Lansing, MI

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED Cash paid daily. Apply at 4773 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. Bring current driving record. Must be 23 years or older. Two years taxi driving experience required. Spartan Yellow Cab.

Hiring Acupuncturist, naturopathist & clinical social worker for busy chiropractor. Contact (517) 667-6088.

Stressed? Relax with \$10 facial. Located inside Meridian Mall at Advanced Acne Clinic. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 3-7 p.m.

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@CityPulse

OUT on the TOWN

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

Jan. 18-22



Courtesy Photo

When the circus comes to town

The 69th Annual 2012 Elf Khurafeh Shrine Circus promises to heat up Michigan by turning the Lansing Center into the big top. “The elephants, tigers, camels, horses, ponies and chimps have on their scarves and mittens, and are looking forward to entertaining the folks in Flint, Lansing and Saginaw,” said Nick Singelis, spokesperson for the Elf Khurafeh Shrine Center. Patrons can anticipate some of the show’s traditional acts, including clowns, animal performances and stunts. However, this year the Shrine Circus has updated the lineup. “We are introducing a brand-new tiger and chimpanzee act,” Singelis said. “The chimpanzee performance is especially exciting because it is one of only two performances (of its kind) in the world.” 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18; 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 20; 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m. Jan. 21-22. \$14 adults; \$12 kids 12 and under; \$25 VIP seating. Lansing Center 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.lansingcenter.com.

Wednesday, January 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, alternating plus and more. Grande Paraders Square Dance Club, 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

MSU Lecture Series. Paul Stern, senior scholar at the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences, lecture on “Climate Change: The Role of Behavior.” 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.espp.msu.edu/news/dls.php.

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

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Mormonism Discussion. On Mormon political leaders such as Romney. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Drop-in figure drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided, bring other supplies. All welcome. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Museum, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. Speaking and listening to English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Grand

See Out on the Town, Page 23

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Frosty fresh steps

Walk or glide through a winter wonderland and explore snow-covered nature this Saturday. Harris Nature Center offers cross-country skiing classes 9:30-11:30 a.m. and a snowshoeing class 1-3 p.m. The classes provides instruction on safely using cross-country skis or snowshoes. “These classes include tips on staying warm in the cold, proper equipment and practice of basic skills such as gliding, turning, shoeing techniques, going up and down hills and guided skiing or shoeing on the park trails,” said park naturalist Kati Adams. Participants are advised to dress according to the weather and to contact the center, due to limited space. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Each class is \$15 with own equipment, or \$20 with borrowed equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. www.facebook.com/harrisnaturecenter.com.

Jan. 21 & 22

Children’s book gets new life

When P.K. Van Voorhees, director of “The Seven Wonders,” was creating her play, she was looking for something easily adaptable to actors and dancers. “Seven Wonders” takes place in the Missouri town of Sassafras Springs in 1923, and chronicles the efforts of young Eben McCallister (played by Van Voorhees’ son, Parker) and his sister Sal, played by Cami Rose Hancock, to find seven wonders in seven days, the same amount of time it took God to make the world and take a day off. Based on Betty Birney’s popular children’s book, “The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs,” the cast includes elementary, middle and high school-aged children and adults, such as local actors Jeff and SaDonna Croff. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21; 4 p.m. Jan. 22. \$10. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

Jan. 22

Jazz of Honor

On Sunday, the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan hosts its Third Annual Tribute Concert, which honors Gene and Sue Rebeck. The concert is a fundraiser and silent auction, with proceeds directed to the Sandy Izenon Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Rebecks have been dedicated to enriching the jazz community and the mid-Michigan music scene for nearly 50 years: Gene has contributed to the jazz and classical worlds through teaching, performing and playing in orchestras, while Sue has taught and created art at various organizations. The program features performances by Arlene McDaniel, piano; Jeff Kressler, piano; Ed Fedewa, bass; Ian LeVine, drums; Gary Allen, guitar; Wendy Decker, sax; and many more special guests. 3-6 p.m. \$25; \$20 students and seniors. Perspective 2 Studio, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880. www.perspective2studio.com.



Sue and Gene Rebeck

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

GREEN DOOR CALLS THE DOCTOR



Courtesy Photo

Root Doctor

Back in September, Root Doctor released “Joy,” a new album of soulful blues tunes. For area blues lovers who haven’t heard any of the new tunes yet, the band plays Friday at the Green Door. “Joy” is all original material; lead vocalist Freddie Cunningham considers it a “labor of love.” One song includes Freddie’s brother, Tim, sister Vanessa Sanders, granddaughter Kaela Cunningham and local songstress Lisa Smith.

