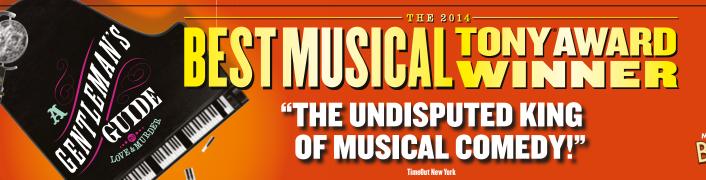




New director Marc-Olivier Wahler shares his vision, p. 9



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Feedback

Gerrymandering in the age of Trump

As your readers might know by now, three federal judges ruled against Wisconsin's Act 43 which redrew voting districts to favor Republicans. They ruled that it was an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander, the first such ruling in three decades of legal battles over the issue. Previously, they have struck it down on racial lines, but not on grounds that it unfairly gave an advantage to a political party.

As Mr. Brown pointed out, Michigan Republicans have benefitted greatly by their gerrymandering. Despite receiving more votes statewide than their Republican opponents, Democrats only won 47 out of 110 state House races. In the Michigan Senate, Republicans hold an overwhelming 27-11 majority. And out of the 14 congressional races, Republicans won 9. Yet in those congressional races, Democrats received about 50,000 more votes of the 3 million cast - a clear indication that the Republicans redrew district lines to their advantage.

(Google a map of Michigan U.S. District 14.)

The League of Women Voters took a stab at changing this situation - to no avail. So it was especially heartening to read of the federal judges' ruling. However, as could be predicted, Wisconsin will appeal this case to the Supreme Court. And guess what? President-elect Trump & his ilk - who denied Obama the right to name a Supreme Court judge - will certainly name one to insure the court keeps Republicans in power in



all the states who have engaged in this power-hungry practice.

Trump's ego/ignorance was again evident last week when he tweeted that people should lose their citizenship for burning the American flag. Even Mitch McConnell - that strident Conservative - took to the media to point out that The Supreme Court previously threw out such a case on the grounds it violated the free speech amendment - and the now deceased Justice Scalia even agreed to that.

We're in for a rough road. Trump is saying he'll be in office for 8 years - and one of the first calls he made upon being elected was to Russian's Putin. Do the two of them know something that would be a frightening prospect to our supposed Democratic voting process?

- Judy Hood Bath

Protest, don't riot

The most popular Republican said - "It is a sin to remain silent when it's your duty to protest." Abraham Lincoln. PROTESTING WILL PROTECT DEMOCRACY RIOTING WILL DE-STROY IT.

Russia won when they interfered with our eletion. In their own words, including their protest in the streets, they want to destroy democracy - starting with America. They want riots to help bring us down - we must NOT RIOT!

But we must protect our democracy by PROTESTING - NOT RIOTING - A **RIGHT AND A DUTY. A RIGHT Russia** does not have.

Give Russia and Trump the symbolic middle finger - DON'T RIOT - DO **PROTEST!**

-V.L. Pentel Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor. E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
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2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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



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Score one big one for Michigan environmentalists



Castro's death shakes up local artist's Cuba trip



Jazz legend Rufus Reid comes to MSU



Photo Courtesy the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum



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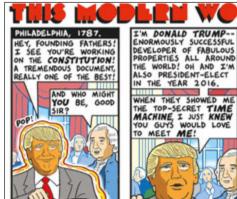
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-THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OUR POSTERITY WILL NEVER EVEN KNOW HOW CLOSE THEY CAME TO UTTER RUINATION!



NEWS & OPINION PULSE

Red Cedar kerfuffle MSU clears Bernero of accepting Rose Bowl tickets from Ferguson

Michigan State University says that romes, declined comment. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero paid for game tickets for himself and his wife to the 2014 Rose Bowl, contradicting a claim in a federal racketeering lawsuit against him and Joel Ferguson, the chairman of the MSU Board of Trustees.

The lawsuit was filed against them in September by Christopher and Leo Jerome, who were originally partners

with Ferguson in the \$380 million Red Cedar Renaissance development project on Michigan Avenue.

"For the 2014 Rose Bowl, I've confirmed Mayor Bernero was sold two tickets via the president's office in the stands," said Jason Cody, an MSU spokesman.

However, the Berneros did receive special treatment. Besides being able to buy tickets through President Lou Anna Simon's office, they were also allowed to visit the MSU suite at dena to witness MSU's 24-20 victory over Stanford University.

Cody said there was no cost to enter the suite to visit trustees and other dignitaries.

In the lawsuit, the Jeromes contend they were improperly cut out of the Red Cedar golf course redevelopment project as a reward from Bernero to Ferguson for political favors. It also alleges Ferguson has paid for numerous other items for both the mayor and his wife.

Ferguson has said he could not work with the Jeromes, which led to their removal.

The federal lawsuit also alleges that Ferguson paid for the Berneros' Rose Bowl trip.

In an emailed statement, Bernero said: "Anyone who claims that Joel Ferguson paid for our trip to the Rose Bowl is mistaken. I paid for it myself as a Christmas gift to my wife," Terri.

Former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, who is representing the Je-

The allegations may be fueled, at least in part, by Ferguson himself.

"He told us he paid for that trip," Lansing City Councilman Jody Washington said, referring to an Oct. 27 meeting with him and Councilwoman Carol Wood on the Red Cedar Renaissance project.

However, Wood could not collaborate Washington's recollection.

failed to report them. He resigned his city position when he was appointed Ingham County register of deeds last year. He was elected to the post in November.

Quinney denied that the gifts were attempts to influence him. He said Ferguson had coached a youth football team he played on and the two had remained lifelong friends.

"If I have to file new information to rectify this, I will," he said.

McIntyre, the former city attorney, had also accepted an undetermined number of tickets from Ferguson, the developer confirmed. However a re-

view of McIntyre's disclosure forms found she failed to disclose the tickets. It is possible she did not receive enough tickets to trigger the \$500 reporting threshold, but Ferguson declined to comment any further.

As a trustee, Ferguson is given tickets to MSU sporting events and the Wharton Center to distribute as he sees fit. The university, in turn, issues 1099 federal income forms to trustees for the face value of the tickets each has received over a year. The trustee is then obligated to pay income tax on the value of the tickets. The only time that does not apply is if the trustee identifies the ticket distribution as a university business

expense, in which case it is not tabulated in the 1099 income document, said Cody.

Cody said in the last three years Ferguson has not claimed any tickets as business expenses and has thus been issued 1099s for the value of the tickets. He declined to disclose how much those tickets were worth.

Ferguson said he does not see what the fuss is about.

"No one feels it but you," Ferguson said Thursday in an interview. "I don't think it moves the needle on anything. I'm not going to discuss any tickets with anyone, 'cause I haven't done anything improper."

Ferguson said "it's on them" - elected and appointed officials - for failing to disclose the tickets.

He said administrators and trust-





Property: State Christmas tree, Lansing

This year's state Christmas tree is perfectly fine, and that's perfectly fine.

The first rule in selecting and decorating a public holiday tree is simple: Don't screw it up. This seems like a low bar to clear — and it is — but you can't take it for granted. Take, for example, 2012's red and green striped debacle, which looked like a turnip dressed in an ill-fitting Christmas sweater.

This year's tree is nicely shaped and tastefully lit. At about 50 feet, it's smaller than normal — most state Christmas trees have clocked in at 60 to 70 feet – and looked fairly unimpressive before it was lit. But now that it's illuminated, the proportion looks perfect in relation to the Capitol dome. And the multi-pointed star at the top of the tree is a nice touch.

This year's tree is a fine holiday adornment to downtown Lansing. Now if only we could get rid of those obnoxious red balls

- Ty Forquer

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lan-singcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.



the Rose Bowl in Pasa- Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero paid for 2014 Rose Bowl tickets for himself and his wife, contradicting a lawsuit that claims otherwise as part of its case against the mayor and developer Joel Ferguson that alleges racketeering connected to the Red Cedar Renaissance project.

> Ferguson denied he'd made such claims.

'Why would I say that?" he asked.

While Ferguson may not have paid for the Berneros' tickets, he has provided MSU sports tickets to other politicians and public officials, apparently at his own expense. In doing so, he has apparently done nothing illegal or unethical by MSU standards.

But that may not be true of at least two recipients, Derrick Quinney and Janene McIntyre. Both were city officials when Ferguson gave them tickets, but neither reported the tickets on annual disclosure forms, as required by the City Charter.

Quinney, who served on the Lansing City Council as an At-Large member from 2007 until 2015, confirmed he accepted tickets to sporting events from Ferguson and that he

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LETTING OF DRAIN CONTRACT, DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick E. Lindemann

BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER DRAIN

LETTING OF DRAIN CONTRACT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, will receive sealed construction bids on **Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, until 10:00 a.m. local time**. Bids will be opened and publicly announced at 10:00 a.m. for the construction, maintenance and improvement of a certain drain known and designated as the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain, located and established in Alaiedon Township and Delhi Charter Township in said County. Bids must be delivered to 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854 within the timeframes listed above in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

The Drain project consists of installation of an enclosed storm sewer, open channel excavation, drainage structures, culverts, a storm water quality structure, site clearing and gravel road construction work. The construction, maintenance and improvement of said Drain is described as follows, each section having the length, average depth and width as set forth:

Containing three (3) sections total having a length, average depth and width of: 402 ft long, 1.25 ft deep, and 18 ft wide; 1,445 ft long, 6.4 ft average depth, and 4 ft wide trench (enclosed drain); 190 ft long, 2.5 ft average depth, and 3 ft bottom width.

In the construction, maintenance and improvement of said Drain, the project consists of furnishing all supplies and installation and construction of the following estimated quantities for major items of work and character of tile or pipe, with appurtenances, and the contract let for the same. The following quantities are approximate and final payment will be made on the measured quantities.

1,237 feet of new drain construction and 313 feet of drain regrading

438 feet of channel excavation including 450 cubic yards of embankment (fill) for proper drainage

Installation of eleven (11) drainage structures ranging from 18-inch diameter to 84-inch diameter, including one (1) Control Structure and one (1) Stormceptor STC 1200

Installation of 1,469 feet of 24-inch, class IV storm sewer

Replacement of the existing two-track access drive with a 20' wide fire access drive with a variable right shoulder

Plans and Bidding Documents are on file and may be examined beginning on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. local time at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854. Bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications at NO COST may do so by registering as a planholder with Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., over the phone at (586) 726-1234 and obtaining download instructions.

