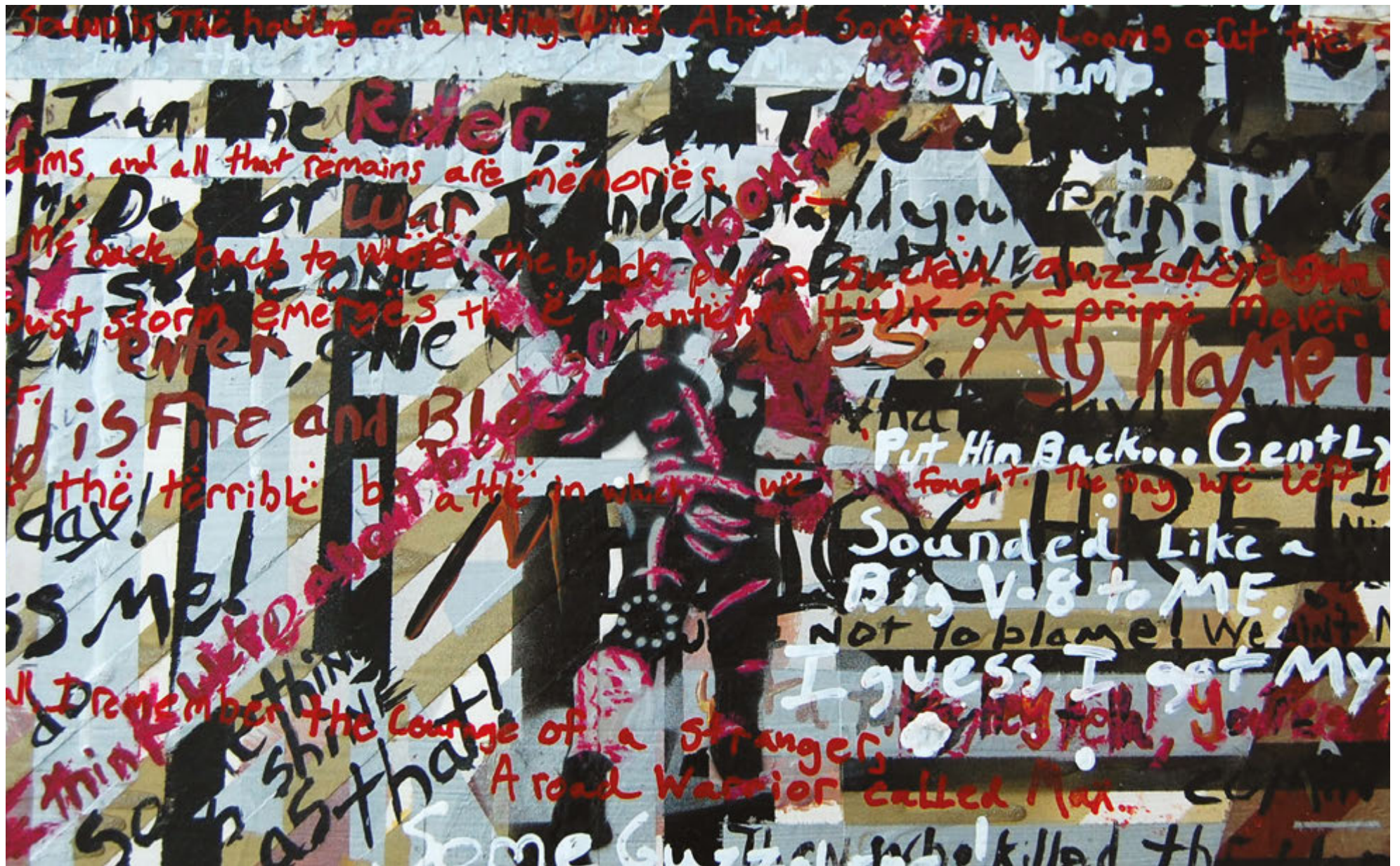


# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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May 3-9, 2017



"Max" by Tell Parris. See page 17 for story.

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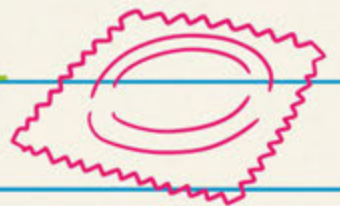
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# Time is now

## Lansing area needs needle exchange to limit HIV and other infections

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Ingham County is one dirty needle away from an HIV or Hepatitis B outbreak.

Don't believe me? Ask the folks in Austin, Ind. One drug user there became infected with HIV. Within a year, 190 cases of HIV linked to needle sharing had been identified in the rural community. In an average year, Austin would have seen five cases of HIV.

Indiana law forbade needle exchanges, and former Gov. Mike Pence hemmed and hawed about establishing one for months as the outbreak ramped up. Finally, after 100 cases had been found, he declared a health emergency and authorized a temporary needle exchange. But the damage was done.



Heywood

Ingham County has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the state outside of Detroit. And our Hepatitis B rates are nearly three times the state rate. Both, as well as Hepatitis C, are easily transmitted by sharing needles. With our increasing opioid crisis, particularly heroin-related overdoses, it is only a matter of time before those infectious diseases break out in the needle using community.

But we have a way to prevent that from happening. The Ingham County Community Health Center board of directors, on which I serve as vice chairman, recognized the opioid crisis as an urgent issue. We also recognized the potential impact of infectious disease on the needle-using community.

We authorized an ad hoc committee on needle exchange programs to determine if the county needed one, and, if so, what the obstacles to implementing one might be.

The committee met over the course of 10 months. In August last year, it approved a report that found that needle exchanges work to prevent infectious disease among needle users and that Lansing and the county needed to establish one.

The committee's final report also determined that there is no evidence that syringe-access programs increase needle use. Just the opposite: Substantial evidence exists that such programs are a first step toward accessing recovery for addiction.

The committee's recommendations have been adopted by both the Ingham

Community Health Centers and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail earlier this year convened a working group to implement a syringe access program in the county. I have been appointed to chair that working group, which includes representatives from the Health Department, Lansing Area AIDS Network, Lansing City Council and the healthcare industry in mid-Michigan.

During the committee process, we learned that an obstacle to implementing a syringe access program was a quirk in Lansing's drug paraphernalia ordinance compared to the state law.

Lansing's drug paraphernalia ordinance does not include authorization for distribution of sterile syringes to prevent infectious disease, but the state law does.

On Monday, Councilwoman Jody Washington will introduce an ordinance amendment to bring the city law in line with state law. It's an important step in clearing the path for a syringe access program in the city.

Washington and other Council members have asked that I present the findings of the ad hoc committee to the City Council in the coming weeks. As vice chairman of the health center board, chairman of the working group and a person well versed in the ongoing HIV crisis, I fully support the implementation of a syringe access program in the county — and so does City Pulse.

This is a common-sense, proven harm-reduction intervention that reduces the disease burden not only on the needle using community, but in our community as a whole.

Detroit, Flint, Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids all have syringe access programs. Lansing should be the next — and frankly, ought to have been the first.

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- Online at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

**2.) Write a guest column:**

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.)

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Rest in peace: Bob Alexander

**PAGE 8**

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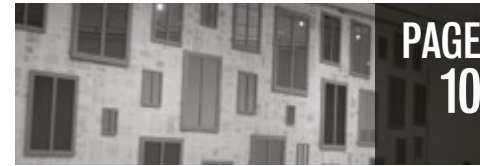
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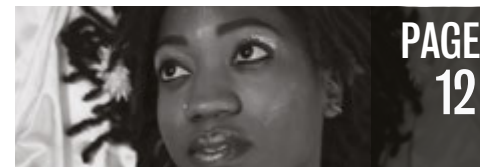
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Less is more in magic-inspired Broad exhibit

**PAGE 10**



Two feminist art shows pop up in REO Town

**PAGE 12**



"Max" by TELL PARRIS

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**UNDER THE DOME**

**A TALE FROM AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE, NOT DISSIMILAR TO OUR OWN**

IT IS HIS MOST POPULAR CAMPAIGN PROMISE.

--AND WE WILL USE OUR GREAT AMERICAN STEEL TO BUILD AN IMPENETRABLE DOME OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY--

--AND WE'LL MAKE THE LIBERALS PAY FOR IT!

WOO HOO!

U.S.A! U.S.A!

AFTER THE ELECTION, HIS BASE WAITS EAGERLY.

DID HE START BUILDING THE DOME YET? DID HE?

ANY DAY NOW! AND LET'S SEE GEORGE SOROS' LIBERAL JUDGES TRY AND STOP HIM!

MANY IN THE MEDIA ARE SKEPTICAL.

AN IMPENETRABLE STEEL DOME COVERING 3.7 MILLION SQUARE MILES WILL BANKRUPT THE COUNTRY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

AND IT WILL BLOCK OUT THE SUN, DISRUPT THE FOOD CHAIN AND CONDEMN US TO ETERNAL DARKNESS!

TRUMP IS UNDETERRED.

FAKE NEWS! Dome will NOT leave us "bankrupt" (broke)! LIBERALS WILL PAY! And we... 5:28 AM

...don't need sunlight if we install "STADIUM LIGHTS" (glowing electric bright things) on ROOF of dome! 8:31 AM

HIS SURROGATES TRY TO LOWER EXPECTATIONS.

THE GIANT DOME SHOULD REALLY BE CONSIDERED A METAPHOR--FOR THE INCREASED SAFETY WE ALREADY EXPERIENCE UNDER DONALD TRUMP!

BY "AMERICAN STEEL," HE OBVIOUSLY MEANT THE STEELY RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY!

BUT HE DOESN'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM.

WRONG! WE WILL BUILD THE DOME--MAYBE OUT OF SOLID GOLD! AND WITH A GIANT RETRACTABLE ROOF SO THE COUNTRY CAN GET SOME FRESH AIR SOMETIMES!

I WON THE ELECTION! YOU HAVE TO LIKE MY IDEAS NOW! IT'S THE LAW!

OR IT SHOULD BE.

AND THEN, INEVITABLY... SOMEBODY PUT OUT THE CONCEPT OF A DOME, I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM, THE PRESS KEEPS TALKING ABOUT IT! BUT WE'VE DONE A LOT! MY FIRST HUNDRED DAYS HAD MORE DAYS THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENT!

GO TELL 'EM THAT IN THE PRESS ROOM, SPICEY!

YES SIR.

## Mayday for immigrants

Sanctuary city debate charges up 'Day Without Immigrants' rally at Capitol

Lansing's see-sawing sanctuary city status was a hot topic at a rally Monday afternoon on the state Capitol lawn protesting Trump administration policies that stir fear among immigrants and refugees.

The Lansing rally was one of seven across the state, and about 200 across the country, urging Americans to imagine a day without the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Monday's speakers wove an urgent new thread — freedom from fear — into familiar Mayday exhortations for fair labor practices and conditions, especially for migrant workers.

Vincent Delgado, co-founder of Lansing's Refugee Development Center and briefly a member of the Lansing City Council, sarcastically called the Council's decision to reverse a sanctuary city resolution a "clarifying story." After voting 6-0 April 3 to name Lansing a sanctuary city, the Council rescinded the resolution April 12.

"We know the majority of the Council is afraid," Delgado declared. "Now we know that the price of fear is \$5.6 million," he added, referring to Trump's executive order to pull funds from cities that do not cooperate with federal immigration agents.

"We now know the value of a human being," Delgado said. "I thought we decided a long time ago that people weren't supposed to be bought and sold."

Responding to Delgado's criticism, Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar told the crowd the Council's reversal did not make a difference in city policy.

"No matter what they call us, the policies are in place," she said. "I'm really proud of our mayor. He took the initiative to do this when council wouldn't."

Mayor Virg Bernero issued an executive order April 3 consistent with policies of other sanctuary cities that limit local cooperation with federal immigration agents unless criminal action is involved.



Courtesy Photo

Protesters gathered at the Capitol on Monday to attend A Day without Immigrants and Their Friends, one of seven across the state and more than 200 nationally.

"It doesn't matter that my colleagues lost their backbone," Dunbar said. "It doesn't matter if somebody removed their spine before coming to Council that night. We are a sanctuary city."

But after speaking Monday, Delgado said that avoiding the word "sanctuary" unnecessarily shows fear. With fear spreading among the immigrant community, he said, the word carries a heavy symbolic weight.

"Using the word doesn't put us in any more harm," he said, acknowledging that Trump's executive order targets sanctuary "policies," however they are labeled.

"But I'm beyond the practical matter," Delgado said. "If we're afraid to declare ourselves a sanctuary, a beacon of hope in a very dark place right now, what does that say about us?"

Rodd Monts, field director for the Michigan ACLU, offered a more circumspect perspective on sanctuary cities in his remarks before the crowd.

"We don't use the word 'sanctuary' because of the politically charged rhetoric that tends to come with it," Monts said. "We are not suggesting anybody disobey the law. What we are suggesting is that you affirm publicly the protection from harassment and unlawful detention of anybody in your community."