Many veteran local musicians make guest appearances on the CD, including Andy Wilson, Chad Bement, Dave Matchette, Jen Sygit and Glenn Brown. The group includes James Williams (bass) Mike Skory (keyboards), Bill Malone (guitar) and Bobby Gardner (drums). On stage the band plays a diverse mix of classic R&B, funk, traditional blues, jazz and originals. Root Doctor’s previous CD, “Change Our Ways,” was nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the WC

Handy Awards) for Soul/Blues Album of the Year in 2007. Visit www.rootdoctorband.com.

Friday, Jan. 20 @Green Door, Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, 21 and over.

TOLEDO PUNKS POP INTO LANSING

Pop-punk band Citizen headlines a night of high-energy indie rock Friday at Mac’s Bar. Citizen, based in Toledo, features Ryland Oehlers (guitar), Eric Hamm (bass) and Mike Armstrong (drums).

The event, hosted by Fusion Shows, also features Call It Quits, Quicksand Swimclub and Fisherking.

Pre-sale tickets are available locally at Flat Black and Circular, Music Manor, Mac’s Bar and online at www.fusionshows.com.

Friday, Jan. 20 @ Mac’s Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$8 advance, \$10 day of, 5:30 p.m.

‘OLD-TIME MUSIC DUETS’ AT THE FIDDLE

The Ten Pound Fiddle hosts a night of “Old-Time Music Duets” Friday at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Ann & Phil Case and Cathy Barton & Dave Para are performing.

These two Midwest-based duos play a variety of American folk music using acoustic guitars, an occasional banjo, mandolin and fiddle. The old-fashioned sounds are accompanied with blended voices singing songs centered on family, faith and relationships.

Friday, Jan. 20 @ Ten Pound Fiddle — Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street East Lansing. Public \$15, members \$12, students \$5. Doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

LOCAL HIP-HOP DUO AT MAC’S

The Green Skeem is an East Lansing-based hip-hop/electronic duo fronted by Danny Wiseman (a.k.a. Daggler) and Courtney Rodgers (a.k.a. QTheBars). They play Friday at Mac’s Bar.

The Green Skeem have been at it for over two years, drawing influences from a wide spectrum of genres, even classic rock. Green Skeem plans to release a new album, “Old Souls,” in early February.

Also performing at Mac’s are The Spektators, Ajax Stacks, and INoV8. For more information,

visit www.greenskeem.com.

Friday, Jan. 20 @ Mac’s Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$7, 9:30 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Green Skeem

PUNK-ROCK SNAFU AT B414

Basement 414 has been booking a variety of free punk shows recently, mainly due to Scumpunch! Productions, a new booking company (led by local musician Leanne Sabolish) that hosts shows at the venue/art gallery. On Saturday, B414 hosts four loud and fast punk bands from across Michigan: SNAFU (from Detroit), 40oz of Spite (from Grand Rapids), Taozins (from Howell) and Banned & Burned, a hardcore-punk band from Lansing that has a new EP coming soon.

Saturday, Jan. 21 @ Basement 414, 414 E. Michigan Ave. (Jay St. alley), Lansing, FREE, all ages, 7 p.m.

AMERICANA ROCK AT SIR PIZZA

The Aimcriers brings their signature folk-rock and distinct brand of Americana music to the Grand Café Sir Pizza in Old Town Saturday. This is the first time in three years the Grand Ledge band has played in Old Town. The musicians have been working on a debut album, due out sometime in 2012. The Aimcriers are Johnny Aimcrier (guitars, vocals), Andy Aimcrier (guitars, vocals) and Danny Aimcrier (drums, percussion, vocals).

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/theaimcriers.

Saturday, Jan. 21 @ Grand Café Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, 8 p.m. to midnight.



Courtesy Photo

The Aimcriers

UNCONVENTIONAL PERCUSSION MUSIC AT (SCENE)

“Tala Rasa: An Evening of Percussion Music” happens Saturday at (SCENE) Metrospace. The concert features music from the newly formed percussion group. Tala Rasa consists of Brendan Betyne, James Beaton, Gwendolyn Burgett-Thrasher and Steve Wulff. While the musicians do collaborate, the first half of the concert will have three solo pieces and a duet piece. Tala Rasa uses “found” or “discovered” instruments, such as clay flower pots, steel pipes and wooden slats, along with traditional percussion instruments.

Saturday, Jan. 21 @ (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. \$5, \$3 students, all ages, doors at 7 p.m., music at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com by Thursday of the week before publication.