For bidders wishing to purchase hard copies of the Plans and Specifications, these may be obtained from the office of Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., 51301 Schoenherr Road, Shelby Township, Michigan 48315. A fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) will be required for each set of proposed plans and specifications and will not be refunded. A mailing fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) to cover handling and postage will be charged to anyone wishing to receive the plans and specifications via United Parcel Service (UPS).

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at the gravel access drive located south of Harper Road just east of 3345 Harper Road in Mason, Michigan. Representatives of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be present to discuss the contract. Prospective Bidders are required to attend and participate in the pre-bid conference. All prospective Bidders must sign in by name of attendee, business represented, and email address. Prospective Bidders who fail to attend and register at the pre-bid conference will be considered nonresponsive and will be disqualified from bidding on the Contract. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

This Contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents now on file in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and available to interested parties. Bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents. A contract will be made with the lowest responsible Bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work. I reserve the right to reject any and all bids, and to adjourn such bid letting to such time and place as I shall publicly announce.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively.

The date for the substantial completion of the Contract is 120 days after the notice to proceed with final completion by 150 days after the notice to proceed. The terms of payment are contained in the contract specifications. Any responsible person wanting to bid on the above-mentioned work will be required to deposit bid security in the amount specified in the bidding documents as a guarantee that they will enter into a contract and furnish the required bonds as prescribed by the contract specifications and applicable law. All bids shall remain open for ninety (90) days after the day of the bid opening, but I reserve the right at my sole discretion to release any bid and bid security before that date.

DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017**, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries for one day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854 or at such other time and place to which I may adjourn. At that time and place, I will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands comprising the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain Drainage District, and determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefited by the Drain and is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended. The Drain is located and established in Sections 30 and 31 of Alaiedon Township, T.3N.-R.1W.; and Sections 25 and 36 of Delhi Charter Township, T.3N.-R.2W.; in Ingham County, Michigan. The lands to be added are located in Section 31 in Alaiedon Township and are a portion of the following parcels:

33-06-06-31-352-003 33-06-06-31-37	7-001
33-06-06-31-352-004 33-06-06-31-37	7-002
33-06-06-31-352-011 33-06-06-31-37	
33-06-06-31-377-004 33-06-06-31-40	
33-06-06-31-377-005	0 041

The lands to be removed are located in Section 31 in Alaiedon Township and are a portion of the following parcels:

33-06-06-31-352-001	33-06-06-31-352-011
33-06-06-31-352-002	33-06-06-31-352-012
33-06-06-31-352-003	33-06-06-31-352-013
33-06-06-31-352-005	33-06-06-31-352-014
33-06-06-31-352-006	33-06-06-31-352-018
33-06-06-31-352-007	33-06-06-31-352-019
33-06-06-31-352-008	

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decision of the Drain Commissioner to add or delete lands from the Drainage District may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the decision.

DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN, that on **Tuesday**, **January 10**, **2017**, the apportionments for benefits to the lands comprised within the "Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain Special Assessment District" will be subject to review for one day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, or at such time and place to which I may adjourn. At the meeting to review the apportionment of benefits, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review. At said review, the computation of costs for construction, maintenance and improvement of the Drain will also be open for inspection by any interested parties.

Continued on Page 7

Tickets

from page 5

ees pass out tickets to various sporting events "all the time." He noted that on any given home game, many lawmakers have taken free tickets, including the

governor and attorney general as well as senators and representatives. There is no state law requiring disclosure of these gifts to state lawmakers, who appropriate the university's budget.

"It's a non-issue.

It's a non-event. We

Continued from page 6

do it openly," Ferguson said. When asked why MSU officials had not released the list of recipients, even though it had been requested, he said officials were "offended" by the questions.

Keith Kris, chairman of the Lansing Board of Ethics, said he was surprised to learn that Quinney had failed to disclose the gifts. The board's authority is limited, however, he said.

"We cannot instigate investigations," he said. "We rely on citizen complaints



and reports in the media to do that." He noted that the board started such

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an inquiry into interim City Attorney Joseph Abood earlier this year, but reluctantly dropped it when he was not forwarded as the final selection for the post. Abood came under scrutiny when City Pulse reported he was supervising his own daughter as an employee in the

> City Attorney's Office and that his former family law firm was a preferred outside legal counsel provider for the city. His disclosure form when he was appointed to the interim post showed he was receiving residual payments from

"Some of us were very, very troubled

the firm.

by that," Kris said. "But once he was not the interim, nor the city attorney, we did not have the ability to continue. Many of us believed it was unfair that some city employees, like police officers, have to disclose any outside income source, while others don't."

— Todd Heywood

Red Cedar project County door cracks open again on infrastructure bonds

A controversial proposal for Ingham County to issue millions of dollars in bonds to fund the public infrastructure for the \$380 million Red Cedar Renaissance project may get new life.

That's despite an October letter to Lansing Economic Area Partnership leaders from Ingham County Controller Tim Dolehanty that effectively declared the deal dead. But Lansing developer Joel Ferguson has released a legal opinion that contradicts the findings of Ingham County's attorney regarding whether new property taxes could be appealed thus impacting bond repayments — after the development was completed. Ferguson also held out a carrot, offering to sign an agreement that his company would pay off any bond revenue shortfalls on the project.

"I was not aware of the developer's position regarding bond repayment shortfalls," Dolehanty wrote in an email to City Pulse Monday. "Mindful that no formal proposal has been presented, I remain willing to consider any viable plan brought before the County."

Under the proposal, originally floated in May by LEAP officials, the county would issue up to \$45 million in publicly backed bonds to fund the building of infrastructure to raise any development at the former Red Cedar Golf Course on Michigan Avenue out of the floodplain. The bonds would be repaid by the developers as part of a tax capture involved in development-related incentives and agreements.

Economic development officials floated the bond idea with county officials in May because the county had a better credit rating than the city. A lower credit rating would save millions in interest payments, Robert Trezise Jr., president and CEO of LEAP, said in May.

In October, Dolehanty, who is also the county administrator, sent a letter to development officials announcing that he could "not propose a favorable recommendation for county participation in infrastructure funding." The reason? The county's attorney had determined it would be impossible to hold developers to an agreement that would prevent them from appealing any new tax assessments. He said a legal review found such restrictions would "run afoul" of the state and federal constitutions.

Five business days later, however, Ferguson obtained a legal opinion from Honigman law firm attorney John Pirich that argued that was inaccurate.

See Red Cedar, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the special assessment district for the BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER DRAIN or any city, village, township, or county aggrieved by the tentative apportionment of benefits made by the Drain Commissioner may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) calendar days after the day of review of apportionments by making an application to the Ingham County Probate Court for appointment of a Board of Review.

Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the landowner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to-date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

The following is a condensed description of the land constituting the "Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain Special Assessment District." The description of area that is served by the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain consists of lands situated in Sections 30 and 31 of Alaiedon Township, T3N, R1W; and Sections 25 and 36 of Delhi Charter Township, T3N, R2W; in Ingham County, Michigan.

 Section 30:
 SW ¼; W ½ of the SE ¼

 Section 31:
 NW ¼; W ½ of the NE ¼; NW ¼ of the SE ¼; SW ¼

 DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP (T3N, R2W)

 Section 25:
 E ½ of the SE ¼

 Section 36:
 NE ¼ of the SE ¼; E ½ of the NE ¼

In addition to the parcels and tracts of land listed above, the County of Ingham, Alaiedon Township, Delhi Charter Township, and the Michigan Department of Transportation for benefit to state highways, will be specially assessed at-large for benefits in the construction, maintenance and improvement of the Drain.

NOW THEREFORE, all unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above-described special assessment district, and you:

Clerk of Ingham County; Chair of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners; Supervisor of Alaiedon Township; Supervisor of Delhi Charter Township; Managing Director of the Ingham County Road Department Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation

are hereby notified that at the time and place aforesaid, or at such time and place thereafter to which said bid letting may be adjourned, I shall proceed to receive bids for the construction, maintenance and improvement of the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain, in the manner hereinbefore stated; and, also, that at such time and place as stated above from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the apportionment of benefits and the lands comprised within the Blue-Spotted Salamander Drain Drainage District special assessment district will be subject to review;

AND YOU AND EACH OF YOU, owners, municipalities, and persons interested in the aforesaid lands, are hereby cited to appear at the time and place of such reviewing of the drainage district boundaries and apportionments as aforesaid, and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation thereto, if you so desire.

This notice is pursuant to Sections 154 and 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, and Act 162 of the Public Acts of 1962.

Proceedings conducted at the pre-bid conference, bid opening, day of review of drainage district boundaries, and day of review of apportionments are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: November 28, 2016

Patrick E. Lindemann Ingham County Drain Commissioner 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854

Red Cedar

from page 7

Any agreement restricting property value appeals "would run with the land and be binding upon each and every subsequent fee owner of the TIF (Tax Increment Finance) Property," Pirich wrote.

Dolehanty said he was unaware of the memo.

"I would need to review the content of the memorandum to determine its impact on positions taken in my Aug. 12 communication to the Board of Commissioners," he said in email responses to questions Monday. "Positions expressed at that time were founded in part on research conducted by our corporation counsel."

The development would bring two hotels, retail space, housing and a Sparrow Health System facility to a key location along the Michigan Avenue corridor. But in order to build on the property, Ferguson said it was necessary for three-story-high plinths to be built. A plinth essentially is a solid surface that lifts any development out of the floodplain. Those could cost as much as \$45 million.

Without them, Ferguson said, the property is worth "zero" because it can't be developed.

County officials had sought, among other things, evidence that businesses had committed to locating to the development and that financing was available. They also asked for an independent study on the economic impact the development would have on the region. Ferguson said last week the economic impact study is in the final phases and could be released in weeks. He declined to provide a specific deadline, noting that "things can change."

"Upon the county's decline of interest in the project, LEAP has not been involved in the developer's possible interaction with the county as far as bonding goes," Trezise said in an email statement Tuesday. "We will cross that bridge if and when we get there."