Dunbar told the crowd that even though the legal wrangle over sanctuary cities is not over, she thinks Lansing's policy will be vindicated in the courts. She cited a partial, temporary block on Trump's executive order punishing sanctuary cities issued by a California judge on April 25.

"We crafted a policy that was sound, that was legally defensible, that is enforceable," Dunbar said. "When that judicial ruling came down from out West, it was everything we knew it would be. That damn [Trump] order is so overbroad, so ridiculous, so unenforceable there was no way it could stand."

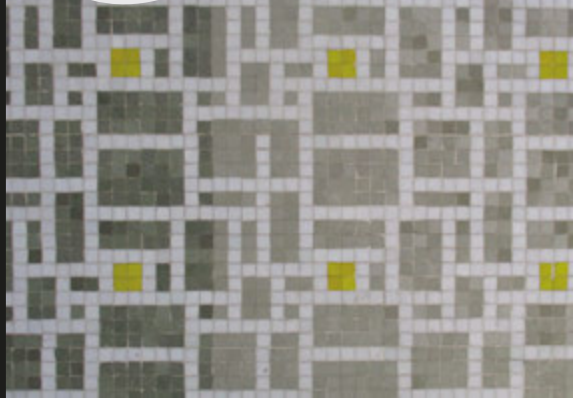
The ACLU's Monts told the crowd he's worked more in immigration issues in the past four months than he has in the previous six years.

He cited a case of a Latina middle school student subjected to lunchroom taunts of "build the wall" shortly after the November 2016 election.

A few minutes later, Monts' story repeated itself in front of the Capitol steps.

While Angela Waters Austin of Black Lives Matter Lansing spoke at the podium, a man walking into the Capitol through a doorway below her yelled out, "Build the wall!"

See Rally, Page 9



### East Lansing

Sherry Martin of East Lansing was the first person to correctly identify the detail shown in last month's "Eye for Design." Martin believes that she has identified the exact peace sign shown in the March 8 edition among the hundreds found on the fence (below), which has brightened Burcham Drive since late November 2016. Her prize coffee mug awaits collection at the City Pulse office.

The mosaic tile detail above can be found in on MSU's Campus in East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify its location will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to [debollman@comcast.net](mailto:debollman@comcast.net) by Wednesday, May 10.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



"Eye for Design" rotates each week with Eye Candy and Eye Sore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

# HERDING CATS

City Pulse's totally biased, subjective introduction to the candidates for Lansing city offices

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

If the Trump Era means anything, it's a renewed interest in politics. I mean, if anyone can be president, then how hard can it be to be on the City Council or even run the city.

So, when you hit the polls on Aug. 8 for the City of Lansing primary election, or start voting absentee five weeks earlier (unless, of course, you're in the majority, which doesn't bother to vote in city elections, and shame on you), you'll face

a staggering — some might say embarrassing — set of choices. In some parts of the city, you're going to have waded hip deep into three city government elections: mayor, city clerk and City Council.

Thirty-one people are vying for your votes. That's a historic high since the Council reduced its membership from 16 to eight in the 1950s, says City Clerk Chris Swope. A sign of the politically charged times: Even he has drawn an opponent, which hasn't happened since he first ran 12 years ago.

That list of 31 includes some of Lansing's known quantities in electoral politics, but it also includes a bevy of neophytes. We've reached out to each candidate to create these biased, totally

subjective profiles. And most responded, but some apparently think the way to get elected is to ignore the media. That tells you something right there: Trump bashes us, but he never ignores us.

This is our first blush. We might be spot-on with our observations, and we might be dead wrong — time will be the judge on that. If nothing else, we will find out which candidates have a sense of humor.

The winners take office Jan. 1.  
God help us.



## MAYOR'S RACE

The top two will move on to the general in November.



### ANDY SCHOR

**Age:** 41  
**Occupation:** State representative  
**Pro:** really nice guy, perfect contrast to the last 12 years with tons of support.

**Con:** No clue what he'll do as mayor because he's only offering platitudes right now.



### HAROLD LEEMAN, JR.

**Age:** 60  
**Occupation:** Unemployed  
**Pro:** Chutzpah. He's facing a felony for stealing from the

city he wants to lead  
**Con:** You can't run a city from a prison cell.



### JUDI BROWN CLARKE

**Age:** 55  
**Occupation:** Diversity director for the National Science Foundation's Bio-Computational

Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Center at MSU

**Pro:** The only Olympic Silver medalist to run for mayor in Lansing history.

**Con:** For someone fast on her feet, she sure is slow getting her campaign moving.



### MICHAEL JOSEPH GILLENKIRK

**Age:** 73  
**Occupation:** retired  
**Pro:** He loves Trump.

**Con:** He dislikes those pesky unaccountable judges who recognize basic rights like a woman's right to choose and same-sex marriage.



### MARC PATRICK TOWNSEND

**Age:** 48  
**Occupation:** Maintenance supervisor, The Porter Building in downtown Lansing

**Pro:** Pull yourself up by the bootstraps kinda guy.  
**Con:** Totally for equality, except the right to pee for transgender people.

### DANNY TREVINO

**Age:** 20  
**Occupation:** unknown  
**Pro:** Your guess is as good as ours — it's definitely not returning phone calls and emails.  
**Con:** He's a political front for his dispensary-owning daddy in his war with the city over pot.

## CITY CLERK

These candidates get to take a deep breath and avoid the pandemonium of the primary election in August. Since there are just two of them, they won't appear on the ballot until the November general election.



### CHRIS SWOPE

**Age:** 49  
**Occupation:** City Clerk  
**Pro:** He's spent the last 12 years perfecting the job.  
**Con:** That one

time he screwed up and forgot to publish a public notice preventing a developer from getting a vote on a possible tax subsidy.

### JERIMIC CLAYBORN III

**Age:** 26  
**Occupation:** declined to answer  
**Pro:** He offered a blessing on City Pulse while refusing to answer questions or provide a photo.  
**Con:** He could be an International man of mystery, or a barrista at Biggby's

## AT-LARGE

Top four vote-getters will move on to the November election, where two will be elected.



### PETER SPADAFORE

**Age:** 32  
**Occupation:** Associate executive director, Michigan Association of School Administrators  
**Pro:** He's charming and smart  
**Con:** Perfected the politician's non-answer, answer with smooth polish.



### JUSTIN DEBOER

**Age:** 28  
**Occupation:** McDonald's cook  
**Pro:** Lifelong resident of Lansing.  
**Con:** Everyone has dreams, right?



### CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

**Age:** 28  
**Occupation:** Attorney, Elder Law of Michigan  
**Pro:** Bright-eyed optimism mixed with youthful idealism  
**Con:** No apparent base in the city will require lots of money or a massive ground game.

## AT-LARGE CONTINUED



**GUILLERMO Z. LOPEZ**

**Age:** 67  
**Occupation:** Retired from City of Lansing Human Relations Department  
**Pro:** Visible and

vocal leader in the Latino community with electoral experience  
**Con:** Silence is not golden for a candidate.



**MICHAEL RUDDOCK**

**Age:** 23  
**Occupation:** Organizer

**Pro:** He was able to get a bunch of Lansing folk to sign

his nominating petitions  
**Con:** He is graduating from MSU this summer, will he even stay in Lansing for a part-time Council job?



**THOMAS J. HARRIS JR.**

**Age:** 37  
**Occupation:** Army Reserve, student at Washtenaw Community College  
**Pro:** Has served

our country for 20 years, including two tours in Iraq  
**Con:** Touts himself as a Lansing cheerleader, but is going to Washtenaw Community College. Come on.



**YANICE Y. JACKSON**

**Age:** 38  
**Occupation:** Managing editor, The Chronicle newspaper

**Pro:** Diversity is a key here: geography, social and employment history  
**Con:** The media. Fear the media.

**EVELYN PECH-VASQUEZ**

**Age:** 36  
**Occupation:** Apparently not responding to City Pulse inquiries  
**Pro:** She has a website  
**Con:** Come on, Wix as a web platform? Wordpress registration on domains is cheap.



**ALEXANDER RUSEK**

**Age:** 29  
**Occupation:** Attorney, White Law PLLC

**Pro:** He knows what skeleton is at the bottom of the McIntyre affair  
**Con:** Oh, look, another attorney.



**ROSALINDA HERNANDEZ**

**Age:** 50  
**Occupation:** Pastor  
**Pro:** She returned calls, emails and even answered questions

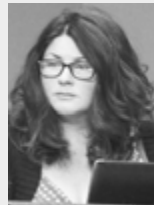
**Con:** Park Board member who voted to surrender Scott Park to BWL's monstrosity "Central Substation"



**KYLE BOWMAN**

**Age:** 46  
**Occupation:** Michigan State police trooper  
**Pro:** lives down by the river, in a condo, in Old Town

**Con:** He's a cop in an anti-cop era



**KATHIE DUNBAR**

**Age:** 48  
**Occupation:** Executive Director South Lansing Community Development Association

**Pro:** She's ready for a fight for any good progressive cause  
**Con:** when she's not absent or tardy for official meetings, of course.

## 4TH WARD COUNCIL

Top two voter-getters in the August primary will move on to compete in the November general election.



**JAMES M. MCCLURKEN**

**Age:** 63  
**Occupation:** business owner  
**Pro:** He's mad as hell and he's

not going to take it anymore.  
**Con:** Sounding more and more like a one-trick pony



**KATHI ANN RAFFONE**

**Age:** 73  
**Occupation:** retired  
**Pro:** South Pacific's "cockeyed optimist" is a cloudy month in Seattle

compared to her cheery worldview  
**Con:** Struggled with paying her taxes, but says she was very sick and is all caught up now.



**BRIAN T. JACKSON**

**Age:** 33  
**Occupation:** private practice attorney  
**Pro:** The heart

of a community organizer  
**Con:** He's got a lot of studying to do on city issues, by his own admission



**JASON DURHAM**

**Age:** 37  
**Occupation:** claims on Facebook to have been an actor for six years

**Pro:** Die hard marijuana legalization advocate  
**Con:** "If you're not feeding me, fucking me or financing me, and you hate me? Oh well. Use your energy on somebody else. Fuck it!" April 8th Facebook Live video.



**LARRY HUTCHINSON**

**Age:** 44  
**Occupation:** Who knows?  
**Pro:** He filed for the race using

petitions. That's something.  
**Con:** Says we have nothing to lose by visiting with hate group leader Louis Farrakhan.



**AMANDA BERNES**

**Age:** 31  
**Occupation:** social worker  
**Pro:** Here comes the Bernie revolution writ local, rock on.

**Con:** She's going to heal the city with social worker techniques.

## SECOND WARD

Top two voter-getters in the August primary will move on to compete in the November general election.



**JIM DELINE**

**Age:** 63  
**Occupation:** Retired, City of Lansing internal auditor  
**Pro:** Numbers geek for the win.

**Con:** Let's be honest, budgets are not sexy



**JULEE RODOCKER**

**Age:** 47  
**Occupation:** Electric materials buyer/Consumers Energy  
**Pro:** Neighborhood activist taking the next step

**Con:** Not well-versed in the problems facing the city



**JEREMY A. GARZA**

**Age:** 40  
**Occupation:** Licensed plumber/safety director for UA Local 333  
**Pro:** Fiery populism running against the establishment — career

politicians, rich developers and corporate special interests  
**Con:** Part of the special interests: organized labor.



**JARON GREEN**

**Age:** 24  
**Occupation:** Broker management at Jackson National Life  
**Pro:** Let's hope the city never needs his Army biohazard and chemical

warfare training  
**Con:** Tardiness is conduct unbecoming.



**TINA HOUGHTON**

**Age:** 50  
**Occupation:** Program adviser for the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement at MSU, City Councilwoman  
**Pro:** paid her taxes on

time since being elected.  
**Con:** What exactly has she done in eight years? No, seriously, what is her one signature initiative?

# Democratic 'lighthouse' goes dark

## Longtime progressive fighter Bob Alexander dies at 72

Bob Alexander will be remembered more for fighting than for winning. Alexander, longtime Democratic Party activist and two-time candidate for U.S. Congress, died of pancreatic cancer on Wednesday.

Alexander's trail wound in and out of the political wilderness, but he never deviated from it as he pushed for progressive economic and social policies from the Peace Corps days of the 1960s to the Bernie Sanders campaign of 2016.

U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers handily defeated Alexander in two congressional runs in 2004 and 2008, the worst in a series of electoral setbacks that encouraged Alexander to stick to a role for which he was best suited, that of dogged Democratic Party foot soldier.

His career brought him to tens of thousands of mid-Michigan doorsteps as he managed campaigns, worked for Democratic candidates and circulated petitions for causes ranging from legalization of marijuana to physician-assisted suicide.

"Bob has never been cynical. That's the beauty of him," former Michigan state Sen. Lana Pollack said. Pollack knew Alexander since the 1970s. In 1982, Alexander pulled out of the state Senate race because he thought she had a better chance to win. (She won.) Pollack credited Alexander with pushing her to pass a polluter pay law requiring polluters to pay for environmental cleanup.