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ Day, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 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 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Dragon Wagon, 9 p.m.	Covert, 5 p.m.	The Coop, 11 a.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Citizen, 5:30 p.m. & Green Skeem, 9:30 p.m.	
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic with Rob Klajda, 9:30		Frog & The Beeftones, 9:30 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9:30 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road			Hulkster, 10:30 p.m.	Hulkster, 10:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ with Ryan, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.			Southside, 9 p.m.	Southside, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; 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., Ull'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.
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 21

Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

CAMW Lansing Center Orientation. Learn about programs and services that may benefit your career development and search. 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

Energy and Michigan's Future. Interactive forum on how energy production will impact the State's economic, environmental and social future. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Campus, Brody Complex # 112, East Lansing. (517) 353-6472.

Forest View Citizens. Update from Lansing Police Department on recent crime in our area. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. Capital Area Health and Rehab, 2100 E. Provincial House Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

Colonial Village. Colonial Village Neighborhood Association meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 487-1713.

Three Cheers for Snow. Crafts and activities for 3-5 year olds honoring snow. 10 a.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Toddler Storytime. Ages 1-3 for series of stories, songs and crafts. 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Remember When. Join to talk about the old days. Barber and Beauty Shops. 10 a.m. FREE. Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St. Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

Afterschool Special. Fingerprint Forensics — learn fun facts about fingerprinting and take your own prints. Students grade 3. 3:30 p.m. FREE. Webberville Library, 115 South Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

Toddler Storytime. Ages 1-3 for series of stories, songs and crafts. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Drop-in Lego Club. Ages 6-12. Create something with library's Lego collection. 4 p.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Toddler Storytime. Ages 1-3 for series of stories, songs and crafts. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

Cat Adoption. From Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. PetSmart, 305 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (517) 622-4653.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

Auditions. The MSU Choral Union will hold auditions for its spring 2012 season. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Com-

munication Arts and Sciences Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-9122.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

DTDL book club. Discuss "The Book of Salt," by Monique Truong. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Baby Time. Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Book Club: Ages 9-12. Discuss "Number the Stars," by Lois Lowry. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Girl Scout Book Club. Open to all girls grades 6-8. "The Hollow and the Haunting," by Jessica Verday. 6:30 p.m. \$20 a year. Schuler Books and Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Thursday, January 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Patient Power. Learn to clearly describe what's going to your healthcare provider. Noon-1:15 p.m. \$15. Fellowship for Today Office, Suite 101, 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

Slow Flow Yoga. Focuses on breath and stretching. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

Yoga XL. Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

EcoTrek Fitness Workout. Meet at parking lot. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Scott Woods Park, 2600 Clifton Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

Eating Disorders Anonymous. For people recovering from eating disorders who talk about recovery. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515. www.cadl.org.

Retirement Strategies. How to create a retirement income strategy. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSUFUCU, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 664-7725.

Astronomical Horizon. Lecture by Professor Megan Donohue "Through a Lens Darkly: Testing Dark Matter with the Hubble Space Telescope." 7:30-9 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. gowans@msu.edu.

Vermi-Compost. Turn your every day kitchen waste into compost for your garden. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

EVENTS

EUCHRE. Come play euchre and meet new people.

6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. Every Thursday Night with Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar and Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Chipmunk Story Time. A puppet reads nature stories for preschool and elementary children. 10 a.m. \$3 child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Morning Storytime. All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

School Info. Meet our teachers and staff, tour the school. Find out about programs. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779.

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Get Organized. Learn benefits of organization in one's personal and professional life. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books and Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.napo.net.

Le Cirques des Possibilities. Keynote speaker Megan Raphael on courage and communication. 6-9 p.m. Visit website for price. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. www.theoldhamproject.org.

"A New We." A documentary on the efforts of eco-villages to create healthy and sustainable communities. 7 p.m. FREE. Dewitt High School, 13601 Panther Drive, Dewitt. (517) 668-3100. LafayJ@dewittschools.net.

Retirement Income Strategies. How to create a retirement income strategy. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSUFUCU, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 664-7725.

Bananagrams Night. Play the hot new timed word game. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books and Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Lego Club. Ages 5-10. Create something with library's Lego collection. 3 p.m. FREE. Webberville Library, 115 South Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

MUSIC

Jazz Thursdays. Various artists. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-3150.

THEATER

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." A comedy that tells an inventive tale of Hamlet from the view of two bewildered and minor characters, 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Evening Storytime. All ages welcome for penguin themed stories, songs and crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. www.dtdl.org.