Trezise said they continue to do their "due diligence" in vetting the proposal and funding.

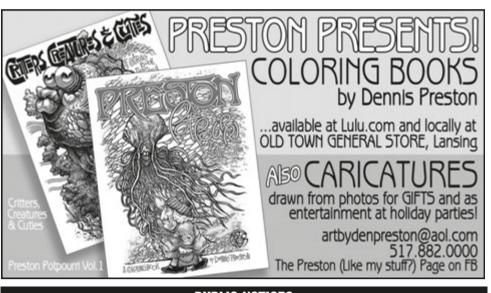
Thomas Morgan, a member of the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, which would have to approve tax incentives for the development, said he didn't think the proposal was completely dead, even after Dolehanty's letter.

But he said before he would vote to approve bonds issued with the county's backing, he'd like to see four specific things. He wants to see the Honigman memo reviewed by the county attorney, a solid legal agreement requiring the developers to guarantee payment in the event of bond repayment shortfalls, an independent economic impact study and assurances that jobs on the development's construction will go to local laborers.

He was clear that Ferguson has a proven track record of providing union jobs, but he still wants "the assurance."

"It's not dead," Morgan said of the proposal, "but the priest is at the door."

— Todd Heywood ___/__



PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1205

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Section 1460.44; Subsection (E) of Chapter 1460 to provide documentation required to be filed with the Office of Code Compliance and City Assessor for verification of ownership for rental registration purposes.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk

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CP#16-273

Energy deal in sight

Amid anxiety over Trump's clean energy direction, Michigan lawmakers offer surprising relief

Believe it or not, the Republican-dominated Legislature is giving hope to clean-energy advocates who are anxious

Analysis about the direction our climatedenying president-elect could take the country on energy policy.

While Donald Trump may do his best to defund advanced energy research, attempt naively to bring back coal jobs, rubber stamp oil pipelines and dismantle the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, a different narrative is playing out nationally that suggests states will be the ones carrying the clean energy torch. The Michigan Legislature is proving to be an interesting case in point.

With fewer than 10 session days remaining in this year's lame-duck session, lawmakers are close to reaching a deal on a sweeping package that extends Michigan's clean-energy standards until 2021 — an unlikely proposition, given Republicans' dogmatic opposition to government mandates.

Even this year, key Republicans steering energy policy stated their opposition to the Granholm-era renewable energy and efficiency standards. But clean energy has emerged as a bargaining chip, a way to gain support from Democrats as Republicans fight among themselves over the separate issue of electric choice. The two Republicansponsored energy bills are truly bipartisan: 10 of the 11 Senate Democrats joined a majority of Republicans in passing them on Nov. 10. A similar coalition is expected as the House takes up SBs 437 and 438 over the next week. Gov. Rick Snyder supports the Senate bills.

State lawmakers have spent roughly two years crafting energy reform as the state's 2008 renewable energy law leveled off at the end of 2015. The 10 percent renewable energy requirement has remained in place since that time. While not required by law, lawmakers saw the leveling-off as an opportunity to revisit Michigan's energy policy.

The proposals would extend the renewable standard to 15 percent by 2021, with an interim goal of 12.5 percent by 2019. They also hold the efficiency standard — which requires utility spending on energy efficiency programs — in place through 2020. A Michigan Public Service Commission report issued on Nov. 30 showed that every dollar utilities spent on efficiency in 2015 provided \$4.35 in benefits. Meanwhile, renewable energy costs continue dropping, and maintaining the standards sends a clear signal for potential investment in the state.

But clearly, 15 percent by 2021 is a floor and an easily reachable target for Michigan utilities, which have exceeded the 10 percent target. The Lansing Board of Water & Light, for example, is aiming for 40 percent clean energy by 2030, made up of more wind, solar and energy efficiency. A northern Michigan electric cooperative will soon hit 30 percent, thanks to a large wind portfolio. Minnesota, by comparison, already gets 21 percent of its energy from renewables as part of a 25 percent by 2025 mandate.

Tea party and free-market advocates like Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy want lawmakers to reject the "Granholm-era" clean energy mandates, even though they've proven to hedge against ever-increasing electric rates and bring investment to Michigan. Glenn is vice chairman of the House Energy Policy Committee and could very well become chairman next session.

Glenn's coalition represents the opposition on another front of the debate involving changes to Michigan's "electric choice" market.

Since 2008, state law has allowed up to 10 percent of a utility's load to shop for cheaper electricity from alternative suppliers on the open market. School districts and businesses around the state have testified that this has saved them hundreds of thousands of dollars on electric bills.

Fearing an energy supply shortfall as coal plants close, state lawmakers have proposed changes to electric choice that, while maintaining the 10 percent cap, would create new rules and costs to maintain grid reliability for those in the program. Glenn and company say this will effectively kill electric choice through attrition, an affront to their free market beliefs and thus the source of strong infighting within the GOP caucus.

While Glenn advocates a wait-and-seewhat-Trump-will-do approach after two years, most lawmakers and the administration want this debate to end. Key to that is offering Democrats something they can support, like a higher renewable energy standard. While environmental groups — who don't particularly focus on electric choice say the state could certainly go higher, they also understand the political reality in Lansing. The Michigan Environmental Council, for example, supports the Senate-passed bills.

One sticking point remains, though, over provisions that could place onerous fees on ratepayers who install their own generation and sell it back to the grid, most often with solar panels. Democrats, including Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, hope the existing program is held in place as it matures in the coming years.

Throughout the process, some have rightly criticized the proposals as a giveaway to major investor-owned utilities, which have considerable sway among Lansing lawmakers and donate to nearly every single member of the Legislature. That may still be true, but the clean-energy sector would fare better under the latest proposal than it had at the outset — a hope for certainty in an otherwise uncertain energy future.

– Andy Balaskovitz

INSIDE - AND OUTSIDE THE SILVER BOX Marc-Olivier Wahler shares his vision for MSU's Broad Art Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Designer birdhouses, punk rock, luminescent organisms, rare isotopes, worm eating and virtual reality are a few of the sugarplums dancing in the head of Marc-Olivier Wahler, the new director of Michigan State University's Broad Art Museum.

Since Wahler took over as director in July, he has been quietly surveying the scene and plotting a comprehensive program of new exhibits, events and projects that will roll out in April.

Wahler sat down with City Pulse Nov. 17 to share some of these plans and talk about his overall vision for the Broad.

"Our main focus is to think about the museum of the future," Wahler said. "We don't have answers, but we are testing things like a research lab."

Hardware and software

Wahler's boldest gambit will be to push art out of the Broad's iconic silver grillwork until it oozes across MSU, through the surrounding community and into parts unknown.

"Instead of telling people, 'Please come to our museum,' we go to them," Wahler said.

The most conspicuous - and fun part of Wahler's outreach plan is to enlist 50 of the world's top architects to design birdhouses and place them throughout MSU and the surrounding community this spring. He also plans to put an outdoor "museum of mobiles" in a highly visible spot outside the Broad Museum.

Wahler also plans to open two new spaces tied to the Broad Art Museum, both of them within walking distance across Grand River Avenue in East Lansing. One space will be devoted "90 percent" to art from the former Kresge Art Museum, which has mostly languished in storage since the Broad opened in 2012. (See related story on page 10 for more details.) The other space will showcase young artists and host various art-related activities.

The outreach will go even further, beyond the physical world. In the spring of 2017, the Broad will add a "virtual third floor" full of digital art, accessible only on computer screens.

See lansingcitypulse.com for a full-length interview with Broad Museum director Marc-Olivier Wahler.

Photo Courtesy the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum Newly minted Broad Museum director Marc-Olivier Wahler will roll out a comprehensive program of new exhibits and projects that reach far outside the museum walls, beginning in April 2017.

"We will work with an architect as if we really are building a new space," Wahler said. "Once he builds the space, we (will) Zaha box. invite artists to intervene in this space

with its constraints." All these plans, especially the virtual addition, confront or transcend the Broad's most obvious asset - its angular, cutlery-shelled building, designed by Zaha Hadid. As the Broad enters its fifth year, the shock and awe of the stainless

steel shark is wearing off, and Wahler feels that it's time to think outside of the

"If you're talking in the language of computers, we focus on the software," Wahler said. "We want the software to operate on this platform" - he pointed to the silver-winged museum shell outside his office window — "but we want it to operate everywhere, international, regional."

After living with the building for a few

months, Wahler has come to view it as a mixed blessing.

"I find that it scares people," he said. "It's very intimidating, which I can understand. Our effort is to propose things where people realize (that) it might be scary, but it's a challenge they want to tackle. Once we are in, we discover things that are amazing."

Habitat for humans

Another linchpin of Wahler's plan is to make the Broad itself more desirable as a "habitat" for humans.

To that end, more varied and experimental food, including a menu of "nutrition of the future," will be added to the Starbucks café. The café will also house a huge vending machine with 3D printing capability -Wahler called it a "supermachine" - designed by artists and engineers at MSU.

Inside the galleries, a series of new exhibits will blur the boundaries between art and reality. Wahler is eager to fuse cutting-edge MSU research, especially in science, with art and see what kind of combustion takes place.

He has already invited Swiss artist Gianni Motti to collaborate with physicists from MSU's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. Another artist is working with MSU scientists on a project involving fireflies, crickets and bioluminescent bacteria.

At Wahler's behest, a curator from Mexico visited MSU in the fall and met with the food service department, entomologists and the Bug House "to see if we can invite a chef from Mexico City specializing in Mayan food, which is bugs and worms, and see how we can collaborate."

It's a trick

Even the more traditional exhibits inside the museum will run a wide gamut.

The Broad's first big show in April, "The Transported Man," will include over 50 artists ranging from the Renaissance to today. The show is based on the phases of a magic trick: an object appears, disappears and reappears.

"What you see first when you see a painting is pigment on canvas, disappearing in front of your eyes and reappearing as an artwork," Wahler said.

Exposing the trickery of art, and freeing the viewer from an imposed hierarchy of interpretation, is a key part of Wahler's approach.



Courtesy Photo

Wahler

from page 9

"Boundaries between disciplines and ways of seeing things are blurring," he said. "The time is coming where we are going to be ready to see things in between artworks and only objects. We'll be able to move the cursor close to 'artwork' or close to 'only object."