Alexander had "ambition in the best sense of the word, for an enlightened, fair

and transparent civil society" and never gave up, Pollack said.

The 1982 Senate race wasn't the only sacrifice of Alexander's career. In 1995, he bowed out of the race for East Lansing City Council, even though he earned a slot on the ballot by finishing sixth in the primary. He canvassed door to door, urging his supporters to switch their vote to the progressive triumvirate of Sam Singh, Mark Meadows and Douglas Jester in the general election, and the strategy worked. All three won and all three took a turn as East Lansing mayor.

Political consultant Mark Grebner compared Alexander to a lighthouse. A longtime Ingham County commissioner and fellow policy wonk, Grebner has known Alexander since 1972.

"He's part of the navigation of the Democratic Party," Grebner said. "He's fixed. He refutes Einstein's theory of relativity."

Alexander was born in Nashville, Tenn., where his father was stationed at a naval shipyard. He grew up in Berkley, a suburb of Detroit, and went to the University of Michigan. He served in Bowling Green, Ky., and Detroit in the National Teacher Corps, a Great Society program that sent college graduates to teach in inner-city schools. In Detroit, he plunged into a welter of civil rights battles, becoming known as Beto Alejandro to the Hispanic community.

Alexander moved to Ann Arbor and ran for state representative in 1974 as a Hu-

man Rights Party candidate. When he nearly siphoned off enough votes from Democratic icon Perry Pullard to elect a Republican, he soured on third-party runs and remained a Democratic stalwart for the rest of his life.

Alexander was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January 2016, but he fought off the disease with his trademark energy and dry humor for over a year, surprising even those who had strained to keep up with him for decades.

As recently as Jan. 29, he looked strong and was overjoyed to greet dozens of friends and family to a party marking a year of survival since his diagnosis. Earlier that month, Alexander and his wife of 15 years, Julie, enthusiastically mingled with marchers at the Women's March at Michigan's State Capitol.

But in early April, after receiving 11 types of chemotherapy in 14 months, doctors at Ann Arbor's University of Michigan's oncology team told the Alexanders the cancer had grown, especially in his liver, and there was nothing more they could do.

Alexander touched many lives in his long career.

Ira Harrison, a longtime friend, spent a



summer with him in India, where Alexander had served in the Peace Corps for two years. When they made the trip in 1975, Harrison was a troubled fifth-grader from Willow Run High School, where Alexander taught for five years.

Harrison, now an Ann Arbor fire inspector with two kids of his own, said the trip changed his life. He cherishes the memory of Alexander dragging him out of bed one morning to watch a spectacular sunrise.

In one of many conversations they had on the trip, Harrison told Alexander he hated his sister, with whom he was constantly fighting.

"He told me hate is too strong a word to use on people," Harrison recalled. "Hate cancer or injustice, but not people."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELEASE EASEMENT

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner determines that a portion of a drain easement owned by the Felton Drain Drainage District is no longer necessary for drainage purposes and proposes to convey that portion of the easement no longer necessary for drainage purposes to the fee owner pursuant to Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended. The easement more particularly designated and described is over and across the following lands situated in Alaiedon Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, described as follows:

**Parcel No.: 33-06-06-07-201-001**

The easement is recorded at Liber 2382, Page 1057, at the Ingham County Register of Deeds on August 19, 1996.

The excess easement to be released and conveyed to the fee owner is described as:

An Easement being part of the West ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 7, T3N, R1W, Alaiedon Township, Ingham County, Michigan described as commencing at the North ¼ corner of Section 7, thence East 329.48 feet along the North line of Section 7, thence S 00°13'23" West, 128.43 feet along the West line of the West 35 acres of the East 60 acres of the West ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 7, thence S 89°46'37" East 45.00 feet to the point of beginning of the following described easement, thence continuing S 89°46'37" East 82.00 feet, thence S 00°13'23" West, 356.00 feet, thence N 89°46'37" West 82.00 feet, thence N 00°13'23" East to the point of beginning.

In accordance with Section 6, Act 40, P.A. of 1956 as amended, at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, in the County of Ingham, Mason, Michigan, on June 5, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be the date and time and location when the Drain Commissioner will meet upon the request for release of a drain easement, and any taxpayer may appear to protest said vacating. After said date, the Drain Commissioner may release said easement as not necessary for drainage purposes.

Dated: April 28, 2017

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

CP#17-123

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, May 23, 2017** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1397, a request from Agree Limited Partnership to rezone the property at 2447 East Lake Lansing Road from B4, Restricted Office Business District to B2, Retail Sales Business District. The property is 7.10 acres in size.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1401, a request from Jerich Properties to rezone the property at 421 West Lake Lansing Road from RA, Residential Agricultural to B4, Restricted Office Business. The property is .69 acres in size.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1407, an ordinance to rezone the properties at 314, 328, 334, 340, and 341-345 Evergreen Avenue from Conditional B3, City Center Commercial District to RM32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential and P, Parking. The property is 1.76 acres in size.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1408, an ordinance to rezone the properties at 314, 328, 334, 340, and 341-345 Evergreen Avenue from RM32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential, and P, Parking to Conditional B3, City Center Commercial District. The properties are 1.76 acres in size.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-122

# Rally

from page 5

Without skipping a beat, Austin inserted an impromptu response into her remarks. "People who say 'Build a wall' reveal what is in their hearts," she said, glancing sideways.

Austin told the crowd that Black Lives Matter activists need to speak out against policies that threaten immigrants and refugees.

"The propaganda leads us to believe that our issues are separate, that we are not in this fight together," she said. "I say that if one of us is unsafe, we are all unsafe."

She urged the crowd to pressure elected officials to help 50,000 Haitians and 4,000 Somalis whose temporary protected status is due to expire May 23. The Haitians were allowed to live and work in the U.S. after a catastrophic 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where conditions are still shaky because of subsequent hurricanes and political unrest.

Elva Reyes, a trustee of the Lansing chapter of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, was one of several speakers who called for comprehensive immigration reform instead of mass deportation and other drastic measures contemplated by the Trump administration.

"They're trying to buy us off with phony promises of jobs building a wall we don't need," Reyes said.

State Rep. Andy Schor, a candidate for Lansing mayor, praised one of his colleagues, Rep. Abdullah Hammoud of Dearborn, for introducing legislation in the state House to pursue "sensible and humane immigration policies" and "oppose discriminatory policies and practices in immigration enforcement."

But Schor told the crowd that "elections have consequences."

"[Hammoud's bill] has gone nowhere, buried in committee," he lamented. "We need to remind my colleagues, our legislators, of the importance of immigrants and the need to help our refugee population."

The heavy lifting of imagining a day without immigrants was left to Edilberto Montemayor, a professor emeritus at MSU, co-founder of Michigan Latinx Info Cluster and co-organizer of Monday's rally.

Montemayor told the group that out of an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants, more than 60 percent have been in the U.S. for more than 10 years.

"They have become integral parts of our economy and our society," he said. "We have all benefited from their hard work." He told the crowd that undocumented immigrant work produces "cheap food, excellent restaurant and hotel services, cost-effective construction, top-notch health care" and cited a study predicting that mass deportations would cost the U.S. economy \$5 trillion over 10 years.

He made the sobered crowd smile with a list of iconic products invented by immigrants.

"No Google, no Chevrolet, no blue jeans, no shopping malls," he shouted. "No Velveeta and other Kraft products. No White House, no hamburgers, ketchup. No Budweiser. Come on, man! America would (be a boring place.)"

He linked the day's overriding theme of "freedom from fear" to traditional May Day demands for better pay and conditions for undocumented workers.

It's disingenuous to call for a crackdown on immigration, he said, after the government has "conveniently looked the other way when people come in and work hard," with employers as accomplices, for decades.

"They say, 'You can stay in the U.S. as long as you remain in the shadows,'" he said. "Which means, as long as you work really hard for less than you deserve legally, and as long as you tolerate abusive treatment and substandard working conditions."

Echoing Reyes and several other speakers, Montemayor urged the government to craft a humane and rational response to a problem it helped create.

"We are here to stay," Montemayor said. "We ain't going anywhere."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO



Courtesy Photo

State Rep. Andy Schor (center) speaks with others at the Capitol on Monday, including (on then right) Angela Waters Austin of Black Lives Matter Lansing and former City councilman Vincent Delgado, cofounder of the Refugee Development Center.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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Broad Art Museum visitors (left) check out Ugo Rondinone's "Clockwork for Oracles," a wall of colored mirrors framed by newsprint. (right) Just feet from a ledge overlooking Daniel Firman's massive elephant sculpture, "Weed," Tony Matelli's delicate, unobtrusive bronze sculpture of flowers, seems to grow out of a heating duct.

## PORTALS AND WINDOWS

IN SPITE OF THE ELEPHANT, LESS IS MORE IN BROAD ART MUSEUM'S 'THE TRANSPORTED MAN'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Sunday, the first full day of the big new exhibition at MSU's Broad Art Museum, the halls rang with a sound not often heard there: laughter.

Deflating humor is one of museum director Marc-Olivier Wahler's tricks. Or is it inflating humor? Much of the mirth heard on a busy Sunday at the museum was provoked by Werner Reiterer's sculpture, "Beginnings of Space Travel."

It takes a few seconds for visitors to look up from the helium tank in front of them, follow the attached hose as it runs straight up, up and further up into rear end of a hapless, wide-eyed cat, buoyantly pinned to the ceiling.

"The Transported Man" is selective in its spectacle. The exhibition relies more on wit and surprise to push the mind into a new place, back to the first tremor of wonder-

ment when art is born in the mind.

In contrast to the video bar-rages favored by founding Broad Art Museum director

Michael Rush, "The Transported Man" carries no trace of the super-saturated digital matrix taking over the world and very little of the industrial age that came

before it. It carves out a timeless, floating space, a world apart from the one we know.

The shock and delight at seeing animals in an art museum is one of Wahler's favorite tricks. At an introductory talk for donors and special guests before Saturday's opening, he did a live video interview (apparently) from the belly of a live alligator.

"The Transported Man" has its grand gestures — the grandest being Daniel Firman's full-size sculpture of an elephant climbing a rope (or hanging from it) in the main gallery — but charismatic megafauna don't carry the day. Parked next to the ersatz elephant is the real deal: Robin Meier's "Synchronicity," a Mylar tent on a bed of earth and grass where real fireflies will flash in synchronization with lights and music. The fireflies won't arrive for a month or so, but the tent is already an earthy, twinkling refuge from the harsh angles of the surrounding museum — and the surrounding world.

Many visitors were visibly moved Sunday as they entered and exited the nocturnal hush of the tent, pulsing with cricket chirps (from real crickets) and flickering with deep rhythms of life.

But in a typical touch of wit, the exhibition also includes a bug zapper on the second floor.

Every impulse toward overkill and extraversion has been crammed into a color-saturated western entrance. The hallway greets visitors with spaghetti-print floors and walls decorated with garish fabric wall

hangings and carpets based on prints from the design magazine "Toilet Paper." (The prints are also brazenly merchandised in the gift shop.)

Hanging elephant and hall of spaghetti notwithstanding, "The Transported Man" is an exercise in minimalism. It relies mainly on hints and nudges, doors and windows, portals and voids that your thoughts are invited to fill.

Ugo Rondinone's wall of rainbow-hued mirrors suggests another world looking back at ours. "Nathaniel Knows," a set of false partitions created in 2003 by Ryan Gander, opens into Oscar Tuazon's "Rooms" from 2012. The room is empty, except for a tiny mouse hole where something has seemingly broken through the wall, with a glimmer of light and a green tendril poking through. Tony Matelli's realistic intrusions of weeds and flowers seem to seep through the cracks of the museum, hinting that the building itself is a temporary illusion.

For all its contemporary art head games, there's something quaintly old-fashioned about "The Transported Man."

That doesn't always work in the show's favor. Wahler seems determined to hammer at the well-established point that you can plop anything in a museum and call it art. Maybe he thinks this news hasn't reached Michigan yet. But we know! Half a century on, there is a maddening zone of dullness around works like William Anastasi's "What Was Real in the World," from 1964,

a neat stack of concrete bricks. The same goes for Robert Gober's piece of laminated plywood, Charlotte Poseneske's galvanized ductwork that doesn't hook up to anything and so on. This point was made long ago, and conceded by anyone who is ever likely to concede it — if only for the sake of moving on to something more interesting.

Thankfully, this exhibition does.

In keeping with the magic-trick theme, eloquent hands and fingers are everywhere.

Anna Maria Maiolino's 1982 "Ad Hoc," a haunting Super 8 film of hands gesturing, goes with tinkling music that permeates the museum and will probably loop in your head all night.

In Jonathan Monk's "Secondhand Daily Exchange," from 2006, two hands cast in wax hold an object that is changed by museum staff every day. (On Sunday it was a silver pendant.) The hands are cleverly positioned next to the infamous "Mani Pulite" ("Clean Hands"), the bar of soap made with liposucted fat of former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Despite the rendered fat of Berlusconi, "The Transported Man" will not please those who want contemporary art to respond to the issues of the day. The magician role Wahler assumes in his opening exhibition is a contrarian pose, defying the instant-response culture of social media. Magician is a throwback profession, a relic from the pre-digital world of the village smithy and a bold apparition in a post-modern museum.