Writers' Roundtable. Get feedback on writing and connect with other writers. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Michigan Writers Series. Jim Daniels, author of "Trigger Man: More Tales from the Motor City" and more. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. http://www.lib.msu.edu/features/?e=20.

Friday, January 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

Our Daily Work/Lives. "Visions and Visages: Transforming Images of American Indians in Indians at Work, 1933-1945," by Mindy Morgan. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3982.

My Cub and I. For kids under 3 years old, nature activities, games, walks, crafts, and more. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$35 for six weeks. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

EVENTS

Teen Advisory Group. Plan teen events and give suggestions. Ages 13-18. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.3. www.dtdl.org.

Teen Video Gaming. Ages 13-18. Bring your favorites and check out the latest in video games. Dinner and snacks provided. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dtdl.org.

Traditional Artists. A review panel will meet to evaluate nominations for the 2012 Michigan Traditional Arts Program. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5526.

Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting for family and friends with American Sign Language interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

MUSIC

Citizen. Post-hardcore with special guests Call It Quits and more. 5:30 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

Green Skeem. An electronic/dubstep/hip hop duo. 9:30 p.m. \$7. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbar.com.

THEATER

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors and students. (Please See Details Jan. 19)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Music and Movement Storytime. Dance, sing and learn to play with instruments. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Saturday, January 21

See Out on the Town, Page 24

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

Medium

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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 25

Out on the town

from page 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details Jan. 20)

Beginner Tai Chi. Can build strength and reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Contact Bob Teachout (517) 272-9379.

Garden Leaders Training. Train to start a new community garden, to join an existing garden, and more. 9 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-7809.

Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-6003.

Planning Your Gardening Year. Learn what to plant and how and when things need to be done. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

The Civil War in Person. Exhibits come to life.

Lansing Community College: Tax-payer Funded, Irresponsibly Managed

The current administration at LCC has raised tuition, raised fees, cut programs, cut staff positions, made it harder for students who receive financial aid, and refused to bargain with LCC workers unions.

Yet they have money to buy an aircraft hangar to settle a lawsuit, pay large dollar settlements to former employees to avoid other lawsuits, offer \$2.5 million for an unneeded building just to keep Davenport University from getting it, pay over \$20 million for unnecessary remodeling and redecorating of campus buildings and grounds, and pay over one half million dollars to a law firm to stonewall worker contracts.

Conclusion: The LCC administration has no respect for LCC students and workers, who it views as revenue sources and slaves, and no respect for Lansing area tax-payers who pay millions of dollars to support the college.

The LCC Board of Trustees is the elected body responsible for oversight of the LCC administration. To express your opposition to the skewed priorities of the administration and your support for students and workers, contact:

(517) 483-5252, or visit
http://lcc.edu/trustees/contact_us.aspx

Paid for by:
Lansing Workers Center
POB 15099
Lansing, MI 48901-5099
(517) 342-6435

Soldiers and civilians will be stationed throughout our galleries. Noon-4 p.m. \$6, \$4 seniors. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852.

Skiing or Snowshoeing. Snowshoeing class runs from 1-3 p.m. Space is limited, contact for spot. 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$15, \$20 rent equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Snowshoe Night Hike. With naturalist, explore the night and search for nocturnal creatures. 6-8 p.m. \$5, \$3 members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Ballroom Dance. Beginning Viennese Waltz, followed by general dancing. Snacks and refreshments provided. 7 p.m. \$13, \$9 members, \$8 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol, Lansing. Strictlyforfun.ballroom@gmail.com

EVENTS

Camera Show & Swap Meet. Many vendors & West-Michigan Camera Buyer Rob Lun. New & used, shop and sell. Noon-5 p.m. \$2. Perspective 2, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880.

Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. Support local charitable efforts of the Okemos Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Stars. 3-6 p.m. \$9, \$4.50 kids, 5 and under FREE. Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3806.

Art Reception. Exhibit featuring local artists. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar and Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

Robert Burns' 253rd Birthday. Master of Ceremonies Chris Holman, Seisi Band with prime rib dinner, and more. 5:30 p.m. \$40. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 349-2028.

Moonlight Skiing and Snowshoeing. Glide along the moonlit trails. 6-9 p.m. \$3, \$9 to rent equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Harlem Globetrotters. World's most famous basketball team with Paul 'Tiny' Sturgess, Jacob 'Hops' Tucker and more. 7 p.m. \$20. Breslin Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-5000.