Other shows Wahler has planned for the Broad will further muddy up the mystique of art and art experts. A big show set for next year will feature two artists from Michigan, Jim Shaw and Mike Kelley, co-founders of 1970s punk band Destroy All Monsters. The show will not only include their "New Pathetic" art, created largely from everyday found objects, but also many of the things they collected and punk memorabilia from their Michigan period.

Further into 2017 and 2018, Wahler plans to exhibit the work of important international artists who have never had a retrospective in the United States, like Roman Signer, a Swiss visual artist known for "action sculptures" that use everyday objects, Steven Parrino, a New York artist known for twisted and torn paintings with a nihilist sensibility, Paris-based conceptual artist Michel Parmentier and French visual artist Tatiana Trouvé.

Along with the bigger shows, exhibits featuring video art and emerging artists will rotate as quickly as every month, generating a "fast-paced, different type of rhythm." Wahler hopes that a whirlwind of stimuli circulating inside and outside the museum will help overcome the Broad's intimidation factor and sweep curious visitors inside.

"It's like a house," Wahler said. "Instead of having one big entrance, so big it's intimidating, with a huge stairway, you can go around the house and have every type of entrance — doors, windows, whatever is good. And once you're in the house, it's yours."



Courtesy Photo Next year, the Broad Museum will grow a virtual "third floor," seed the city with designer birdhouses and open new spaces across Grand River where historic art from the former Kresge Art Museum and work by emerging artists will be featured.

Mental hygiene

When Wahler isn't plotting to permeate the world with art, he's working on his fixer-upper house in East Lansing, which will soon house his collection of cowboy boots and Moto-bikes.

He dryly noted a pattern in the timing of his moves to the United States.

The last time he moved from Europe to the United States, in 2000, was to direct the Swiss Institute in New York, a cuttingedge contemporary arts center, after five years running an art center in his small home town of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

"When I arrived in summer, Clinton was president," he said. "A few months later, Bush was elected. Now it's changing to something else."

The 2016 election caused soul-searching in some art circles, but Wahler is a philosopher. He has his eye trained on a longer horizon.

On Nov. 17, the day we talked, the New York Times ran a story about the run-up to New York's Whitney biennial. Scott Rothkopf, the biennial's chief curator, said the bitter election prompted "questioning" and influenced the curators' choice of 63

See Wahler, Page 11

Courtesy Photo

Exhibits in the works at the Broad include a massive group show involving over 50 artists, collaborations with MSU scientists at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams and other fields of research, and a collection of art and memorabilia from former Michigan punk rockers turned artists.



MSU's Kresge Art Museum was founded in 1959 and closed in July 2011, a year before the Broad Art Museum opened.

Unearthing a *'pillar'*

Broad Museum seeks new home for Kresge collection

Michigan State University's Broad Art Museum is planning to lease a space across Grand River Avenue where it will showcase art from the former Kresge Art Museum, the Broad's new director, Marc-Olivier Wahler, said in an interview with City Pulse Nov. 17.

Wahler called the former Kresge collection "a pillar of the museum." He hopes to secure the space in 2017 "if all goes well." He didn't say how large the space would be and offered no more specific details, but he described the project as "very real."

"We want to open across the street with a new space where we can show this important collection," Wahler said.

The proposed new space not only has the potential to park historic works of art among the burger joints and comic book stores of Grand River Avenue's commercial strip, it would further one of Wahler's top priorities as he begins to make his mark on the Broad: extending the museum's reach into the surrounding community. (For more of Wahler's plans for the Broad, see related story, page 9.)

It might also heal a lingering sore spot left by the Broad's handling of the Kresge collection.

"We could attract again people who have been bitter about having donated work to the Kresge and then learning their donation is going into storage," Wahler said.

The new space may contain some contemporary art but would be "90 percent" art from the former Kresge collection, Wahler said.

"We want to engage all these people who were active with the Kresge," he said. "It's a very concrete plan. It's just a question of raising money."

The Kresge Art Museum closed its doors in July 2011, just before the Broad Art Mu-

seum, devoted to the contemporary art favored by major donor Eli Broad, opened in November 2012. By that time, the Kresge had amassed about 7,500 works of art, from Greek and Roman artifacts to Islamic manuscripts to European portraits and landscapes, as well as works by 20th century artists such as Alexander Calder and Salvador Dali.

Wahler said the former Kresge collection is part of what makes the Broad Museum a genuine museum, as opposed to an art center with rotating exhibits.

"An art center is more on the horizontal dynamic, but a museum is more on the vertical — it has roots," Wahler said. "It's very important to give this verticality of thoughts. We have a fantastic collection."

Ironically, the Broad Museum juggernaut would never have rolled over the Kresge in the first place if it hadn't been for the Kresge's passionate friends network.

Plans for a new art museum at MSU go back to 1987, but Kresge supporters' goal, well into the construction phase of the Broad Museum, was to get more room to display the cramped Kresge collection, not less.

In 2003, a fundraising group, Better Art Museum, and the Friends of Kresge unveiled plans to quadruple the Kresge's space and renovate the building.

"The quality of the collection has always far outclassed the facility that housed it," former Kresge Art Museum director Susan Bandes said in 2003.

Besides the more well-known names, Kresge was home to exotic gems such as a 12th century Chinese tiger pillow (the finest in the West, according to the museum plaque), an ancient Roman mosaic floor, a sculpture by Auguste Rodin, a box by Joseph Cornell, a 17th century oil portrait of St. Anthony of Padua and many works from the mid-20th century.

"If the exhibit can be faulted, it's for an extra-artistic reason — the inadequacy of the exhibition galleries," art critic Roger Green said in 2003. "The burgeoning art collection deserves a proper home."

To its ultimate regret, the Better Art Museum group asked billionaire MSU alumnus

Kresge

from page 10

Eli Broad for help with the expansion and took him on a personal tour of the Kresge in 2004. Unimpressed by the building, the collection and its obscure location in the middle of campus, Broad said he wasn't interested in expanding the Kresge. Instead, he offered a more "transformative" gift: \$26 million, later beefed up to \$28 million, the largest gift in the university's history, for a whole new museum, designed by one of the world's top architects.

But Broad wanted the new museum to be devoted to his own passion, contemporary art.

At first, Kresge donors and support groups welcomed the advent of the Broad. Better Art Museum even continued its long series of fundraisers and gave the money to the Broad Art Museum fund, hoping the new museum would accommodate Kresge's art.

In a 2007 statement, Bandes said she was delighted with the Broad gift, and predicted the new museum would be "a fitting home for the display, interaction with and contemplation of works of art in the university's collection and in special exhibitions."

The last Friends of Kresge booklet, published in 2010, clung to the same hope: "The arts community and art museum friends look forward to realizing their long held ambitions for exhibitions and display space."

A source close to the Kresge, who asked not to be named, said that early designs for the Broad Art Museum included gallery space set aside for the Kresge collection, but the space disappeared in later drafts.

After the Broad opened, university officials kept insisting that the Kresge collection had not been deep-sixed but merely become a part of the Broad Art Museum.

Selected Kresge items did see sunlight at the Broad, as when landscapes from the Kresge collection were juxtaposed with artist Trevor Paglen's exhibit critiquing the modern surveillance state. But the connections between old and new often came off as strained at best and a sop to Kresge supporters at worst. Bringing isolated artworks upstairs to "contextualize" Broad exhibits was not what Kresge's donors and friends had in mind.

University officials, including Linda Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services, never made it clear why the Kresge had to die in order for the Broad to live. But the Broad's first director, Michael Rush, came close to identifying Eli Broad's fingerprints in a 2012 interview with City Pulse.

"When you have philanthropists entering the situation at that level of giving, which is extraordinary, and it is the donor intent for the museum to be a contemporary one, then that is what we embrace," Rush said.

Rush died in 2015. Wahler, his successor, surveyed the Broad's assets after arriving in East Lansing in July 2016 and decided it was time to take better advantage of a neglected asset.



Courtesy Photo

Salvador Dali's "Remorse, or Sphinx Hidden in the Sand" is one of about 7,500 Kresge artworks inherited by the Broad Art Museum.

"It's a university museum," Wahler said. "This collection is made for students, for research and for the community. For me, this is crucial. It's not only an arts center where we do activities. This collection is a pillar of the museum."

Wahler

from page 10

artists for the event, which opens March 17. "The discourse turns to who we are as a nation," Rothkopf said.

Wahler said "it's hard to tell" what effect the 2016 election would, or should, have on the Broad.

"We have to be careful with art, especially contemporary art," he said. "Where contemporary art, and art in general, can have a real impact is in developing your own way of seeing things without all this pressure of the media."

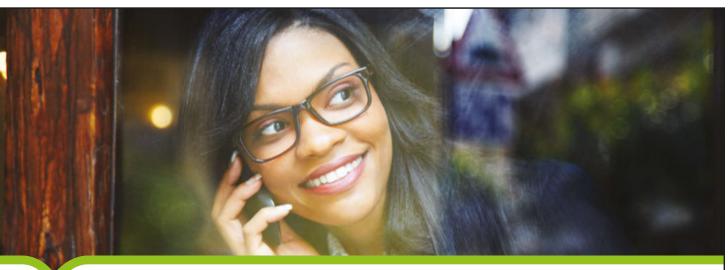
Wahler is on a quest he admits is "almost impossible" — to provide a space where the viewer has complete freedom of thought. Letting the viewer in on the "trick" of art in "The Transformed Man" will be his first turn of the key. "If you could really see a thing for what it is, then reality can stay reality, without all the filters that are imposed by our society, our ethic, our sociology, our politics," he said.

Wahler called art "a form of mental hygiene."

"It's what makes you an adult, in a way," he said. "You make your own interpretation, your own way of seeing things."

Wahler and his staff are more than happy to offer information and guidance and provide as many "keys" to the house as possible. But once inside the house of art, the freedom of the viewer is almost sacred to him.

"The same object will have thousands and thousands of different owners," he said. "That's fantastic. That's what art teaches us, and that's why, especially nowadays, in our society, art is so important. I'm convinced that if everyone embraced what art proposes, we wouldn't be in this situation."