# In the thick of it

## Amy Goodman looks back on 20 years of Democracy Now!

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Last fall, veteran journalist Amy Goodman was covering the demonstration opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline, the largest Native American demonstration in decades, when things took a turn. Goodman was charged with criminal trespassing. Lacking the evidence to prove trespassing, the prosecution pivoted to a rioting charge, which was thrown out by a North Dakota judge.

Just this week, the Society of Professional Journalists awarded Goodman and her team of journalists at Democracy Now!, an independent television and radio news outfit, the 2016 Sigma Delta Chi Award for Television Breaking News Coverage for their reports from the demonstration.

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“We were up against the networks and cable stations with their drones and broadcast trucks, and Democracy Now! wins the award for covering the North Dakota pipeline access protests,” Goodman said.

Goodman comes to Schuler Books & Music’s Eastwood location Sunday to talk about her new book, “Democracy Now!: Twenty Years Covering the Movements Changing America.” Much of the success of Democracy Now!, she said, is due to its journalistic style, which puts reporters on the ground with the people.

The Dakota Access Pipeline demonstration was not the first time Goodman was arrested for trying to do her job. At the 2008 Republican National Convention in Saint Paul, Minn., she and other members of her crew were arrested while covering related pro-

tests. Charges were dropped in that case as well, but Democracy Now! sued and was awarded \$100,000.

Goodman said journalists have to protest these types of intimidation.

“It is a threat to journalism,” she said. “Media is not the enemy.”

She said coverage of the Dakota Access Pipeline demonstration showed people across the country what was happening in a visceral way.

“The video of police dogs set loose on protesters resulted in a picture showing a police dog with a bloody mouth,” Goodman said. “When it was posted online, it got 14 million downloads. This shows the hunger for independent voices.”

She also was astounded that at presidential debate following the confrontation, not one of the moderators asked a question about climate change.

Democracy Now!, which is funded entirely by donations, launched over 20 years ago. Initially an internet-only operation, its programming is now carried on over 1,400 television, radio and internet outlets.

Democracy Now! has aired thousands of daily, one-hour news episodes, and it is noted for its in-depth coverage of events. For both last weekend’s People’s Climate March and the previous weekend’s March for Science, Democracy Now! aired five hours of continuous coverage from Washington.

“The election of President Trump has made it so clear why we need an independent media,” Goodman said. “On the hottest April 29th on record in Washington, D.C., the EPA scrubbed Climate Change from its website.

“The resistance is amazing,” she



Courtesy Photo

Journalist Amy Goodman reports from the Dakota Access Pipeline demonstration. Goodman was charged with trespassing, but the charges were later thrown out by a North Dakota judge.

added. “This is not a fringe movement. Their voices need to be heard.

Goodman said the internet is a crucial tool in planning protest rallies and learning about the issues.

“That’s why the internet has to be open and free,” she said. “We can’t let telecom and cable privatize the internet, which was created with public money. Net neutrality is critical.”

Blurbs for the book refer to it as a compilation of the media outlet’s “greatest hits.” It provides overviews of some of the biggest issues facing the U.S. and how they are covered by Democracy Now!, with chapters like “Climate Justice,” “When the Killer Wears a Badge” and “Undocumented and Unafraid.”

Goodman believes that an independent press is essential to hold politicians and powerful business entities in check.

“You never achieve democracy,” she said. “You have to fight for it every day.”

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# Art girl hotspot

## REO Town hosts pair of feminist art pop-ups

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

The statistics don't lie: Women are underrepresented in the arts. According to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, of 590 major exhibitions in the U.S. from the years 2007-2013, only 27 percent featured pieces by women. But two mid-Michigan art collectives are working to change those statistics, at least at the grassroots level, with a pair of shows in REO Town this month.

The first, "Girl Gaze," is a dual effort between LCC student and artist Gigi Gomez, also known as GiG2, and an MSU-based collective called Sometimes Art House, a group dedicated to highlighting the work of artists who often don't have a venue for their work. About a month ago, Gomez approached Sometimes Art House founder Audrey Matusz with the idea of creating an exhibit.

"I haven't been to an independent art exhibition in Lansing, and I felt that the majority of art exhibitions that I have gone to, they don't incorporate any perfor-

mance art, or it's not really what I would like in an art exhibition," Gomez said.

The event really kicked into gear after a Gomez experienced a tough interaction.

"Someone kicked me out of their house, because I wasn't interested in them, and so I started thinking about how many times this has happened to other women," Gomez said. "So, I thought it would be good to cultivate that energy into something positive and make a statement to raise awareness."

That statement evolved into "Girl Gaze," a mixed-media exhibit that will feature the work of female Lansing artists and examine the ways social media expands and distorts perceptions of feminism.

"We really want to play with perception and give people different lenses to look through," Matusz said. "When people first walk in, we'll assign them a lens that they have to now journey through the art exhibition with."

Though the organizers remain tight-lipped about much of the exhibition's



Photo by Audrey Matusz

The "Girl Gaze" pop-up exhibition will feature photos by Sometimes Art Collective founder Audrey Matusz. The artist said she favors a "soft and cute" representation of feminism.

content, the event will feature everything from installations and photography to video elements and performance art. They expect it to spark discussion and engage exhibit-goers when it opens at the AA Creative Corridor Thursday.

"The audience is part of the spectacle," Gomez said.

Exactly a week later, just a few storefronts down at the Robin Theatre, the Nameless Collective — a group of women and non-binary artists in Lansing — will host a similar show. "Art Grl Starter Pack" is also focused on feminist art, but this one steps out of the boundaries of mid-Michigan.

"We have gotten a lot more submissions than we were expecting, and it's really exciting," said Crystal Gause, a member of the collective. "We have photographers from the local area and illustrators from the local area. We've got exhibitors from Colorado, from Washington from Chicago — just a lot of people who we know from our network."

The event will also showcase audio work and graphic illustrations, as well as live musical performances by Tall and Blonde, V. Soul and more.

Like "Girl Gaze," "Art Grl Starter Pack" took roughly a month to put together, but it was inspired by different sources.

"You know the meme that's like an art girl starter pack? It's all these stereotypical things that constitute an art girl in the 21st century like septum piercings, a Michaels bag, etc.," Gause said. "That's where we got the idea. We wanted to plan that and submit things that were part of that meme but also

unique to themselves."

For the Nameless Collective, this show will be one of several in a running series that Gause said she hopes takes off. Though the theme of the upcoming shows has not yet been announced, the goal is to explore the art of marginalized groups.

"We like the idea of doing like a house party or screening a show in the backyard or like a show in the garage," Gause said. "Kind of using what we have to like put on cool art spaces — I don't know if you've spent much time in the Detroit area or the Grand Rapids area, but we like how they do a lot of things, where you don't have to have a lot of money to do something really cool."

For now though, the collective is focused on bringing the "Art Grl Starter Pack" show to fruition. Gause said she realizes that "Girl Gaze" is similar and happening nearby, but she feels there is plenty of room for a new women-driven art community.

"There is so much room in the area for anyone who wants to get involved to do it," Gause said. "I don't feel that there's a sense of competition, but that it's just readiness for collective building."

### "Girl Gaze"

7-9 p.m. Thursday,  
May 4  
FREE

AA Creative Corridor,  
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Ave., Lansing

### "Art Grl Starter Pack"

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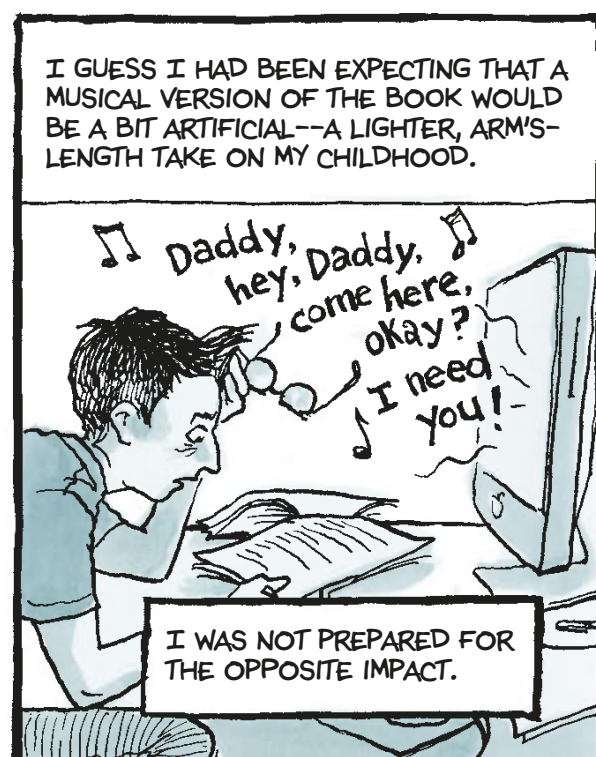
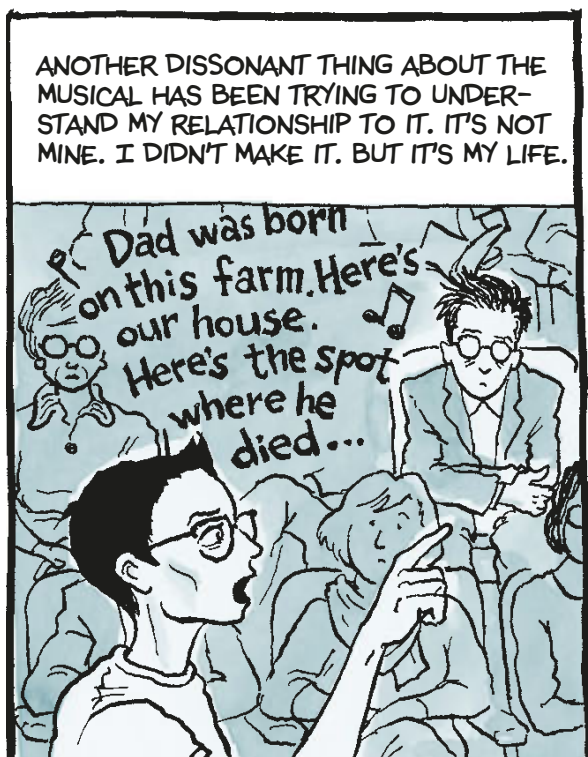
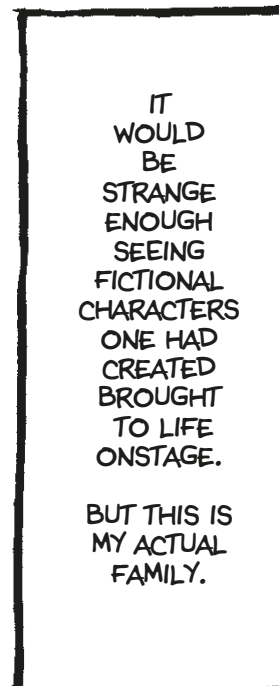
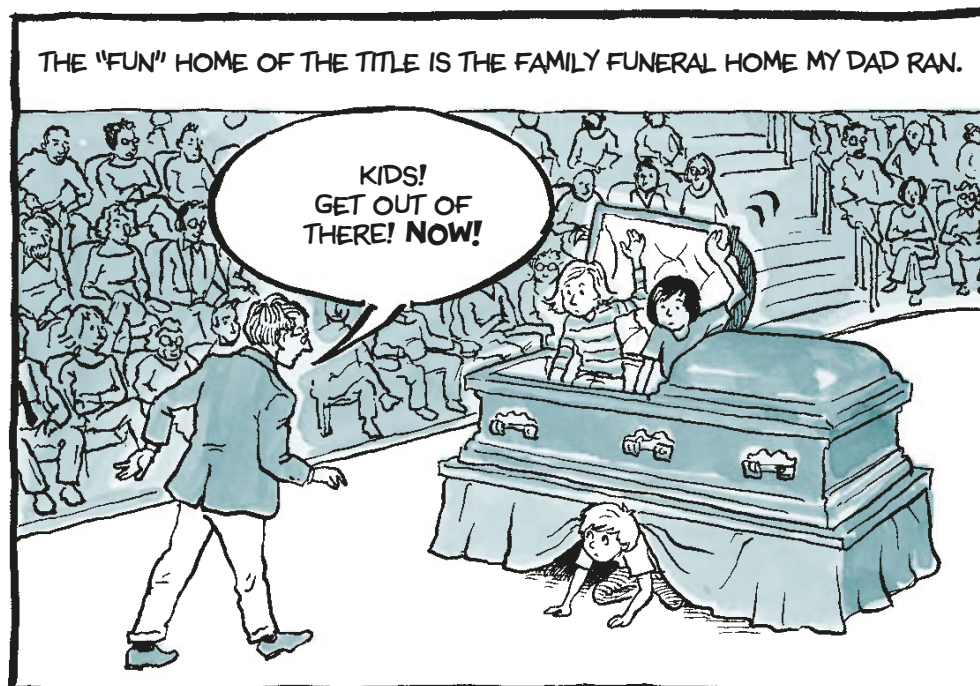
**LANSING NATIVE LISA KRON** won the 2015 Tony® Award for *Fun Home* — winning BEST BOOK OF A MUSICAL and BEST SCORE — and was key in adapting Alison Bechdel's graphic novel memoir. After growing up in Lansing's Westside neighborhood and graduating from Everett High School, she went on to become first an actor and then a critically-acclaimed playwright. Already with two Tony Award® nominations, a Public Theater and Center Theatre Group premiere, and a Broadway premiere under her belt, she set out with composer Jeanine Tesori (*Caroline, Or Change*) to write her first musical — *Fun Home*. Kron challenged the way we think and talk about musicals and brought Broadway's first all-female writing team to victory at the 2015 Tony Awards®, winning BEST MUSICAL, BEST BOOK and BEST SCORE.