MUSIC

Music. Music, discussion, food, games and fun. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE



**Drunk Driving
Embezzlement
Drugs
Homicide
All Federal
and State Crimes**

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SHAFFER, P.C.
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www.stushaffer.com

Narc out the Reds. With Little American Champ, Calliope and more. 9 p.m. \$5. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Mean Mary. Americana music, live. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$10 members. Slippin' Lizzard Coffee House, 816 S. Saginaw St., Bellevue. (810) 309-3951.

The Coop. Live electronics. 11 p.m. \$10. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103.

Tyler McNamara. A fusion of jazz, pop, rock and rap. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Coffee and Friends Cafe, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-0962.

Billy Jonas. 4 p.m. \$5-\$10 donation. The Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 974-3751.

Percussion. Contemporary percussion featuring Tala Rasa. 7:30 p.m. \$5, \$3 student. Scene Metro-space, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

The Aimcriers. With Michigan ties and Americana music, 8 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 974-9663.

Lansing Area Ukulele Group Meeting. Sing and play songs. All levels welcome 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 974-9663.

THEATER

"Fairy Dust Theatre." Wanda the wacky witch, featuring Wendall, the little green dragon and Teddy Kuddles, the friendly bear. 2 p.m. \$5 per person. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 488-8450.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors and students. (Please See Details Jan. 19)

Sunday, January 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 2 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-8789.

Gardeners Roundtable. Gardeners are invited to swap ideas, tips, seeds and plants. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

The Super Sky Show. Children will learn about the night sky and the planets. 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

Relics of the Big Bang. 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details Jan. 20)

Atheists and Humanists Dinner. Barbara Oakley, will speak on books: "Cold Blooded Kindness — Insights into Pathological Altruism," and more. 5 p.m. FREE. \$9.65 buffet. Great Wall Buffet Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 914-2278.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins salsa. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$5 21, \$7 under 21. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed meeting for those who desire to stop drinking, with American Sign Language. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Mobile Adoption. Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter will have animals available for adoption. Noon-4 p.m. Prices vary. Soldan's Feeds and Pet Supplies, 1802 West Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 676-8372.

MUSIC

MSU Community Music School Open House. A variety of CMS activities, including performances and demonstrations. 3-5 p.m. FREE with donations. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

Third Annual JAMM Tribute Concert. With Gene and Sue Rebeck, Arlene McDaniel, Jeff Kressler, a silent auction and more. 3-6 p.m. \$25, \$20

students and seniors. Perspective 2, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880.

THEATER

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." 2 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors and students. (Please See Details Jan. 19)

Monday, January 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gadget Help. On the basics about your devices. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext 4.

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. For those who have gone through loss and are ready to move on. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272. www.stdavidslansing.org.

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

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

Investment Planning 101. With Jose Yanez of Full Circle Financial Planning. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSUFUCU, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 664-7725.

My Cub and I. For children under 3 years old, enjoy nature activities and more. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$35 for six weeks. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Timber Tots. For 3 and 4 year olds. Enjoy nature activities and more. 9-10 a.m. \$35 for six weeks. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

EVENTS

Euchre. Come play euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Social Bridge. Come play bridge and meet new people. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. Play solo, duo, with your band. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

THEATER

Monday Morning Movie. Get your film fix at the library. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Auditions. For 'Steel Magnolias', by Robert Harling. A comedy-drama, set in a small town beauty salon, six female characters. 7 p.m. FREE. Rodney B. Wilson Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (517) 651-2949.

Tuesday, January 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous. A self-help support group for those effected by the disorder. 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775. 10 a.m. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 614-7820.

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

Schizophrenics Anonymous Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

Yoga 40. For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island

Out on the town

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Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Cale Coduti: The Beginnings. On his beginnings as an artist and his own creative process. 7 p.m., FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068.

Caregivers Program. Get skills to manage stress and increase effective caregiving. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Community Center, 201 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

Intro. to Computers. Career Quest instruct attendees in the basics. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. Meet in parking lot. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Hawk Meadows Park, Off Delta River Drive, Delta. (517) 243-6538.

On the Way To Wellness. Barb Geske, the Mind-full Motivator, provides nutrition and wellness coaching. 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

Credit Report and Score. Learn why your credit score is important and what factors may impact your score. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSUFCU, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 664-7725.

The Writing Room. All genders and genres welcome. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 897-5833.