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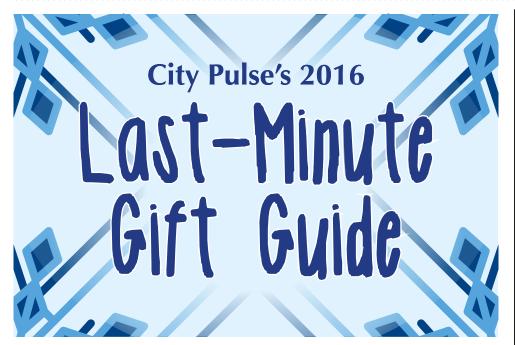
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ARTS & CULTURE





After Fidel Castro's death, Miami celebrates, Havana carries on

By TY FORQUER

When Dan Nuñez planned his trip to Cuba, he expected to learn more about the island's political history. He didn't expect to experience it firsthand.

Nuñez, 32, was hanging out at a Cuban discotheque just after midnight on Nov. 25 when news broke that Fidel Castro had died.

"Two men in uniform came in — not full military garb, just the blue shirts I learned to associate with people who have a little authority — and they made a beeline for the DJ booth, and the music cut out," Nuñez said. "A guy took the microphone and said, 'El Presidente se murio' (the president died), and then said that they were closing the discotheque out of respect."

The lights went on and they were ushered toward the exit.

The Lansing-based artist was visiting Cuba with his parents, who had emigrated to the U.S. over 50 years ago. They were scheduled to fly back to Miami the next day, and Nuñez was worried about how the news would impact the country. At that point, he wasn't even sure which Castro had died.

"I was terrified it might be Raúl," Nu-



While Cuba's historic Old Havana district is well maintained, poverty-stricken neighborhoods lie just off the beaten path.

ñez said, referring to Raúl Castro, Fidel's brother, who has been running the country since 2006. "I began to freak out immediately, because I remember all these stories my parents have told me. Leaving Cuba is not a given."

His first instinct was to stock up on food from a snack bar. Next, he picked up an Internet card from the resort lobby. There is only one Internet service provider in Cuba, and most people connect to the Internet with pre-paid, one-hour access cards. Back in his hotel room, Nuñez was able to get online and piece together what had happened.

"I saw that it was Fidel who died," he said. He turned on the TV and watched the state media's three-hour propaganda reel until 4 in the morning.

The next morning, Nuñez broke the news to his parents, and the three took an awkward, mostly silent taxi ride from the resort in Varadero to the airport in Havana. Nuñez was surprised to find that the capital city seemed largely unfazed by the news.

"I didn't see a bunch of people dancing or a bunch of people grieving. It was a bunch of people doing what they've been

doing," Nuñez said. "It was business as usual. You wouldn't have known, except that every television was running the propaganda

loop." The family boarded their flight to Miami without incident, and a very different scene greeted them when they landed. Castro's death won't have much immediate effect on the country's political situation, but the demise of a dictator who drove thousands of Cubans out of the country was big news



Photo courtesy Dan Nuñez

Cuban immigrants Margarita Sanchez (left) and Antonio Nuñez (center) were in Cuba with their son, Dan (right), when Fidel Castro died. The couple had not been back to the country since they fled the communist revolution in the early 1960s.

among émigrés in the United States.

"In Miami, where people like my family had to give up everything and start over, they were dancing in the street," Nuñez said. "I went to Calle Ocho, which is basically a Cuban town, and they shut down the street. There were more flags than I have ever seen. It was spontaneous and beautiful. There was this catharsis that was palpable, that was 50 years in the making."

Nuñez's parents, like many Cuban immigrants, fled to the U.S. in the early 1960s to escape Castro's revolution.

"When my parents emigrated, it was legal, but it was crazy," Nuñez said. "My grandparents were doing well before the revolution. When a communist revolution takes place, if you're doing well, that's not a great place to be."

Nuñez's parents, Antonio Nuñez and Margarita Sanchez, both 68, grew up near each other but did not know each other before coming to the United States. They were sent to the U.S. alone as children. Their parents remained in Cuba, thinking that the revolution would soon be quashed by the U.S. and that they would be able to return. Sanchez, 12 at the time, landed in an orphanage in Philadelphia, while Nuñez, then 14, moved in with some relatives in Miami who were not thrilled to have another child to look after.

Sanchez eventually moved to Miami, where she met Nuñez. They both graduated from Florida State University, he with a doctorate in neuroscience and she with a master's degree in social work. They married in 1977. Nuñez is associate dean at Michigan State University's graduate school, while Sanchez is a retired social worker.

See Cuba, Page 18

Taking the country Bach

Lincoln Center dispatches small army on epic Brandenburg binge **By LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

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If this sounds like too much of a good thing, think again. This ambrosia fills your soul, not your gut. Besides, no two concertos are scored the same way.

The first is a pink, frosty sunrise, with noble brass fanfares lighting up every hill and valley.

Just for fun, music's all-time master craftsman takes the celestial spheres apart, popping open each layer to reveal the vari-

Center comes to the Wharton Center Thursday for a rare



ous pulsations underneath.

Photo by Tristan Cook

The Chamber Music

Society of Lincoln

The second concerto is a twirly frolic in which every bar hits like the first sip of morning coffee. The third chugs like a locomotive stoked by angels on tracks of pure geometry.

The fourth moves the party into fluffy clouds, drizzled with woodwinds, with a cherub on top. In the fifth, a philosophical conversation builds to an epic keyboard solo that makes you want to hold your lighter up.

To finish you off in the bottom of the sixth, the strings bear down with a vigorous, warm massage.

Sussman summed it up as "fitting, festive music for the end of the year."

He's played the complete cycle with the Chamber Music Society in New York several times, but this is his first Brandenburg tour.

The tour crams nine dates into two weeks. That's a lot of time to spend in one man's brain - nine times six equals 45 concertos - but Sussman is raring to go. Even colleagues who have been playing these masterpieces over 30 years feel the same way, he reported.

"Bach, more so than every other great composer - I don't think it's possible to gettired of it," Sussman said. "There's something with Bach's music that feels so fresh and vital. There's an energy in the music, and it gives you energy."

This year's Brandenburg barnstorm is unusually large. Most Chamber Music Society tours involve a half-dozen musicians at most.

We might just have to make bigger restaurant reservations," Sussman said.

To the violinist, these concertos are demanding to play, not because the music is so virtuosic, but because it's "very transparent," with no room for anyone to hide.

"You want to be on your A-game, matching articulation, phrasing and that kind of stuff," he said.

Sussman, who was born in Strasbourg, France, moved to New York to study at Juilliard and happily inhabits a Manhattan apartment. He studied with violin great Itzhak Perlman, who tapped him to be his teaching assistant for a year.

"I listened to all his recordings when I

was growing up," Sussman said. "Little did I imagine that one day I would be playing with him and for him and even teaching with him a little bit."

The best way to understand what it's like to study and work with Perlman, Sussman said, is to just listen to him play.

"That tone of his — that's who he is," Sussman said. "He always believed in positive criticism, no matter what advice he gave you."

The astringent, glassy, detached style of playing favored by some contemporary violinists is not Sussman's bag. The older he gets, the more he gravitates to the warm, human sound of Perlman or violin legend Jascha Heifetz.

"I went through a little hate phase with Heifetz, but I wasn't getting the genius of this guy," Sussman said. "I listen to it now and realize he was on a totally different level."

With his career buoyed by a 2009 Avery Fisher career grant, Sussman is keeping busy these days. In the coming months, he'll go on tour with another former teacher, Pamela Frank, whom he calls a "huge musical influence."

"There are a lot of works I play and think of a few things I could hear her say very loudly and clearly in my head," Sussman said. "It's not just Mr. Perlman."

After that, he will go on three more tours with the Chamber Music Society, including an Asian tour, and several concerto gigs, including Brahms with the Alabama Symphony and Tchaikovsky in Georgia.

Despite all the work, this month's Brandenburg binge is the closest Sussman has ever gotten to a full-on orchestral tour.

"It will be intense," he said. "Some days we'll be traveling and performing the same day, but I'm sure it will be just as much fun."

Cuba

from page 17

"They're the American dream," Dan Nuñez said. "They came here with nothing, saved up and invested in their education."

Before this trip, neither of Nuñez's parents had been back to Cuba since they left as children.

"Once we started to normalize relations, my mother immediately started making plans to go, because she cared so much about maintaining this heritage," Nuñez said.

The family split the trip between Havana, the island's cultural center, and the resort city of Varadero.

"We spent six days in La Habana Vieja (Old Havana), which is beautiful and historic and maintained," Nuñez said. "If you walk a little bit off the beaten path, you can get to the real neighborhoods, which aren't running on tourism. But even those are beautiful in their own regard."

Nuñez was impressed by the resilience of the Cuban people in Havana.

"Everyone was better to one another than I see in Michigan. People looked out for each other," Nuñez said. "There's a lot of poverty, but there's a lot more kindness than I expected."

The experience in Varadero, however, was much different. The coastal town caters to tourists from around the world.

"It's mythologized for having the whitest sand and most turquoise water," Nuñez said. "It was unreal – and by that I mean it was pretty fake. It was like Cancun spring break."

For Nuñez, the trip emphasized the difference between American Cubans, who idealize the country they left, and the Cubans who remained to endure the country's economic and political hardships.

"The dichotomy between their reactions shows that things have moved on in Cuba, while the immigrants in Miami are still living and dying for this," Nuñez said. "Cuba isn't what people in Miami who left Cuba think it is."

And he will always remember the feeling when he learned of Castro's death.

"It was absolutely surreal," he said. "And it was terrifying until it wasn't."



Dan Nuñez (left) and his aunt, Lourdes Nuñez, joined the festivities on Miami's Calle Ocho following Fidel Castro's death.

History brewing MSU researchers revive 100-year-old barley stain **By EVE KUCHARSKI**

Michigan gets very cold. And when it's not cold, it's very humid. And summers can get blisteringly hot with little notice. If you're a hearty Michigander, you're probably used to this by now. But for plants like barley, Michigan's impetuous weather can cause severe problems. So Michigan State University researchers were excited to learn about a 100-year-old barley developed by the university to endure Michigan's temperamental climate.