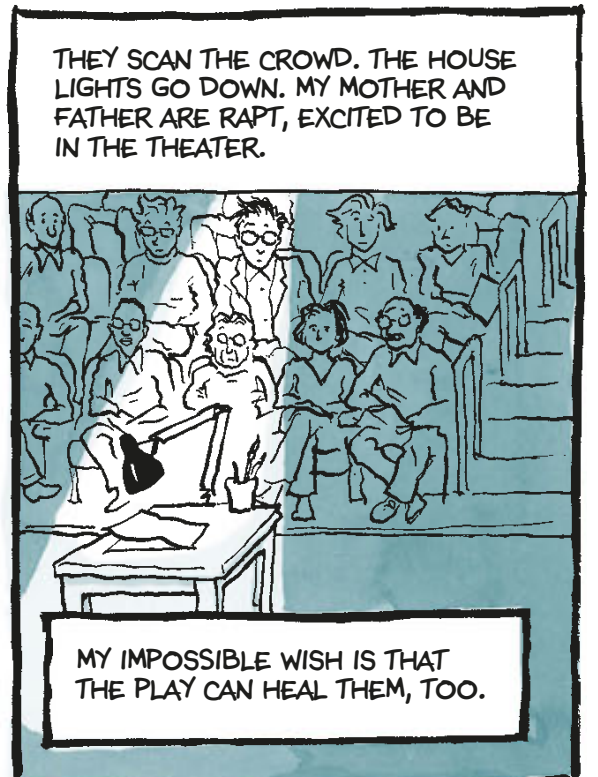
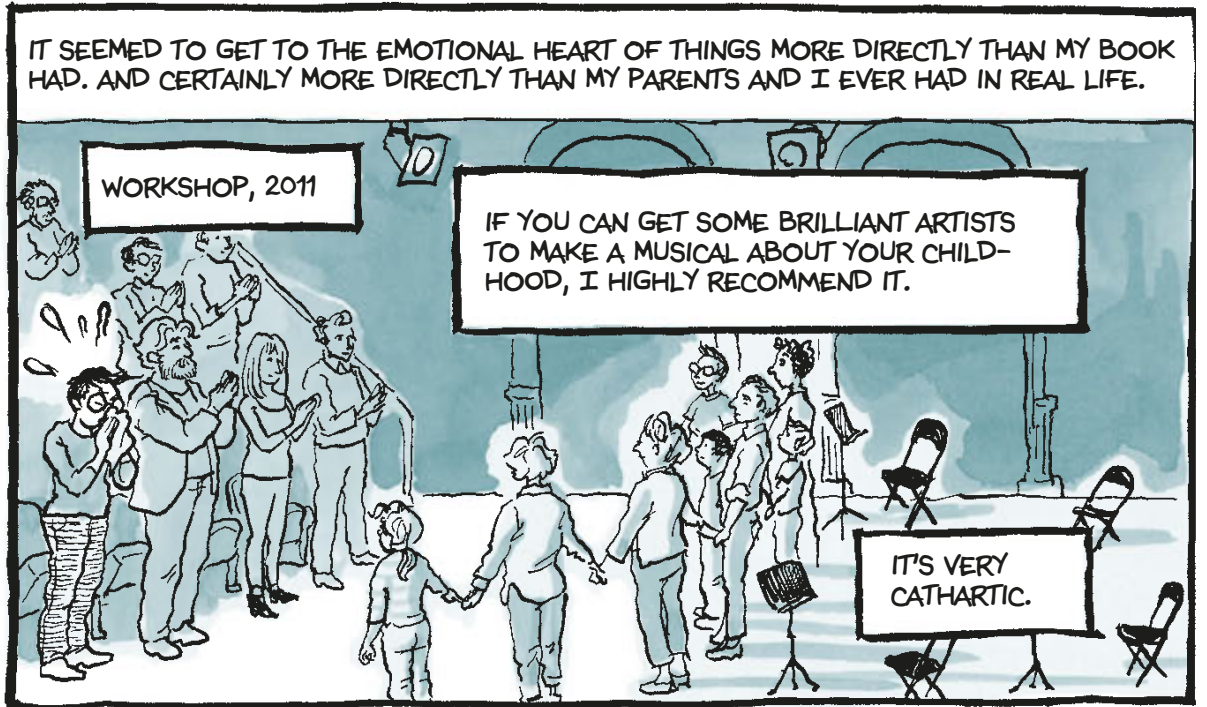
# FUN HOME

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WINNER! 5 TONY AWARDS INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL

Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir





# LISA KRON ON MAKING FUN HOME A REALITY

## What led you to believe this book could be a musical?

**Lisa Kron:** Needless to say, Jeanine [Tesori] and I thought: butch lesbians, a funeral home, closeted gay men, suicide? Obviously, musical comedy. But seriously. There's a deep river of yearning that flows through Alison's book that made it ripe for translation into the musical form. This is a family that is profoundly alienated from their own powerful emotions. But because music is such an efficient emotional delivery system, we could use it to convey the oceans of feeling swirling below the surface of this checked-out family at the same time the dialogue and lyrics are showing us how little access they have to any of that feeling.

Jeanine and I immersed ourselves in Alison's book for nearly six years. We lived and breathed Alison's story so that we could make it our own. Adaptation is so tricky. It's very tempting to look for correspondences: let's take this thing and translate it into this other thing. But you can't just translate one form into another; you have to make a parallel work that has its own originating impulse. You want to achieve the same emotional effect as the original work, but you have to do it using completely different means and in many cases, completely invented content.

**"A RARE BEAUTY THAT PUMPS FRESH AIR INTO BROADWAY."**

- Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

## How did you know the material you wanted to musicalize?

LK: The short answer is I did it by enrolling in the music theater school of Jeanine Tesori. I found soon after we started that even though I've always loved musicals, I didn't know very much at all about how musical theater songs operate. Pretty much all of my early ideas about what should be a song were wrong. Jeanine patiently guided me to understand the particular kind of dynamic that drives a theater song. I had to learn, for instance, that lyrics are not dialogue set to music. It's hard to say exactly what they are; it's a bit mysterious. But in our early days working together I'd hand Jeanine a page of writing and she'd scan through it murmuring, "... not a lyric... not a lyric... not a lyric..." and then she'd circle a pair of lines and say, "That's a lyric." And then I'd go off and think very hard about what it was in those lines that made them different from the rest.

**"A LANDMARK PRODUCTION THAT WILL FOREVER CHANGE WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN MUSICAL THEATRE."**

- *The Huffington Post*

I had, though, written a treatment before Jeanine came on board, and there was one small section of lyrics there that she set very early in our process. Remarkably, since we wrote so much material that came and went, those lines remain in the show. Small Alison sings them at the very top, and then again in the finale. When Jeanine set them, we knew basically nothing about what the show was going to be and I think she did it to give me a little taste of what words and music could do together - like a carrot on a stick. People are sometimes surprised that there's so much humor and joy in the musical. But one of our tasks in recreating the book as theater was to craft scenes in which characters moved forward in time. We had to scrupulously wring out of our writing the elegiac tone that (so movingly) suffuses the book. One of our breakthrough moments in this regard came when we realized that before Alison's coming out was re-cast in her mind as the catalyst for her father's suicide, it was experienced by nineteen year-old Alison as an expansive opening into joyful possibility which is how we got to "Changing My Major."

**"EXQUISITE.  
AN EMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE"**

-*Chicago Tribune*

**"AN UPLIFTING MUSICAL DRAMA OF RARE INTENSITY, HONESTY AND BEAUTY. FUN HOME SPEAKS UNIVERSALLY ABOUT BIG THINGS THAT MATTER: LIFE, LOVE, FAMILY SURVIVING. IT'S UNCONVENTIONAL, TO BE SURE, AND MUSICAL THEATRE IS BETTER FOR IT."**

- *New York Daily News*



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MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
**BROADWAY**  
AT WHARTON CENTER

# MEET THE ARTIST: Tell Parris digs for hidden meaning

By TY FORQUER

Friday night, local painter Tell Parris will roll out a series of paintings based on the dystopian action film “Mad Max.” But he insists the exhibition is not an intentional commentary on current events.

“I started it before everything started happening with Russia and North Korea,” he said. “It’s a really interesting time right now. We haven’t seen anything like it since the Cold War.”

It’s fitting then, that the exhibit will be hung in the Grid, a bar/arcade that celebrates the 1980s heyday of pinball and arcade games. “Negapocalyptic Teenage Wasteland” will be unveiled as part of Friday’s installment of Arts Night Out, the bi-monthly pop-up art event that turns Old Town storefronts



Parris

into temporary art galleries and performance spaces.

For Parris, it’s important to balance image and message.

“It’s more important to say something than to draw pretty pictures,” he said. “A lot of my old work was more in your face. Now I’m getting back to drawing pretty pictures, but I’m still trying to say something.”

## Arts Night Out

5 p.m. Friday, May 5  
FREE

Old Town, Lansing  
(See website for participating locations)  
(517) 372-4636,  
myartsnightout.com

A native of Wichita, Kan., Parris decided to pursue art while attending Wichita State University. He started out in graphic design but hit a roadblock at his sophomore review. He had to present his portfolio to a faculty panel that would decide if he could continue in the program.

“They said I had a poor work ethic,” Parris recalled. “I couldn’t keep doing graphic design, but I had already fallen in love with art.”

He ended up earning a degree in studio painting. After college, he bounced around, including a brief stint in the Army and some time in west Texas as a firefighter.

“I was a volunteer firefighter in Wichita,” Parris said. “My aunt told me there was an oil boom in Texas, and all the firefighters were leaving to work on the oil rigs, so they needed firefighters. I thought I’d give it a shot.”

In the years after college, Parris had trouble finding time to paint, stopped for about five years, and started up again about two years ago.

In the middle of last year, Parris decided the firefighter life wasn’t what

he wanted. So he and his wife moved to Leslie, where his wife grew up. He works as a welder and painter at H&H Welding in Mason.

Parris describes his style as “neo-pop street art.” His work draws on pop culture elements, especially that of the ‘80s, looking for underlying messages.

“I’m white, middle class, raised on Disney,” he said. “I’m poking fun at that, but I’m also trying to dig out the hidden elements of it. I won’t call it mind control, but they’re definitely pushing a worldview. From kids’ shows to CNN, everybody has an agenda.”



Courtesy photo

Tell Parris’ paintings, like “The Falcon,” shown here, frequently use pop culture references.

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, May 3

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** 6 p.m. Donation welcome. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

**Ballroom Dance: Waltz.** For ages 17 and up. 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. \$21/\$42 couples. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

**SMART Recovery.** Self Management Addiction Recovery Training for any dependency. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**Zumba at the Library.** After reading, try some Zumba. 5:30-6:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156, [ow.ly/IPQB30b07tn](http://ow.ly/IPQB30b07tn).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Wharton Center Inner Circle Book Club.** Discussion of "Fun Home: a Family Tragicomic." 3:30-5 p.m. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

### MUSIC

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

**Teen After-School Program.** Program is for teens in 7th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Allen Farmers Market.** Open year round and indoors through May. 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. All skill levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Spring Salad Luncheon.** Luncheon features salads, brats, desserts and a beverage. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330.

**Wine Night.** Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, conversation and more. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 19

## On call curtain call



Courtesy Photo

Broadway performer Courtney Holbrook joins the brand new Musical Theatre Touring Company for an MSU Department of Theatre fundraiser Wednesday.

May 10

Supporters of MSU's Department of Theatre can get a sneak peek at one of its newest projects Wednesday evening. The department will unveil the Musical Theatre Touring Company at its "A Bite of Broadway" fundraising gala.

Under the direction of MSU theater faculty Brad Willcuts, Alisa Hauser and Dave Wendelberger, the Musical Theatre Touring Company comprises a select group of musical theater students who will present Broadway-style performances on campus and in the community.

"We developed the Musical Theatre Touring Company as a way to give more experiential learning options for students interested in musical theatre and for students who enroll the musical theater program," Willcuts said.

The group is the brainchild of Department of Theatre Chairman Kirk Domer and Wharton Center Executive Director Mike Brand as another outlet to showcase the department. The group's members, who Willcuts describes as elite musical theater students, auditioned to secure their spots. The goal is to have a company that can create high-quality shows in a short time.