Coupon Swap. Exchange coupons, discuss deals and strategies. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

EVENTS

Game On. Play a variety of games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

Morning Storytime. All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Grand River Connection. A young professionals networking group. 6-8 p.m. Price varies. Bagger Dave's, 1351 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. grandriverconnection.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet

with guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department and more. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

THEATER

Auditions. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 23)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Miriam Winter. Winter is a Holocaust Survivor presenting her "Trains: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood during and after World War II." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books and Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Wednesday, January 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

Community Yoga. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

EVENTS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

CAMW Lansing Center Orientation. 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

Jazz Wednesdays. 7-10 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

Happy Birthday Mozart. Featured artists Suren Bagratuni, cello; Dmitri Berlinsky, violin; Yuri Gandelman, viola and more. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Romantic Fools." A dozen sketches about love, lust, dating and romance. 7 p.m. Pay what you will. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Club: Ages 12-14. Discuss "The Alchemist," by Michael Scott. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3. www.dtdl.org.

Baby Time. 10:30 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details Jan. 18)

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association

Weekly Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

January 18-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Macy's ad I saw in the newspaper had a blaring headline: "Find Your Magic 2.0." The items that were being touted to help us discover our upgraded and more deluxe sense of magic were luxurious diamond rings. The cheapest was \$2,150. I'm going to try to steer you in another direction in your quest to get in touch with Magic 2.0, Aries. I do believe you are in an excellent position to do just that, but only if you take a decidedly non-materialistic approach. What does your intuition tell you about how to hook up with a higher, wilder version of the primal mojo?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The U.S. Constitution has survived 222 years, longer than the constitution of any other nation on the planet. But one of America's founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, might have had a problem with that. He believed our constitution should be revised every 19 years. Personally, I share Jefferson's view. And I would apply that same principle of regular reinvention to all of us as individuals — although I think it should be far more frequently than every 19 years. How long has it been since you've amended or overhauled your own rules to live by, Taurus? Judging by the astrological omens, I suspect it's high time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It is respectable to have no illusions — and safe — and profitable and dull," said author Joseph Conrad. Taking our cue from his liberating derision, I propose that we protest the dullness of having no illusions. Let's decry the blah gray sterility that comes from entertaining no fantastic fantasies and unreasonable dreams. How boring it is to have such machine-like mental hygiene! For this one week, Gemini, I urge you to celebrate your crazy ideas. Treasure and adore your wacky beliefs. Study all those irrational and insane urges running around your mind to see what you can learn about your deep, dark unconsciousness. (P.S.: But I'm not saying you should act on any of those phantasms, at least not now. Simply be amused by them.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you were a medieval knight going into battle with a full suit of armor, the advantage you had from the metal's protection was offset by the extra energy it took to haul around so much extra weight. In fact, historians say this is one reason that a modest force of English soldiers defeated a much larger French army at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The Frenchmen's armor was much bulkier, and by the time they slogged through muddy fields to reach their enemy, they were too tired to fight at peak intensity. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned: To win a great victory in the coming weeks, shed as many of your defense mechanisms and as much of your emotional baggage as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): One way or another, you will be more famous in the coming months than you've ever been before. That might mean you'll become better known or more popular . . . or it could take a different turn. To tease out the nuances, let's draw on Naomi Shihab Nye's poem "Famous." "The river is famous to the fish. // The loud voice is famous to silence, / which knew it would inherit the earth / before anybody said so. // The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds / watching him from the birdhouse. // The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek. // The idea you carry close to your bosom / is famous to your bosom." (Read the whole poem here: bit.ly/FamousToWhom.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Three famous actresses formed the British Anti-Cosmetic Surgery League last year. Rachel Wiesz, Kate Winslet, and Emma Thompson say they believe people should be happy with the physical appearance that nature gave them. Is it rude of me to note that unlike most of the rest of us, those three women were born gorgeous? It's easy for them to promise not to mess with their looks. Do you ever do that, Virgo? Urge other people to do what's natural for you but a challenge for them? I recommend against