"We've been doing malting barley research for about three years now," said Ashley McFarland, coordinator of MSU's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center. "In our travels throughout the state, a lot of older farmers approached us and said, 'Did you know that MSU had its own barley at one time?' It was really interesting to hear these stories."

The grain, Spartan barley, was created by MSU researchers in 1916. It was quite popular among local farmers and eventually spread across the country.

"It had a lot of notoriety in the state of Nebraska at one time," McFarland said. "It was the largest, widest (barley strain) grown in the state."

By the 1960s, Spartan barley had all but disappeared, replaced by new strains with higher yield and other desirable traits. But with the recent boom in Michigan's beer scene, researchers like MSU Professor Emeritus Russ Freed realized that a revived Spartan barley could provide a quality, locally sourced option for Michigan's beer industry. Freed, an agronomist and plant breeder with MSU's AgBioResearch department and an MSU faculty member of over 40 years, went to work locating seeds.

"I got in touch with the people in charge of the barley germplasm repository in Aberdeen, Idaho, and they sent me five grams of the seed," Freed said. "I planted 80 seeds of it in the greenhouse on Farm Lane."

Of those 80 plants, 78 germinated. Those plants were harvested and shipped off to the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center to be planted. This summer, some of the barley was harvested and sent to be malted by Byron Center's Pilot Malt House and distributed to a few brewers in Michigan to create some test beers.

"Through variety breeding, we have really developed this homogenous flavor profile, so a lot of barley just pretty much tastes the same," McFarland said. "But this is something we call a heritage variety. The flavor profile is much different."

Southwest Michigan's New Holland Brewing is one of the first breweries to put the barley to work. Last week its taphouse, Pub on 8th, debuted Russ's Revival, an entirely Michigan-sourced beer named after Freed.

"It's a very limited release, only a small amount was made in our pub brewing system," said Joel Petersen, vice president of marketing at New Holland Brewing. "It can be found only on draft, not bottled or canned."

While the brewing industry is booming in Michigan, making beers with exclusively in-state products is still difficult.

"Much of the malt comes from out west or from Wisconsin," said Larry Judge, owner of Mitten State Malt. The Okemosbased malt house, the first in the Lansing area, is slated to open in early 2017. While there isn't enough Spartan barley for malt houses to start production until at least next year, Judge is looking forward to working with the product.

"It's going to be pretty exciting when we can get it and grow it," he said. "It's good, and the legacy is fascinating."



Courtesv Photo

Steve 'Bert' Berthel, head brewer at New Holland Brewery's Pub on 8th, holds up a sample of Russ's Revival. The beer uses a recently rediscovered barley developed at MSU in 1916.

Forest in a mansion The festival kicked off Friday with an

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By TY FORQUER

The Turner-Dodge House's fifth annual Festival of Trees opened to the public Saturday, offering visitors a chance to check out 62 festively decorated trees sta-

Festival of Trees

Through Jan. 1 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 5-8 p.m. Friday; noon-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday \$5/FREE for children 12 and under

Turner-Dodge House 100 E. North St., Lansing (517) 483-4220, lansingmi. gov/938/Turner-Dodge-House



"A Toad-ly Conservation Christmas," by the Potter Park Zoo Association of Zookeepers and Docent Volunteers Association, is designed to raise awareness about the Puerto Rican Crested Toad, which is listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The tree won the award for best theme.



Wonder Women Estate Sales and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing teamed up to create "History Tree," which won the award for most unique tree. The "tree" of crates is decorated with vintage books, sheet music and other knickknacks. invitation-only gala. Prizes were awarded for the most unique tree, the best tree theme and the best promotional tree (pictured below).

Lansing's Parks and Recreation Department teams up with the Friends of Turner-Dodge House to host the event, which raises funds for the house's maintenance. The Festival of Trees is open to the public through Jan. 1.

"The proceeds help preserve and maintain the Turner-Dodge House," Beebe said. "It's a fun, family-friendly event."



The award for best promotional tree went to "Victorian Christmas" by Friends of Turner-Dodge House board member Cheryl Lutz. The slender "feather trees," which were popular in the Victorian era, are decorated with vintage glass ornaments.



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Speaking in strings Bassist Rufus Reid shows how it's done at MSU visit By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Bassist Rufus Reid looked bemused when he took the stage in a cavernous conference room at the lavish headquarters of the MSU Federal Credit Union Monday night.

Rufus Reid

With MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II and III 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 \$15/\$12 seniors/\$5 students and children Fairchild Theatre 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing (517) 353-5340, music.msu. edu "I've never played in one of these establishments before," he deadpanned.

More than 300 people jammed the room to hear Reid, one of jazz's living legends and pio-

neering educators, stroll and swing with the MSU Professors of Jazz. The concert kicked off a week of lessons and teaching tours of Michigan schools with Reid and MSU jazz studies students. The bassist will join MSU's jazz orchestras and professors Friday night to cap off the week with a concert at Fairchild Theatre.

Blue Mondays at the credit union are a casual affair, with plenty of grazing and the ever-present danger of tripping over a wine glass in the aisles, but Reid held the room rapt. He stepped into a solo ballad, taking his time, building from the low register to fine peaks of emotion, a master orator speaking in strings. Mouths gaped and plates of food were left untouched on laps.

"It looks like we have a lot of jazz lovers here," Reid said when he was finished. "Can anyone tell me the name of the tune?"

"That was unbelievable!" a man cried out.

"That's not the name of it," Reid said. (It was Tadd Dameron's oft-quoted "If You Could See Me Now.")

In the back of the room, bassist David Rosin, an East Lansing music teacher and graduate of MSU's jazz program, leaned forward in awe. Three tunes into the set, Rosin still hadn't touched his cookie.

When Reid took a commanding solo on "Oleo," stretching the notes like Hercules bending steel ingots, Rosin couldn't hold in his enthusiasm.

"That's what Rufus does," Rosin said. "He's like the master walking bass guy."

At a 1995 bass competition, Rosin got an impromptu lesson from Reid.

"He pulled me aside and told me what I needed to work on," he said. "He's such a good teacher, and he's played with so many masters."

In his formative years, Rosin played along with many of Reid's records, where the bassist backed up icons likes trombonist J.J. Johnson, saxophonists Stan Getz, Dexter Gordon and Lee Konitz and pianist Andrew Hill.

"I was playing with Rufus in high school and I didn't even know it," Rosin said.

A cult favorite solo track by Reid, "Tricotism," is an obsession with most bass players, Rosin included.

Nearby, another bass player stopped munching on veggies and applied his spine to the back wall, the better to listen. Rodney Whitaker, MSU's Jazz Studies director and resident bassist, doesn't usually get to leave the stage on Blue Mondays — but he didn't wander far.

"As a young African-American male, I had three guys I really looked up to — the bassist Richard Davis, the bassist Ron Carter, and Rufus Reid," Whitaker said.

"All three had a classical background, they played with the greats and all three were college professors."

Reid has taught jazz since the early



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Legendary jazz bassist Rufus Reid (left) backs up trombonist and MSU jazz Professor Michael Dease at Blue Monday, the kickoff of Reid's weeklong MSU residency.

1970s and directed the jazz program at William Paterson University in New Jersey, inspiring Whitaker, Rosin and many other jazz musicians.

"Seeing them do it, and the balance they achieved, was something I wanted to have for myself," Whitaker said.

Before long, Reid's aura pulled Whitaker back on stage for a pulsating, intricate two-bass promenade through Duke Ellington's "Just Squeeze Me."

As Reid and Whitaker held their summit, saxophonist Diego Rivera took a break and wandered to the back of the room, but then drifted back to the doorway, drawn by the artistry within. An enthusiastic listener with his neck stretching about a foot to hear every note turned to Rivera.

"It's not every day you hear two of the world's greatest bass players do a duet," he said, not realizing he was talking to one of the musicians.

"No, it's not," Rivera replied.

Modern inside and out CADL downtown branch to close for interior renovations By BILL CASTANIER

Capital Area District Library's downtown branch, a prime example of Modernist architecture, is looking to modernize its interior. The branch is closing for up to three months this winter for a drastic, technology-focused renovation of its first two floors.

The downtown branch will close Dec. 31 and will reopen sometime in March. CADL Executive Director Maureen Hirten said the renovations "will more closely represent what a modern library should be like."

"People don't know what libraries offer today," she said. "We are trying to invite people in, and we need to make the space match that."

The \$647,000 renovations include a more open floor plan and greater technological resources. The library will eliminate the first floor bottleneck created by the circulation desks, and patrons will be able to check out books at service desks on both first and second floors. The glass partition between the first floor lobby and book area will be removed.

"Bottlenecks will be eliminated, and the space will be opened up," Hirten said. "It will look really nice."

All digital media, including DVDs and CDs, will be moved to the second floor, where computers for patrons are located. The first floor will see a consolidation of new fiction and non-fiction books, which were previously split between two floors. The renovations also include bathroom updates, new study rooms and tables with power and USB outlets for charging laptops, tablets and other devices.

Hirten said the advent of computers "changed everything" and that more and more libraries are providing digital services like e-book downloads. Over the years, the library's reference books and journals have been "whittled down," replaced by online resources.

The annual budget for all 13 CADL branches is approximately \$12 million a year. In an typical year, nearly a quarter million



The Capital Area District Library's downtown branch will close for up to three months for interior renovations. The technologydriven project will revamp the library's first two floors, including an open floor

an open floor plan and new service desks.

people use the downtown library. During renovations, patrons are being redirected to CADL's other branches. The branches nearest downtown are the South Lansing branch, 3500 S. Cedar St., and the branch at Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave. Both branches are easily accessible by CATA lines.

The downtown branch's local history room and the Friends of the Library's used book store, the Book Burrow, will be closed during the renovations.

The library system is funded primarily by a county-wide millage, and a reserve fund is being used to pay for renovations. No employees will be laid off during construction, but 31 of the 79 employees will be temporarily assigned to other branches. The remaining employees will help set up the new layout for books and technology.

Not so lucky are several dozen members of the local homeless community, who go to the downtown branch to stay warm, use computers and recharge cell phones.

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Joan Jackson Johnson, director of the City of Lansing's Human Relations and Community Services department, said the city will be looking for availability at other day shelters, such as Volunteers of America and Advent House.

But she cautioned that "no one is going to be able to replace the library."