"Anyone who that needs

entertainment at the drop of a hat can hire us, and we can organize our show to fit the venue," Willcuts said. "We have a pretty large repertoire; we can put things together pretty quickly."

In addition to entertainment from the Musical Theatre Touring Company, Wednesday's Broadway-themed event offers a "strolling dinner" of heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine. The event benefits MSU's Friends of Theatre Endowment, which offers funding for special projects and scholarships.

For its grand debut, the Musical Theatre Touring Company will be joined Wednesday by Courtney Holbrook, who has appeared in Broadway productions of "Kinky Boots" and "Les Misérables." She has also visited East Lansing in the touring productions of "The Addams Family" and "Legally Blonde."

"It's fun to be up on stage, and it's fun to tell a story, but it's also fun when you feel like you've reached into the audience and touched the lives of people watching you," Holbrook said. "I think it's a huge part of why actors get into this business in the first place."

She has also worked with aspiring actors through the

Wharton Center's Take it From the Top summer musical theater camp. Holbrook said that Broadway experiences were rare where he grew up, so she is thrilled to help young performers learn more about musical theater.

"Anything you can do to help form and inform the minds and talents of young kids is really valuable," she said. "What they do for the kids — and what the donors and all of the friends do to help the program — is amazing. I'm happy to be back and giving back to the community."

While summer is a slow season for many students and faculty, the MSU Department of Theatre is gearing up for another installment of its Summer Circle Theatre, laying the groundwork for its 2017-2018 season and preparing the Musical Theatre Touring Company to take its show on the road.

"We're excited about the coming year," Willcuts said. "As we start locking down more material, we're ready to travel and ready to go."

### "A Bite of Broadway"

6-8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 10  
\$100  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane,  
East Lansing  
(517) 355-6690,  
[theatre.msu.edu](http://theatre.msu.edu)

— DIAMOND HENRY

# Out on the town

from page 19

(989) 482-7910, urbanbeatevents.com.

## Thursday, May 4

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 5:15 p.m. In room 207. 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett.

**A Course in Miracles.** Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale, Lansing.

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

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45

See Out on the Town, Page 22



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# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



SUN. MAY 7TH

Jucifer

## JUCIFER AT MAC'S BAR

Sunday, May 7 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$12/\$10 adv., 8 p.m.

Known for its towering wall of speakers that stands 10 feet high and stretches 15 feet wide, Jucifer has been a nomadic sludge-metal twosome since its formation in 1993. The Georgia natives return to Mac's Bar Sunday; openers are Kingdom of Ends and All Out of Bubblegum. Jucifer's expansive touring schedule typically covers more than 20 countries each year, and for the last 17 years the duo of Gazelle Amber Valentine (guitar and vocals) and husband Edgar Livengood (drums) has literally lived out of their tour vehicle. Aside from a long string of American dates — including a Thursday show at the Pyramid Scheme in Grand Rapids — the pair is also hitting Russia and Europe later this year. In 2014, the band released its seventh studio LP, "District of Dystopia" via Alternative Tentacles Records.

## MAY ERLEWINE AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



THU. MAY 4TH

May Erlewine

Thursday, May 4 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington, Lansing. All ages, \$15, 7:30 p.m.

With still a few more weeks to go, Michigan songwriter May Erlewine's "A New Record" Kickstarter fundraiser has already garnered over \$38,000 from over 600 backers. Thursday, she brings her spring tour through the Robin Theatre. The new LP, set for a Fall 2017 release, features Joe Dart on bass, Theo Katzman on drums, Woody Goss on keys and Josh Pinkham on electric guitar. It also features guest spots from Lindsay Lou and Rachael Davis, among others. In the fundraiser description, Erlewine explains, "The budget for this record is based on paying people real living wages for offering their hard earned talents. It is based on the belief that the work and time of artists is as valuable as any other occupation."

## DAVID ALLAN COE AT TEQUILA COWBOY



THU. MAY 4TH

David Allan Coe

Thursday, May 4 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, \$20/\$15 adv., doors at 5 p.m.

Since the 1960s, David Allan Coe has been one of the most notorious songwriters in the outlaw-country genre. Thursday, the 77-year-old guitarist/vocalist performs at Tequila Cowboy inside the Lansing Mall. After spending years in various correctional facilities and prison, including three years at the Ohio Penitentiary, Coe found mainstream success in the early '70s. In 1973, Tanya Tucker scored a hit with Coe's "Would You Lay With Me (In a Field of Stone)." The following year, Columbia Records issued his first two solo discs, "The Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Once Upon a Rhyme" LPs. Massive success followed in 1977, when Johnny Paycheck covered Coe's "Take This Job and Shove It." Coe, who continues to tour the country, was in the studio late last year cutting his latest single, "Country Rap," featuring the Moonshine Bandits.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT TY@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Indonesian Junk, FREE 9 p.m.	The Holy Warheads, 6 p.m.	Artronica 2017, 8 p.m. Alistair Beerens, 8-11 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27 Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave. Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St		Lee Groove, 7 p.m. Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m. Chaser, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m. Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m. Music by Nicki, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St. Esquire, 1250 Turner St. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave. Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave. Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27 Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy. Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St. Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy. Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave. Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd. Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m. Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m. "Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m. Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m. Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m. Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6-10 p.m. Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m. Narc Out the Reds, 8 p.m. Garret Collier, 7 p.m. Sammi Lanzetta, 8 p.m. May Erlewine, 8 p.m. David Allan Coe, 5 p.m. Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m. Don Middlebrook, Rush Clement, 7-11 p.m. HENDERSHOTT, 7 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 6-10 p.m. The New Rule, 9 p.m. Karaoke, 7:30 p.m. Steve Cowles, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The Addiction Kills Tour feat. Jelly Roll, 8 p.m. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, 9 p.m. Showdown, 8 p.m.-midnight Last One Out, 8 p.m.-midnight Life Support, 7-11 p.m. #Soundcheck, 8 p.m.	Spring Trap, 5 p.m. Of Virtue, 7 p.m. Showdown, 8 p.m.-midnight El Kabong, 8 p.m.-midnight Live music, 9 p.m. Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.

# Out on the town

from page 19

p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

**Need Market Research? Ask a Business Librarian.**

Workshop on market research tools. Call to register: 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/co0v30789Fe.

**Preschool Science Explorations: Amazing Amphibians.**

Monthly science program for preschoolers. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

**EVENTS**

**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. Room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo

Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. **Capital Area Audubon Society.** Barb Jensen presents on ospreys. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. capitalareaaudubon.org.

**Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.** All skill levels welcome. Lessons, practice, exercise and fun. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing.

**Friday, May 5**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Picture This!** Learn how to paint your pet. 7-9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 for two. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

**MUSIC**

**Rock and Roll for Refugees Concert.** Proceeds to refugee program and St. Casimir Parish. 8-11 p.m. \$10. Saint Casimir School Gym, 800 W. Barnes Ave. Lansing. (517) 482-7729.

**EVENTS**

**Phantom of the Universe.** Presentation on dark matter. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**Saturday, May 6**

**MUSIC**

**A Studio Recital: Anne Kearney-Looman and Students.** Featuring violin and viola students. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

**The Blue Blazes Live.** Americana concert. 8-11 p.m. FREE. Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawne Ave., East Lansing. theblueblazesmusic.com.

**EVENTS**

**Celebrating Success: Haven House Families.** Party with families from Haven House. Call to register: 9:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-2731, havenhouseel.org/families.

**Native Plants Day.** Plant sale featuring coneflower, butterfly weed and more. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

online. 11 a.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

**Spartan Young Astronomers Club.** For kids ages 8-12 who love astronomy. 10 a.m.-noon. \$3. Memberships available. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

**Family Day: Surprise.** Day of creative chances and unusual art. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Sunday, May 7**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence, Charlotte.

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

**Kendo Martial Art Class.** Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing.

**MUSIC**

**A Collection of Studio Recitals: Debra Hobert**  
See Out on the Town, Page 22

**Jonesin' Crossword**

By Matt Jones

"Freedonia"—just another themeless jam.

Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Contrary to
- 8 Bear or hare, e.g.
- 14 Having divisions
- 15 Meadow Soprano's mom
- 16 Big-name celeb
- 17 Quechua dish served in corn husks
- 18 Adult Swim programming block
- 19 They create spots, slangily
- 20 Bone, in Italian dishes
- 21 Andy's sitcom boy
- 22 Mail submission accompaniment, briefly
- 23 Flavor in the juice aisle
- 27 Dutch scientist for whom an astronomical "cloud" is named
- 28 1998 British Open winner Mark
- 29 "All-American" Rockne
- 30 In a shadowy way
- 33 Person pulling out
- 35 Hero of "Cold Mountain"
- 36 Beer belly
- 38 Light horse-drawn carriage
- 39 Place to belt and belt
- 43 G, in the key of C
- 44 Benedict of "The A-Team"
- 45 Top pick
- 46 Unable to follow up with action, it's said
- 48 Displayed derision

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14							15					
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51							52					
53							54					
55							56					

- 51 Napoleon's hat, e.g.
- 52 Moderately sweet, as champagne
- 53 More like a sieve
- 54 Sashimi staple
- 55 Going to the post office, e.g.
- 56 Compilation album series with cleaned-up lyrics
- Down
- 1 Director of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin"
- 2 Half of a rainy-day pair
- 3 Melodic passages
- 4 "Objection!"
- 5 1920s leading lady
- 6 Place for a wine charm
- 7 Actress Hatcher
- 8 2017 Irish-Canadian film with Sally Hawkins and Ethan Hawke
- 9 French military force
- 10 2009, in the credits
- 11 Apportions
- 12 Individually, on a menu
- 13 Pixar Chief Creative Officer John
- 15 Westchester County town where the Clintons have lived since 1999
- 21 Paddle kin
- 24 Key of Dvorak's "New World" Symphony (abbr.)
- 25 Pomade relative
- 26 Singer of the movie theme song that hit #1 on August 11, 1984
- 27 Busted
- 29 It comes with a high proof
- 30 Ripe for the insult-ing
- 31 More wicked
- 32 Division for Road & Track, maybe
- 34 Skip-Bo relative
- 37 Double-occupancy ship?
- 39 Baked in an oven, like bricks
- 40 Name for Bruce Wayne's underwater vehicle
- 41 Nivea competitor
- 42 Railroad station porter
- 44 "Beyond the Sea" subject Bobby
- 47 Plum variety also called bubblegum plum
- 48 Badlands Natl. Park site
- 49 Nostalgic soft drink brand
- 50 Actor/comedian Djallil of "The Mummy"

**MAY 5-7, 12-13 >> 'MAN OF LA MANCHA' AT STARLIGHT DINNER THEATRE**

Don Quixote storms the stage of Starlight Dinner Theatre this weekend as the troupe presents "Man of La Mancha," based on Cervantes' 17th-century masterpiece. This musical adaptation was written by Dale Wasserman, with music by Mitch Leigh and lyrics by Joe Darion. Starlight's production is directed by the troupe's founder, Linda Granger, with James Geer serving as the musical director and Fran Ludington as choreographer. Friday and Saturday: 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show; Sunday: 1:30 dessert buffet, 2 p.m. show. Dinner and show: \$39/\$36 seniors and students/\$23 children; show only: \$18/\$17 seniors and students/\$13 children. Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 599-2779, starlightdinnertheatre.com.

**MONDAY, MAY 8 >> BLUES FOR BABIES AT THE GREEN DOOR**

Bluesman Larry McCray stops by the Green Door Monday to help some of Greater Lansing's youngest citizens. McCray headlines Blues for Babies, a fundraiser that benefits Sparrow Hospital's Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Each year, the unit cares for over 600 of the hospital's most fragile patients with 24-hour, seven-days-a-week care. Lansing's own Mike Eyia opens the show. 8 p.m. \$10. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, facebook.com/thegreendoorlive.