that this week. For example: If you want to influence someone to change, be willing to change something about yourself that's hard to change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I predict major breakthroughs in your relationship to intimacy and togetherness in 2012, Libra — if, that is, you keep in mind the following counsel from psychologist Dr. Neil Clark Warren: "Attraction and chemistry are easily mistaken for love, but they are far from the same thing. Being attracted to someone is immediate and largely subconscious. Staying deeply in love with someone happens gradually and requires conscious decisions, made over and over again." (Read more by Warren here: tinyurl.com/WiseChoices.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Purslane is a plant that's also known colloquially as pigweed. It's hearty, prolific, and spreads fast. In a short time, it can grow out-of-control, covering a large area with a thick carpet. On the other hand, it's a tasty salad green and has a long history of being used as a cooked vegetable. As a medicinal herb, it's also quite useful, being rich in omega-3 fatty acids as well as a number of vitamins and minerals. Moral of the story: Keep pigweed contained — don't let it grow out of control — and it will be your friend. Does anything in your life fit that description?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): As he approaches his 70th birthday, retiree and Michigan resident Michael Nicholson is still hard at work adding to his education. He's got 27 college degrees so far, including 12 master's degrees and a doctorate. Although he's not an "A" student, he loves learning for its own sake. I nominate him to be your role model for the coming weeks, Sagittarius. Your opportunities for absorbing new lessons will be at a peak. I hope you take full advantage of all the teachings that will be available.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Bible addresses the subjects of money and possessions in about 2,000 verses, but devotes only 500 verses to prayer and 500 to faith. As you know, my advice in these horoscopes usually tends to have the opposite emphasis: I concentrate more on spiritual matters than materialistic concerns. But this time, in acknowledgment of the specific cosmic influences coming to bear on you, I'm going to be more like the Bible. Please proceed on the assumption that you have a mandate to think extra deeply and super creatively about money and possessions in the coming weeks. Feel free, too, to pray for financial guidance and meditate on increasing your cash flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Here's one of my favorite quotes from American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson: "I hate quotations. Tell me what *you* think." The current astrological omens suggest that this is an excellent message for you to heed. It's crucial for you to know your own mind and speak your own thoughts. It's smart to trust your own instincts and draw on your own hard-won epiphanies. For best results, don't just be skeptical of the conventional wisdom; be cautious about giving too much credence to every source of sagacity and expertise. Try to define your own positions rather than relying on theories you've read about and opinions you've heard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Why did Mark Gibbons strap a washing machine to his back and then climb to the top of Mount Snowdon in Wales? He did it to raise charity money for the Kenyan Orphan Project. If, in the coming weeks, you try anything as crazy as he did, Pisces, make sure it's for an equally worthy cause. Don't you dare take on a big challenge simply to make people feel sorry for you or to demonstrate what a first-class martyr you can be. On the other hand, I'm happy to say that you could stir up a lot of good mojo by wandering into previously off-limits zones as you push past the limitations people expect you to honor.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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Coffee & Tea Tasting Party
Independence Village
 Thursday, January 19th ~ 2:30 pm
 Enjoy a variety of teas and coffees along with lite desserts!
 Bring a friend along to enjoy the tantalizing aromas, great tastes and wonderful conversation.
Please RSVP.
 2530 Marfitt Road
 East Lansing, MI 48823
517.337.0066
 www.eastlansingseniorliving.com
Independence Village
 of East Lansing
 A Capital Senior Living Community

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James Sariford/City Pulse

American Crepes owner Theresa Rice puts the finishing touches on a bacon, lettuce and tomato crepe. The restaurant opened in December in East Lansing's Trowbridge Plaza.

Bacon-wrapped hot dogs and crepe-wrapped treats

Whether you're in the mood for something sweet or something saucy, these new eateries aim to please

By JOE TOROK

If you're thinking of backing out on that New Year's healthy eating resolution and you want to do it right, stop by Hank's 517 (inside the Cedar Party Store) and grab one of their area-code-inspired 517 Dogs (\$2.87).

It's a jumbo-sized ballpark hot dog wrapped in bacon and deep fried, served on a steak bun with lettuce, tomato, onion, mustard and a homemade house dressing. Take that, heart!

Owner Henry Hursey Jr. opened Hank's 517 last month in the spot formerly occupied by the most recent reincarnation of Ramon's.

"Everything here is homemade," Hursey says.

Hank's 517

4114 S. Cedar St.,
 Lansing (located inside
 the Cedar Street Party
 Store)
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily
 (517) 894-3248
 TO, \$

and bacon between two buns to make three regular-sized sandwiches when deconstructed.

Hank's offers everything from ox tails to neck bones, chicken wings, gyros, corned beef, tacos and, on the weekends, hand-tossed specialty pizzas.

Hursey has plans to begin grilling in front of the party store year-round, offering ribs, pulled pork, brisket, smoked sausage and more.

The 517 Burger (\$6.36) is a staple of Hank's: a half-pound of hand-pattied ground beef with Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and a slice of ham.

"It's the biggest, best burger in town for that price," Hursey says.

American Crepes launches

For those whose palates desire a little less, there's American Crepes in the northwest corner of the Trowbridge Plaza.

Owner Theresa Rice sampled the French favorite during a trip to Las Vegas. She's made it the basis for a venture she hopes is on the nascent edge of the next big trend in area dining.