"Our homeless brothers and sisters also seek out a quiet place during the day," Jackson Johnson said. "Quiet places are especially important for people who don't do well in shelters."

The city estimates that on any given day there are approximately 150 to 200 longterm homeless individuals on the streets. Throughout the year, there are more than 4,000 people who are temporarily homeless. While the winter months are an especially tough time to lose a resource like the library, Jackson Johnson is confident that local groups can work together to meet the needs of the area's homeless.

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Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, East Lansing 517-332-0112 We validate parking Mon - Sat 10 – 8, Sun 12 – 5 www.curiousbooks.com "We will find a place for them," she said. "There is no good time to close the library."

The plans originally called for renovations to the second floor only, but the library decided to do both floors at once, leading to the decision to close for the renovations. A similar construction process was used by the East Lansing Public Library, which closed for several months this year to retool its building.

The building that houses the downtown branch, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014, is owned by the Lansing School District, which leases it to CADL. The library system will undergo another major change this coming year when Hirten retires; Debora Bloomquist, chairwoman of the library's board of trustees, said the search for a replacement will begin soon. As for the renovations, Bloomquist sees it as a long overdue update to CADL's flagship location.

"We held off for a long time since we don't own the building," she said.

Schuler Books

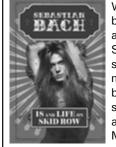
Book signing with MSU Prof SUSAN BANDES, author of *Mid-Michigan Modern*

Thur., December 8 from 6-8pm Meridian Mall location

Meet MSU Professor of Art History and former director of Kresge Art Museum, Susan Bandes, and get signed copy of her gorgeous book, Mid-Michigan Modern, for a perfectly thoughtful present! With a detailed narrative discussing more than 130 buildings and enriched by 150 illustrations, this text is a vibrant start at reclaiming the history of mid-Michigan modernist architecture.

Book signing with Star of Rock & Roll, Broadway and TV, SEBASTIAN BACH

Saturday, December 10 @7pm Eastwood Towne Center location



We are pumped to be able to present a signing with Sebastian Bach, lead singer of the multimillion album selling band, Skid Row, and star of Broadway and the small screen! Meet Sebastian and get a signed copy of

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This musical kills

UU ON THE Events must be entered through the calendar at

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, December 7 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-

EVENTS

7277, apsfrenchclass.com.

Festival of Trees. Showcase of holiday trees. 1-7 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

Winter Wine & Stein. Local brews, wines and spirits with light display. 5-8 p.m. \$35/\$30 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483- 4222, potterparkzoo. org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol 130304VE.

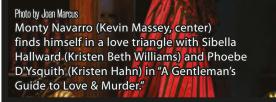
Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

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

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351- 2420, elpl.org. Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/ CIHU305nMqx.

ESOL Reading Group. Adults learning English practice by reading aloud. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE.



In the touring company of the musical comedy "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," Kevin Massey plays Monty Navarro, an impoverished young man who learns he is a distant heir to an earldom

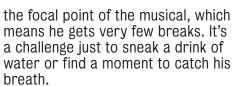
 and then sets out to kill the eight people who stand between him and the title.

"The first murder is really fun," Massey said with a laugh. "In the beginning, the audience is figuring out what the show is. When you hit that first murder, they understand that this is the ride we're going to go on. These murders aren't going to be gruesome and scary, they're going to be funny and over the top and creative."

The musical, set in early 20th century England, pits Monty against the aristocratic D'Ysquith family, heirs to the Earl of Highhurst. Despite the murderous streak, Massey said, audiences find themselves taking Monty's side.

"He's really sweet and innocent, in a way," he said. "And these people are so terrible. You find yourself wondering why you're rooting for him to kill people."

The musical, which opens Tuesday at the Wharton Center, took home four 2014 Tony awards, including best musical. Massey's character is



"It's exceedingly physical. He's back-bending, he's holding poses, he's climbing up ladders, he's slamming doors, he's dipping women — it's a lot," Massey said. "l'm a sweaty mess by the end of the first act."

But the payout makes the effort worthwhile.

"It's a challenge that's rewarded well at the end," Massey said. "The audiences love it."

Massey was an understudy for the show's Broadway run. While taking a show on the road has its challenges, the chance to play large theaters like the 2,400-seat Wharton Center — is a great thing for a comedy musical.

"In New York, we were in a 950seat theater. We haven't played a theater that small yet, and we've been on tour for a year and a half," Massey said. "It's great having a big crowd. When they're reacting differently, it changes our show."

For New York-based actors like Massey, touring shows are also a great opportunity to perform for people who can't make it to

Broadway to catch a musical.

December 13-18

"I have so many friends and family around the country, and I get to bring the show to them," Massey said. "That's been such a joy for me."

A native of Black Mountain, N.C., about 10 miles east of Asheville, Massey didn't even consider a career in musical theater until after college. "I didn't realize you could make a living at this," he said. "I always enjoyed doing it, but it was just a hobby."

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13-Thursday, Dec.

students

Lansing

15; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17; 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 Tickets start at \$41/\$28 Wharton Center 750 E. Shaw Lane, East (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com

Massey graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied music and chemistry. He planned to attend medical school but decided to take a year off before applying.

"A friend of mine convinced me to move to New York for a year, and I never left," he said, "I kind of fell into it, but I'm so glad I'm here."

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



JASON ALARM RELEASES 'PILING IT ON' LP

Saturday, Dec. 10 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15/\$12 adv., 7 p.m.

Grand Ledge-based power-new wave band Jason Alarm releases its first full-length record, "Piling it On," Saturday at Mac's Bar. Opening the show are the Devil's Cut, Jake Simmons & the Little Ghosts, Rent Strike and Mr. Fox & the Hounds. Known for its shredding rock 'n' roll guitars and blasting synthesizers, Jason Alarm gained a strong local following with their high-energy all-ages shows in the mid-2000s but then disbanded in 2011. Last year, the band reunited for one show and then hit the recording studio. Over the years, Jason Alarm has released tracks on local labels like Bermuda Mohawk, Good Time Gang and Lower Peninsula Records. The group comprises frontman Matt Waterman (vocals/guitar), Kirk Mason (drums), Alex Rosendall (guitar), David Birdsall (keys) and bassist Pat Hogan.



THUR.DEC

EIGHTH ANNUAL UNKALLED 4 CHRISTMAS SHOW

Friday Dec. 9 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12/\$10 adv., 8 p.m.

Local rapper Jimi Kanklez hosts the eighth annual UnKalled 4 Christmas Show Friday at Mac's Bar. Kanklez said the event blends Christmas with a dark dash of Halloween. "I started throwing the show because I love Halloween," he said. "I figured, 'Why does have to be over after October?'" The show doubles as a release party for Kanklez's new records, "Alien Muzik" Vol. I and Vol. 2. The discs will be released by his own label, E.T. Ent. Also on the bill is fellow local rapper Jayson Starks, who will drop his own new LP, "Laundry Day," on the E.T. Ent. imprint. Hard copies of the records are available locally at the Ink & Needle tattoo shops. Also sharing the stage are KYDD, Jaqadeliq, Michigan Misfits, Young Prize and more.



Thursday, Dec. 15 @ Tequila Cowboy (Lansing Mall), 5660 W. Saginaw Highway. \$10, 8:15 p.m.

While the Tequila Cowboy Bar & Grill inside the Lansing Mall is known for booking veteran and emerging modern country acts, next week it delves into some classic metal. One, which hails itself as "the only tribute to Metallica," will perform songs from its catalog of 60 songs. The Minneapolis-based band, which formed in 2008, covers Metallica's early garage-band days all the way through the iconic band's more recent albums. Along with sonically matching the band, One is known for its "full arsenal" of theatrics and stage props. Not only has One mastered the guitar licks, some of the members picked up tricks and stage moves while working on the road as a part of Metallica's road crew — the guys have even jammed with Metallica on their main stage.

UPCOMING SHOW? contact allison@lansingcitypulse.com

One

LIVE & LUCAL	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Whistle Stop Revue, 8 p.m.	The Stickarounds, 8 p.m.	Festivus Karaoke (FREE), 9 p.m.
Black Cat, 115 Albert Ave.				Taylor Taylor, 8 p.m.
Buddies – Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Rush Clement, 9 p.m.	
lassic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			DJ SmAsh, 9 p.m.	
hampions, 2440 N. Cedar St.				
oach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Unlimited, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 8 p.m. Smash Alley, 9 p.m.
olonial Bar, 3425 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd		Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Smash Alley, 9 p.m.	Smash Alley, 9 p.m.
rafty Palate, 333 S. Washington Square		Team Trivia, 7 p.m.		
runchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Bell's Brewing Showcase, 6 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
arb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St.				
aton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Darrin Larner, 6 p.m.	
squire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.			DJ Brandon, 10 p.m.
e Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
allery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.		
rand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Ukulele Strum & Sing, 10:30 a.m.
reen Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.		
arrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.,			Rachel Curtis, 5:30 p.m.	
ne Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Russell Dickerson, 7 p.m.	Heartsick, 6:30 p.m.
ac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Sex Trivia Night, 7 p.m.	Jimi Kanklez, 8 p.m.	Jason Alarm, 7 p.m.
oriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Springtails, 9 p.m.	Good Cookies, 9 p.m.	Dewaynes, 9 p.m.
eno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
eno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Bobby Standall, 8 p.m.	Life Support, 8 p.m.
eno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Elkabong, 8 p.m.	Elkabong, 8 p.m.
/an's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St.		Darrin Larner, 6 p.m.`		
vern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
quila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Kip Moore, 7 p.m.		NorthPort Road, 8:15 p.m.	NorthPort Road, 8:15 p.m.
nicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.
atershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.		Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
aterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Mike Skory Blues, 6 p.m.	Oxymorons, 8 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	

Dec. 7-13

Out on the town

from page 22

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CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. **Family Storytime.** Ages 6 and under enjoy stories, songs and activities. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. **Haslett Friends' Book Basket Silent Auction.** Bidding opens on gift baskets through Dec. 12. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Senior Discovery Group. Jane Reiter demos holiday card crafting. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Thursday, December 8 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lunch at the Senior Center. Call day before to order meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60 and up. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 5:15 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

A Course in Miracles. Four-week workshop on peace and forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

Celebrate Recovery. For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing, (517) 492-1866.