**NEW HORIZONS BANDS - A COMMUNITY CONCERT**  
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## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

May 3-9

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Beware of feeling sorry for sharks that yell for help. Beware of trusting coyotes that act like sheep and sheep that act like coyotes. Beware of nibbling food from jars whose contents are different from what their labels suggest. But wait! "Beware" is not my only message for you. I have these additional announcements: Welcome interlopers if they're humble and look you in the eyes. Learn all you can from predators and pretenders without imitating them. Take advantage of any change that's set in motion by agitators who shake up the status quo, even if you don't like them.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): When poet Wislawa Szymborska delivered her speech for winning the Nobel Prize, she said that "whatever else we might think of this world -- it is astonishing." She added that for a poet, there really is no such thing as the "ordinary world," "ordinary life," and "the ordinary course of events." In fact, "Nothing is usual or normal. Not a single stone and not a single cloud above it. Not a single day and not a single night after it. And above all, not a single existence, not anyone's existence in this world." I offer you her thoughts, Taurus, because I believe that in the next two weeks you will have an extraordinary potential to feel and act on these truths. You are hereby granted a license to be astonished on a regular basis.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Would you consider enrolling in my Self-Pity Seminar? If so, you would learn that obsessing on self-pity is a means to an end, not a morass to get lost in. You would feel sorry for yourself for brief, intense periods so that you could feel proud and brave the rest of the time. For a given period -- let's say three days -- you would indulge and indulge and indulge in self-pity until you entirely exhausted that emotion. Then you'd be free to engage in an orgy of self-healing, self-nurturing, and self-celebration. Ready to get started? Ruminate about the ways that people don't fully appreciate you.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): In a typical conversation, most of us utter too many "uhs," "likes," "I means," and "you knows." I mean, I'm sure that . . . uh . . . you'll agree that, like, what's the purpose of, you know, all that pointless noise? But I have some good news to deliver about your personal use of language in the coming weeks, Cancerian. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you'll have the potential to dramatically lower your reliance on needless filler. But wait, there's more: Clear thinking and precise speech just might be your superpowers. As a result, your powers of persuasion should intensify. Your ability to advocate for your favorite causes may zoom.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In 1668, England named John Dryden its first Poet Laureate. His literary influence was so monumental that the era in which he published was known as the Age of Dryden. Twentieth-century poetry great T. S. Eliot said he was "the ancestor of nearly all that is best in the poetry of the eighteenth century." Curiously, Dryden had a low opinion of Shakespeare. "Scarcely intelligible," he called the Bard, adding, "His whole style is so pestered with figurative expressions that it is as affected as it is coarse." I foresee a comparable clash of titans in your sphere, Leo. Two major influences may fight it out for supremacy. One embodiment of beauty may be in competition with another. One powerful and persuasive force could oppose another. What will your role be? Mediator? Judge? Neutral observer? Whatever it is, be cagey.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Just this once, and for a limited time only, you have cosmic clearance to load up on sugary treats, leave an empty beer can in the woods, watch stupid TV shows, and act uncool in front of the Beautiful People. Why? Because being totally well-behaved and perfectly composed and strictly pure would compromise your mental health more than being naughty. Besides, if you want to figure out what you are

on the road to becoming, you will need to know more about what you're not.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In addition to fashion tips, advice for the broken-hearted, midlife-crisis support, and career counseling, I sometimes provide you with more mystical help. Like now. So if you need nuts-and-bolts guidance, I hope you'll have the sense to read a more down-to-earth horoscope. What I want to tell you is that the metaphor of resurrection is your featured theme. You should assume that it's somehow the answer to every question. Rejoice in the knowledge that although a part of you has died, it will be reborn in a fresh guise.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Are you ready for the genie's favors? Don't rub the magic lamp unless you are." That's the message I saw on an Instagram meme. I immediately thought of you. The truth is that up until recently, you have not been fully prepared for the useful but demanding gifts the genie could offer you. You haven't had the self-mastery necessary to use the gifts as they're meant to be used, and therefore they were a bit dangerous to you. But that situation has changed. Although you may still not be fully primed, you're as ready as you can be. That's why I say: RUB THE MAGIC LAMP!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have heard the exhortation "Follow your bliss!", which was popularized by mythologist Joseph Campbell. After studying the archetypal stories of many cultures throughout history, he concluded that it was the most important principle driving the success of most heroes. Here's another way to say it: Identify the job or activity that deeply excites you, and find a way to make it the center of your life. In his later years, Campbell worried that too many people had misinterpreted "Follow your bliss" to mean "Do what comes easily." That's all wrong, he said. Anything worth doing takes work and struggle. "Maybe I should have said, 'Follow your blisters,'" he laughed. I bring this up, Sagittarius, because you are now in an intense "Follow your blisters" phase of following your bliss.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The versatile artist Melvin Van Peebles has enjoyed working as a filmmaker, screenwriter, actor, composer, and novelist. One of his more recent efforts was a collaboration with the experimental band The Heliocentrics. Together they created a science-fiction-themed spoken-word poetry album titled *The Last Transmission*. Peebles told NPR, "I haven't had so much fun with clothes on in years." If I'm reading the planetary omens correctly Capricorn, you're either experiencing that level of fun, or will soon be doing so.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In what ways do you most resemble your mother? Now is a good time to take inventory. Once you identify any mom-like qualities that tend to limit your freedom or lead you away from your dreams, devise a plan to transform them. You may never be able to defuse them entirely, but there's a lot you can do to minimize the mischief they cause. Be calm but calculating in setting your intention, Aquarius! P.S.: In the course of your inventory, you may also find there are ways you are like your mother that are of great value to you. Is there anything you could do to more fully develop their potential?

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "We are what we imagine," writes Piscean author N. Scott Momaday. "Our very existence consists in our imagination of ourselves. Our best destiny is to imagine who and what we are. The greatest tragedy that can befall us is to go unimagined." Let's make this passage your inspirational keynote for the coming weeks. It's a perfect time to realize how much power you have to create yourself through the intelligent and purposeful use of your vivid imagination. (P.S. Here's a further tip, this time from Cher: "All of us invent ourselves. Some of us just have more imagination than others.")

## FRIDAY, MAY 5 >> CINCO DE MAYO AT VFW POST 6132

VFW Post 6132 celebrates Cinco de Mayo with live music, karaoke and, of course, authentic Mexican cuisine. The party's music lineup features the Stan Budzynski All Stars, Ray Rodriguez and Coolidge. Food options include burritos, rice, beans, tortilla chips and more. 3 p.m.-midnight. \$15/\$10 adv. VFW Post 6132, 3104 St. Joseph Highway, Lansing. (517) 372-2052.

## THURSDAY, MAY 4 >> MICHIGAN STATE POLICE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing recognizes the 100th anniversary of the Michigan State Police with a program on the group's history Thursday. The program, conducted by historian and MSU criminal justice Professor Phil Schertzing, will look back on the origins and evolution of the group. Schertzing will also discuss the group's role in significant local events, like the 1927 Bath School bombing and the 1951 Cass Building fire. 7 p.m. FREE. Michigan State Police Training Academy, classroom C-1, 7426 N. Canal Road, Lansing.

## Out on the town

from page 21

**and Students.** 2-4 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.  
**Delta Community Choir Spring Concert.** Choir presents "More Alike Than Not." 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. (517) 290-8166.

### EVENTS

**Bird Watching in Our Parks.** Audubon volunteer-led walk. 8-9 a.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** 6 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 321-0933.

**Wildflower Walkabout.** Guided wildflower walk. 3-4 p.m. \$3/7 for families. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

## Monday, May 8

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**A Course in Love.** Weekly group dedicated to the study of the spiritual psychology. 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes, Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated & widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

**Painting Basics, Session 4: Watercolor.** For ages 14 and up. 6:45-7:45 p.m. \$40. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

### MUSIC

**New Horizons Community Band.** Learn to play an instrument or dust off an old one. 6-8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

### EVENTS

**Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot.** Weekly activities at the Center. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos, Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/5NaB30ani5D.

**Game Night at UrbanBeat.** Bring your own or play provided games. 5-8 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

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

## Tuesday, May 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

See Out on the Town, Page 23

## SUDOKU

## BEGINNER

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

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 23

**THURSDAY, MAY 11 >> BETTY BAXTER AND GEORGE HOWARD  
AT MUSIC AT THE MANSION**

Two pillars of the local jazz scene team up next week for a concert in Old Town's Turner-Dodge House. Vocalist Betty Baxter is joined by 92-year-old saxophonist George Howard, who released his first album earlier this year. The two will present a salon-style evening of jazz music in the intimate music room of the Turner-Dodge House; proceeds go toward the ongoing preservation and restoration of the historic home. 7 p.m. \$10. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

**Out on the town**

from page 22

**Take off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Parish, 102 W. Randolph Street, Lansing. (517) 487-3749.  
**Therapeutic Yoga.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$15 to drop in. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**MUSIC**

**Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.** Check Facebook page to see who's playing. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287, ow.ly/sagD30aUsqU.

**EVENTS**

**AARP Age Friendly Communities.** Presentation

seniors' economic impact. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.  
**Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre.** Weekly activities at the Center. 1-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/5NaB30ani5D.  
**LCC West Toastmasters.** International organization focused on public speaking and leadership. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314.  
**Overeaters Anonymous.** Struggling with food? Overeaters Anonymous offers hope. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

**Wednesday, May 10  
CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** 6 p.m. Donation welcome. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.  
**Computer Club.** Discuss technology questions. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045,

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

From Pg. 21

A	G	A	I	N	S	T		M	A	M	M	A	L
P	A	R	T	I	T	E		C	A	R	M	E	L
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E	R	R	A	N	D			K	I	D	Z	B	O

meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Helping Children (and Adults) Become Healthy Consumers of Media.** Media education session. 6-7:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156, ow.ly/xmGJ30bcXIS.

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

**THEATER**

**MSU Friends of Theatre 2017 Gala.** 6-8:30 p.m. \$100. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. ow.ly/bjy30bd1Wz.

**EVENTS**

**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.  
**Teen After-School Program.** Program is for teens in 7th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

From Pg. 22

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

Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Allen Farmers Market.** Open year round and indoors through May. 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. All skill levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Chinese Meet Up Group.** Play mah-jong and table tennis. 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/5NaB30ani5D.

**Southeast Lansing Community Roundtable.** Discussion for members of the 2nd Ward community. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 394-4639.

**MUSIC**

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** 7:30 p.m.-10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing.



BY BERL SCHWARTZ

**Nobel prize for nerve  
Dylan continues to mine  
the Great American Songbook**

This new, occasional column is devoted to the Great American Songbook, which comprises the best of popular vocal music from the last century until rock 'n' roll took over. Twice a month or so, I'll look at a recording or two, either new releases by current artists or remastered versions of the works of legendary singers and musicians.

While this music has always found expression in different genres, particularly jazz, I'll focus on recordings that respect the original marriage of words and music that have made standards of these songs. That doesn't mean a ballad can't swing or an up-tempo melody can't be slowed down. But respect must be paid.

Which it certainly is in "Triplicate," the latest release from, of all people, Bob Dylan. There's a message here about the greatness of the material whenever Dylan sings other people's words. After all, he did win a Nobel Prize for literature for his own lyrics.

"Triplicate" is his third venture into standards. The first two were odes to



Frank Sinatra, released surrounding Ol' Blue Eyes' 100th birthday two years ago. This time, Dylan is paying homage to the genre itself and no particular artist.

"Triplicate," which in the vinyl version comprises three records of 10 songs each, emphasizes ballads. And Dylan, who does all the vocals alone, delivers them with heart but certainly no schmaltz. And clear enunciation. Yes, Dylan, right up there with Brando in the Mumblets Hall of Fame, gives a lesson here in good diction.

What comes through is that Dylan, who is 75, has lived, loved and lost enough to understand this music. From the lightly swinging boy-loses-girl opener, "I Guess I'll Have to Change my Plan," by Dietz and

Schwartz — with the wonderful lines "My boiling point is much too low/For me to try to be a fly Lothario" — to the dirge-like Kern-Hammerstein closer six vinyl sides later, "Why Was I Born?" ("Why do I cry/You never hear me"), Dylan's weathered voice evokes each entry's due with no overstatement. Nor does he go to the other extreme typical of Willie Nelson's fading versions of the same songs. Dylan is stage front and fully involved.

Dylan's two Sinatra albums, "Fallen Angels" and "Shadows in the Night," offer far more interesting, fuller orchestrations, and for the uninitiated, I encourage you to start with one of them for that reason. But I have no complaints about the steel strings, bass and drum work — no horns or violins this time — on "Triplicate." There's not a jarring moment.

The recording quality of this, Dylan's 38th studio recording and his first three-record set, is magnificent. Kudus to Columbia (and is there any other artist today who has recorded with the same company for 55 years?) for its mastering and pressing on 180-gram vinyl.

If I have a kvetch, it's that for nearly \$50 retail, the packaging could not be much more bare bones. The three records have to be stuffed into one sleeve, and the liner notes don't give you much more

than the order of songs on each side. There's a deluxe edition that may be worth the additional \$20, if only to get more information about the songs.

Still, there are two delicious photos of Dylan. One is a color photo of him casually dressed and leaning against a souped-up '60s convertible.

The other is a black and white close-up of him in a tux and jeweled cuff links, his face as weathered as his voice. His expression is typical inscrutable Dylan, befitting a man who only lets you in through his art. And though these are not his words or music, "Triplicate" brings you closer to understanding one of our great American treasures.

*Triplicate*

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TERRY TERRY

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for Singing  
With  
The Men of Orpheus  
Male Chorus*

**7 pm**  
**Friday, May 12, 2017**  
**Plymoth Congregational Church**

**Tickets are \$10**  
*Available from any chorus member or at the door.*



## SPARTAN BREWPUB / BLUE OWL COFFEE CO.

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Later this month, the Spartan Brewpub will move into the former home of the Golden Rose Restaurant. Operator Jon Wells is the son-in-law of building owner Tom McNeil, who will serve as the restaurant's chef.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

You can add another player to mid-Michigan's hopping craft microbrewery scene: Later this month, **Spartan Brewpub** will take over the former home of Tom McNeil's **Golden Rose Restaurant**. Technically in Mason, the building sits just south of I-96 on Okemos Road. The concept came together quickly, driven primarily by McNeil's son-in-law, Jon Wells, who will serve as the new business' operator.