"I talked to college friends and they all told me crepes are big in California and New York," Rice says. "I've been told they're popular on food trucks in Texas, too."

Think of crepes as pancakes without so much cake — they're much thinner, crisper around the edges, and with a much larger circumference than what you'd find on the menu in a typical breakfast diner. A finished crepe is wrapped around sweet or savory fillings and, like pita wraps or gyros, are potentially portable meals.

Although Rice has only been in business for a month, American Crepes already has regulars. Rice tells of a family who stops by often for a half-dozen crepes.

Michael Makidon settled in for a custom-made club crepe on a recent evening. He recommends the sweeter, dessert options like the popular fruit and cream cheese filling crepe (\$4.75) for a snack, or the thicker savory crepes for more of a meal.

The sweet side of the menu features options such as peanut butter and jelly, S'mores, Nutella and banana and more. On the savory side are familiar combinations

American Crepes

986 Trowbridge Road,
 East Lansing
 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday
 through Saturday; 11
 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
 (517) 203-5927
 www.americancrepes.com
 (517) 393-9725
 TO, \$

Dining

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like the ham, egg and cheese crepe, or the crepes filled with turkey pesto, cheeseburger or taco ingredients.

"I've had a lot of fun so far," Rice says of her new venture. "We're really excited to do something different in a college town."

Aggie Mae's expands

The bakery of Aggie Mae's is expanding beyond the City Market. Owner Neva Austin has set Jan. 30 as the target date for opening a second location, this one in Old Town between Pablo's Panaderia and

Perspective2.

"We need more room," Austin says, adding that Old Town has been on her expansion radar for some time.

"The community is awesome," she says. "And not just the people who come to shop, but also the commercial association and the community of business owners."

At the new location, a deli serving Boars Head meats and cheeses is planned, in addition to a handful of retail products that should attract foodies: olive oil, balsamic, sea salt and more. Aggie Mae's artisan breads and pastries will be making the move, too.

"To me, it's soul food," Austin says, standing near a case of Aggie Mae's pastries in the City Market. "Pure comfort food." Call (517) 484-1350 for more information.

foodfinder

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

CASUAL DINING

THE BOARDROOM

— A downtown watering hole for CEOs and average Joes. A full bar and to-go beer and wine attracts thirsty revelers, and a menu that includes hand-pattied, char broiled burgers, served on Great Harvest bread, brings the hungry. 107 E. Allegan, Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-12 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Friday, 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday. (517) 316-2312. TO, WiFi, P, FB, \$.

BRUNCH HOUSE

— Walking out of a diner, you don't often find yourself thinking, "That was one fantastic Lebanese salad." You might think that, however, after eating at The Brunch House, since owner Leo Farhat has peppered his traditional breakfast house menu with dishes rooted in his Lebanese heritage. Try "Leo's house special," which begins with seasoned beef, onions and pine nuts sauteed in a frying pan, then combined with a couple of eggs. 1040 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,

Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (517) 484-1567 TO, WiFi, \$

CLARA'S LANSING STATION

— Fun dining is the motto at this onetime railroad station with impressive decor and less-impressive food. Popular dishes include the chicken Hawaiian and dozens of sandwiches. A massive menu offers breadth but not much depth. Full review online at tinyurl.com/66g876o. 637 E. Michigan Ave.,

Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 372-7120. www.claras.com, OM, TO, FB, WiFi, P, RES \$-\$-\$\$\$

COLONIAL BAR & GRILL

— This 45-year-old Lansing institution features a deluxe burgers, grilled pizzas and daily specials. 3425 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing. 9 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Saturday, noon-2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 882-6132. TO, FB, \$-\$\$

Average price per person, not including drinks:
\$ Less than \$8 | **\$\$** \$8 to \$14 | **\$\$\$** \$14 to \$20 | **\$\$\$\$** Over \$20

FB Full Bar **WB** Wine & Beer **TO** Take Out **OM** Online Menu
RES Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

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Travelers Club

International Restaurant and Tuba Museum

Tuba Charlie's World of Beer



349-1701

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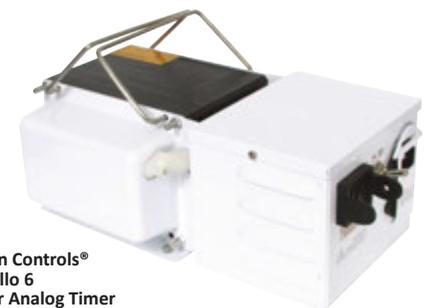
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