"Tom came to me about a month ago and told me that he wanted to find a new use for the building," Wells said. "He knew I had a passion for beer, and he thought (a brewpub) would be a good fit. He just didn't want to do it himself."

McNeil will serve as Spartan Brewpub's chef. The acclaimed local restaurateur already has a few hits under his belt, including bygone local eateries **Windsor Mountain Grill** and **The British Isles**. He moved his catering company, **Country House Catering**, into the space that would become Golden Rose in 1986 and opened the restaurant six years later. When that closed in 2010, McNeil continued to use the building for catering. Last year, he allowed a young beer maker to use the site to brew, but Wells said the brewer left after McNeil decided not to allow him to turn it into a microbrewery.

"The problem (with microbreweries) is that you can only sell your own beer," Wells said. "So we decided to go the brewpub route. It allows us to sell a mixture of what we make ourselves and the best of what's being made around the state and around the country."

That includes breweries close to home. The local craft beer scene is spilling into every corner of Greater Lansing, and Spartan Brewpub joins four other breweries in the "coming soon" category. Expected in mid-2017 are **BrickHaven Brewing Co.** in Grand Ledge, **Dime's Brewhouse** in Dimondale, **Looking Glass Brewing Co.** in DeWitt and **Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale** in REO Town. Southwest Michigan's Arcadia Ales' Michigan Avenue brewpub is also expected to open this year.

"Craft beer is incredibly popular right now, but (Spartan Brewpub) isn't just an attempt to cash in on a trend," Wells said. "I've been brewing for a while, and I've got a few beers that I think will be able to go toe-to-toe with the best of what's already out there. And Tom's menu is going to be second to none. We're really working hard to make this something special."

The Spartan Brewpub food selection will focus primarily on barbecue fare, tapping into the other hot trend in the local dining scene. Brisket, chicken and burgers will anchor the menu, with flatbread pizza expected to come later. The cheddar and ale soup from McNeil's British Isles restaurant will also make an appearance. The bar will have a full liquor license, and the 20 taps will feature between five and nine originals brewed on-site.

"I'm a bourbon guy, so I want to have a nice selection of those as well," Wells said.

Although he said he's been home brewing for years, Wells said this will be the first time he's ever brewed commercially.

"One of the reasons I'm keeping this as a brew pub is that I like to take my time to craft a brew," Wells said. "One of my favorites to make is my bourbon stout, but it's a real trick to get aged bourbon barrels, and you can't really do big quantities. I'm not a huge IPA guy; I like darker stouts and porters. It's going to make for a nice mix."

Wells oversaw the interior renovation, which was mostly done by close family ("A lot of them aren't calling me back anymore," Wells joked.) Major changes included the construction of a second bar and moving the main bar out farther to accommodate brewing equipment. The décor was given an MSU Spartan theme, and new mug racks were built to hold drinkware for the new mug club, handmade mugs with the Spartan Brewpub logo.

"We're also going to have dart boards and foosball and big-screen TVs, but our big (entertainment) focus is on live music," Wells said. "It's important for me to have that."

Wells worked his way up through McNeil's ranks, serving as a bartender and a server at the British Isles in Okemos. But

he's also been a musician for years, playing drums and keyboards in several local bands. He said Friday and Saturday nights will be dedicated to live music, which may include performances on the restaurant's new patio area.

"Tom has a big following, so I know we're going to have no problem getting his (former customers) to come back," Wells said. "The challenge will be to get new folks from East Lansing and Lansing to come. We're only 10 minutes from campus, and we're right off the highway, but there's a (misconception) that we're out in the country. It may take a while, but I think people will find us."

### Blue's brews

Last week marked the opening of **Blue Owl Coffee Co.** in REO Town, the newest addition to Lansing's third big craft scene. Co-owner/operator Nick Berry said he's had a unique relationship with java his entire life.

"Everything important that's ever happened in my life was at a coffee shop," Berry said. "It's where I met my first wife. It's where I signed my first record label contract. And I've closed on every house I've owned at a coffee shop. It all started when I was 15 and my youth leader at church took me out for my first cappuccino. It changed my life."

Blue Owl features a blend of traditional coffee drinks — latte, cappuccino and espresso — as well as tea, nitro coffees, pour overs, French presses and non-alcoholic "coffee cocktails," featuring a creative blend of coffee and housemade mixers. The beans are mostly from local roasters, including **Bloom Coffee Co.** in Old Town and **Craft & Mason**. There's also a light menu featuring sandwiches and salads catered by Midtown Brewing Co.

Blue Owl courts early birds and night owls alike — opening at 7 a.m. and staying open until 10 p.m. most days — giving local musicians and poets a new perch from which to hoot. As for that name, it comes from a bizarre dream Berry had.

"There was this blue owl that consumed everything in the world," Berry said. "It ate everything I ever loved, then turned to me and said, 'Are you coming with me or not?' I woke up completely in awe of that dream, and that feeling stuck with me."

Berry said he hopes to become a central part of REO Town's new vitality and is particularly pleased with the warm reception Blue Owl has received in its first week.

"On our first day open, a girl posted a picture of herself with a guy saying 'I think I'm falling in love at a coffee shop, thanks Blue Owl,'" Berry said. "It made me melt. That's exactly the response what I was hoping for."

**Spartan Brewpub (opening later this month)**  
**3056 Okemos Road, Mason**  
**3-11 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; noon-11 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday**  
**(517) 507-5098, spartanbrewpub.com**

**Blue Owl Coffee Co.**  
**1149 S. Washington Ave., Lansing**  
**7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday**  
**facebook.com/miblueowl**

# TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

*Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.*  
*Bon appétit!*

## TOP 5 BAKERIES

### #1 BAKE N' CAKES

"Butter makes it better" at this bakery, known for its cupcakes and specialty desserts  
 3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
 (517) 337-2253  
 bakencakes.com  
 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #2 ROMA BAKERY

City Pulse readers love its baked goods, especially the cannolis  
 428 N. Cedar St., Lansing  
 (517) 485-9466  
 romabakerydeli.com  
 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #3 GLAZED & CONFUSED

Specializing in donuts, this bakery offers unique flavors.  
 (517) 253-7147  
 glazedandconfusedbakery.net  
 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #4 SWEETIE-LICIOUS BAKERY CAFE

This bakery, which specializes in pies, encourages patrons to "eat pie, love life."  
 108 N. Bridge Street, Dewitt  
 (517) 669-9300  
 sweetie-licious.com  
 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #5 GROOVY DONUTS

This bakery bills itself as an old-school and retro donut and coffee shop.  
 313 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston.  
 (517) 996-6300  
 Closed Monday; 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday

# To the earth

## Exploring the world of biodynamic wines

By JUSTIN KING

The pendulum is always swinging. Trends constantly adjust the wine market. Wine styles are so diverse that if you're looking to project trends and make a buck on it, you're fighting an uphill battle.

At your local Meijer or Kroger, you're surrounded by hundreds of very dependable wines, made from wineries owned by enormous companies like Gallo, Constellation, Wine Group, Altria



(fka Philip Morris), Diageo and Trinchero, who collectively dominate the market share. Constellation, especially, often has a "guiding" hand in directing chain store wine offerings.

In order to find an exciting niche, many bored restaurateurs and indie retailers have historically sought out non-corporate wines made by small producers, usually sold in Michigan by boutique-oriented wine distributors. Many of those wines are made in ways that are representative of the land where the grapes come from.

But there is a new wave of producers who make wine a different way. And those wines come with buzzwords like organic, biodynamic, natural wine and sustainable. There are subtle differences between these, and biodynamic wines are often the most puzzling. So let's see what's going on here. Make no mistake, there are great and crap biodynamic wines, just as there are great and crap corporate wines.

As simply as I can state, biodynamic winemaking is a nearly century old philosophy that draws on core organic pillars — not using chemical fertilizers, fungicides, etc. — and incorporating the idea that the vineyard, as a microclimate, always provides the best resources for the produce.

But there's more. Here are some examples of biodynamic preparations:

1. Cow manure is placed in a cow horn and buried in the ground for the winter. (Cowhorn, a biodynamic producer and one

of the best syrah producers on the West Coast, is named after this practice.)

2. Chamomile blossoms are stuffed into cow's intestines, then buried.

I get it if you're like, "Wait ... what?"

Strange as these preparations may seem, more than 700 vineyards are embracing this approach, and many of them are the best in the world, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti being the biggest example.

One of the best deals I've tasted this year is a biodynamic wine. Marcel Lapierre's Raisins Gaulois is all gamay from a 4-acre vineyard in Beaujolais, France. It says "Vin de France" on the front label, because they can't call it Beaujolais anymore. Most of the fruit comes from the village of Morgon, a place that over the last 25 years has an argument for producing the best red wine for the money in the world.

A bit funky, but never tasting "dirty," this wine is tart and savory and will murder expectations if you drink it alongside your favorite smoked meats and cheeses. This is a light red wine that's all about cranberry bogs and raspberry juice. There's a refreshing amount of complexity for a \$15 bottle. If you can't find this wine, head to your trusted retailer and ask for Beaujolais imported by Kermit Lynch.

A steal of a white biodynamic wine is just across the French border in Catalonia, Spain. Celler Credo's Miranius is a unique find. Credo is the non-sparkling wine project of maybe the best Cava producer, Recaredo. Miranius is almost all Xarel-lo, the most important Cava grape, but unlike Cava, there ain't a bubble in this bottle.

Rather, you get a captivatingly complex fruit-and-earth cornucopia for just \$20. Dried flowers, fresh bread, d'Anjou pear and lemon pith seem to be the core flavors. Seriously, if you told me this was a \$50 Burgundy, I would've believed you. It's a stupid great deal.

Reaching for the stars here, we have to look at Germany. Deutschland possesses



Justin King/City Pulse

In the world of biodynamic wines, Marcel Lapierre's Raisins Gaulois is a great value at around \$15 a bottle.

nearly half of the world's biodynamic vineyards. One of the best examples of location specificity is Dr. Bürklin Wolf.

His 2013 Gaisbohl is one of the most dense rieslings I've tasted that doesn't cost north of \$100. This one will cost you around \$50, but its gorgeous fleshy peach, lemon, perfumed jasmine, yellow apple flavors are mouthwatering now and will continue to be in a decade.

From the Pfalz region of Germany, just a half hour drive south of Frankfurt, this wine is maybe the best representation of what dry German riesling can taste like.

Lastly, don't leave the world of biodynamics without drinking Nicolas Joly. The former J.P. Morgan investment banker somehow became an incredible chenin blanc producer. He's been doing this since the early 1980s, and the 2011 Clos de la Coulee de Serrant is at the axis of this movement. Cerebral, lush, weird, fantastic — this is Coulee de Serrant, a speck of a chenin blanc vineyard in the Loire Valley in Savennieres, France. It's worth the money to check out these wines.

It's important to highlight the great biodynamic winemakers and the unique, specific product they put in bottles every year. Blindly featuring biodynamic, natural or organic wines is virtue signaling of the most clichéd kind and serves no heightened service for the consumer. But if you find a shop or restaurant who has your interests in mind, you're likely to find deals from invigorating producers.

Justin King is a certified sommelier and owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails focused restaurant in DeWitt.



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## Palak Paneer — Swagath Indian Cuisine

Since 1919, a certain big-armed cartoon sailor has encouraged Americans to eat their spinach. After sampling Swagath Indian Cuisine's Palak Paneer, I'm encouraging everyone to try this spinach-based dish.

It's a rich green and it's chock full of the cooked, leafy stuff. After one taste of the savory stuff, I knew I'd gladly order it again and again.



On Swagath's menu, Palak Paneer is described as "cubes of homemade cheese in a spinach-based gravy and spices." Paneer is an un-aged curd cheese made by curdling heated milk with a food acid. This restaurant, hidden behind Woody's Oasis on Trowbridge Road, uses vinegar to make its delightfully chewy cubes. It's a diced cheese that does not melt during cooking.

With a bit of investigation, I also found out that the "spices" include cumin, coriander, turmeric, and garam masala, a spicy blend of aromatic Indian spices and chilies. The dish can be ordered mild, medium or hot. I tend to be a medium guy, but Swagath's mild was plenty spicy for me.

The Palak Paneer arrives at your table



Photo by David Winkelstern

in a bowl — no plate could contain the generous green gravy that buries the cheese cubes — and is served with balsamic rice, a seasoned white rice. (Mine came with a cinnamon stick hidden in the fluffy mound.) Mixing the two made for a satiating combination, as the rice calmed the spiciness of the Palak Paneer.

Someone more "manly" than I might not care about lots of spice in his spinach. Clearly, I am no Popeye.

— DAVID WINKELSTERN

### Swagath Indian Cuisine

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. daily  
1060 Trowbridge Road, Suite 3, East Lansing  
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swagathfoods.com

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