MUSIC

Dan+Shay. Country duo performs. 8 p.m. \$25/\$10 students. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road,

DEC. 9–11 >> 'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM' AT LCC THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Winter may be here, but Lansing Community College's Theatre Program offers a warm and magical escape. LCC's production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" kicks off Friday, directed by Andy Callis and starring actors from the department's third semester Shakespeare studio. The play follows the marriages and mischief surrounding young lovers, actors and fairies in a forest outside of ancient Athens. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$5-\$10 requested donation. Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.



East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com. **Open Mic @ The Colonial Bar & Grill.** Weekly bring-your-own-instrument open mic. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. The Colonial Bar & Grille, 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-6132.

EVENTS

Festival of Trees. Showcase of holiday trees. 1-7 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing. After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

CADL Dansville Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit. Santa, live reindeer, wintry crafts and snacks. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511.

CADL Stockbridge Reindeer Visit. Live reindeer and dulcimer music by Jerry Kloock. 3:30-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. CADL Mason Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit. Live reindeer, Santa, live jazz, book sale and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

English Country Dance Lessons. No partner needed. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/MSU students FREE. Snyder-Phillips Hall, C20, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, people.albion.edu/ram/lecd. Family 3D Print It. Use simple software to design personalized gift. Call to register. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All

See Out on the Town, Page 25

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Normally I cheer you on when you devote single-minded attention to pressing concerns, even if you become a bit obsessive. But right now, in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to run wild and free as you sample lavish variety. It's prime time to survey a spectrum of spicy, shiny, and feisty possibilities . . . to entertain a host of ticklish riddles rather than to insist on prosaic answers. You have been authorized by the cosmos to fabricate your own temporary religion of playing around and messing around and fooling around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus poet Adrienne Rich described "an honorable human relationship" as "one in which two people have the right to use the word 'love." How is that right earned? How is such a bond nurtured? Rich said it was "often terrifying to both persons involved," because it's "a process of refining the truths they can tell each other." I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because you're in a favorable phase to become an even more honorable lover, friend, and ally than you already are. To take advantage of the opportunity, explore this question: How can you supercharge and purify your ability to speak and hear the truth?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In Goethe's play Faust, the hero bemoans his lack of inner unity. Two different souls live within him, he says, and they don't cooperate. Even worse, they each try to rule him without consulting the other. I'm guessing you've experienced a more manageable version of that split during the course of your life. Lately, though, it may have grown more intense and divisive. If that's true, I think it's a good sign. It portends the possibility that healing is in the works . . . that energy is building for a novel synthesis. To help make it happen, identify and celebrate what your two sides have in common.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The poet Dick Allen described Zen Buddhism as being "so filled with paradoxes that it jumps through hoops that aren't even there." I'm tempted to apply this description to the way you've been living your life recently. While I can see how it may have entertained you to engage in such glamorous intrigue, I'm hoping you will stop. There is no longer anything to be gained by the complicated hocus-pocus. But it's fine for you to jump through actual hoops if doing so yields concrete benefits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): For decades, numerous selfhelp authors have claimed that humans use ten percent or less of their brain's potential. But the truth is that our gray matter is far more active than that. The scientific evidence is now abundant. (See a summary here: tinyurl.com/mindmyths.) I hope this helps spur you to destroy any limited assumptions you might have about your own brainpower, Leo. According to my astrological analysis, you could and should become significantly smarter in the next nine months — and wiser, too!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Born under the sign of Virgo, Mary Oliver is America's best-selling poet. She wasn't an overnight sensation, but she did win a Pulitzer Prize when she was 49. "What I loved in the beginning, I think, was mostly myself," she confesses in one poem. "Never mind that I had to, since somebody had to. That was many years ago." I bet that even at her current age of 81, Oliver is still refining and deepening her self-love. Neither she nor you will ever be finished with this grand and grueling project. Luckily for you both, now is a time when Virgos can and should make plucky progress in the ongoing work. (P.S.: And this is an essential practice if you want to keep refining and deepening your love for others.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Most high-quality suits worn by men are made from the wool of merino sheep raised in Australia. So says Nicholas Antongiavanni in his book The Suit: A Machiavellian Approach to Men's Style. There are now more than 100 million members of this breed, but they are all descendants of just two rams and four ewes from 18th-century Spain. How did that happen? It's a long story. (Read about it here: tinyurl. com/merinosheep.) For the oracular purposes of this horoscope, I'll simply say that in the next nine months you'll also have the potential to germinate a few choice seeds that could ultimately yield enormous, enduring results. Choose well!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Five of my Scorpio acquaintances and 17 of my Scorpio readers have let me know that they're actively seeking to make new alliances and strengthen their existing alliances. Does this mean that Scorpios everywhere are engaged in similar quests? I hope so. I would love to see you expand your network of like-minded souls. I would love for you to be ardent about recruiting more help and support. Happily, the current astrological omens favor such efforts. Hot tip: For best results, be receptive, inviting, and forthright.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "The awesome splendor of the universe is much easier to deal with if you think of it as a series of small chunks," wrote novelist Terry Pratchett. That's true enough, but I'll add a caveat: Now and then the trickle of small chunks of awesome splendor gives way to a surge of really big chunks. According to my astrological analysis, that's either already happening for you, or else is about to happen. Can you handle it? I'm sure you've noticed that some people are unskilled at welcoming such glory; they prefer to keep their lives tidy and tiny. They may even get stressed out by their good fortune. I trust you're not one of these fainthearted souls. I hope you will summon the grace you'll need to make spirited use of the onslaught of magnificence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In his book The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows, John Koenig coins words to describe previously unnamed feelings. I suspect you may have experienced a few of them recently. One is "monachopsis." defined as "the subtle but persistent feeling of being out of place." Then there's "altschmerz." meaning "weariness with the same old issues you've always had." Another obscure sorrow you might recognize is "nodus tollens," or "the realization that the plot of your life doesn't make sense anymore." Now I'll tell you two of Koenig's more uplifting terms, which I bet you'll feel as you claw your way free of the morass. First, there's "liberosis": caring less about unimportant things; relaxing your grip so you can hold your life loosely and playfully. Second, there's "flashover," that moment when conversations become "real and alive, which occurs when a spark of trust shorts out the delicate circuits you keep insulated under layers of irony."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1983, two Australian blokes launched a quest to tip a drink at every pub in Melbourne. Thirty-two years later, Mick Stevens and Stuart MacArthur finally accomplished their goal when they sipped beers at The Clyde. It was the 476th establishment on their list. The coming weeks will be a highly favorable time to plan an epic adventure of your own, Aquarius. I hope and pray, though, that you will make it more sacred and meaningful than Stevens' and MacArthur's trivial mission.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): For three seasons of the year — spring, summer, and fall — a certain weasel species has brown fur. During that time, it's known as a stoat. When winter arrives, the creature's coat turns to white. Its name changes, too. We call it an ermine. The next spring, it once again becomes a stoat. Given the nature of the astrological omens, Pisces, I think it would make poetic sense for you to borrow this strategy. What would you like your nickname to be during the next three months? Here are a few suggestions: Sweet Sorcerer; Secret Freedom-Seeker; Lost-and-Found Specialist; Mystery Maker; Resurrector.

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

Out on the town

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skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, (517) 881-2517, ladiessilverblades.com, Mason Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

Minecraft Game Night. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Friday, December 9 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com. Palatte to Palate. Painting class. 7-9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 pairs. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

MUSIC

LCC Jazz Band. Directed by Jon Gewirtz. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/ showinfo.

Songs of Christmas. With the Men of Orpheus male chorus. 7 p.m. Free will offering. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Mason Orchestral Society Concert. With guest violin soloist Oleg Bezuglov, 7:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. St. James Church, 1010 S. Lansing St. Mason. masonorchestras.org. Rufus Reid. MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence performs. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/eventlisting.

Make the Season Bright. Owosso Civi Players annual holiday show. 7 p.m. \$21.50/\$19.50 students and seniors/\$11.50 children. The Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723- 4003, owossoplayers.com.

Cathie Ryan Presents 'The Winter's Heart.' Irish music celebrating Celtic Christmas traditions. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 members/\$5 students. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road,

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 >> WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AT THE LANSING CITY MARKET

Holiday shopping can be chaotic and stressful, so the Lansing City Market offers a slate of fun activities to brighten up your gift-buying. Vendors and crafters from near and far set up shop Saturday, offering Michigan-made gifts, floral arrangements, food, drinks and gift cards. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus visit with children, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. a brass quintet performs seasonal favorites. During the afternoon, the market offers free horse-drawn carriage rides. For a donation, the market wraps gifts for visitors, with all funds benefitting Ele's Place. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460, lansingcitymarket.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 >> REO TOWN HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET

Lansing's REO Town district hosts pop-up gifts shops and holiday sales Saturday, offering vintage clothing, handmade goods, local art and more. Certain venues play host to one-day shops, while permanent storefronts offer special deals. And you can fuel your shopping expedition with food and libations from REO Town restaurants and bars. See web for participating locations. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. REO Town, South Washington Avenue between Elm Street and South Street. reo. town.

TO PLAY

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BEGINNER

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 28

East Lansing. (517) 337-7744, tenpoundfiddle.org.

THEATER

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Directed by Andy Callis. 8 p.m. \$5-10 donation. Black Box Theatre. 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/ showinfo.

EVENTS

or glass

Festival of Trees. Showcase of holiday trees. 5-8 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East

Jonesin' Crossword

St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

67th Warren Miller Ski Movie. Screening of "Here, There & Everywhere." 7-9 p.m. \$10 in advance/\$11 via PayPal/\$15 at door. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 663-1854, jugandmug.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 26

Lanka

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By Matt Jones

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2016 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to our credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548 Answers Page 28

Out on the town

from page 25

Back to the Moon for Good. Show on space exploration. 8-9 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672. ow.ly/ SOuP304fb2G.

Minecraft Game Night. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Saturday, December 10 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

French Club for Kids. Activity group for ages 6-12 encouraging French language use. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com. French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com.

EVENTS

Drop-in Ornament Making. Make a festive ornament while supplies last. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. Festival of Trees. Showcase of holiday trees. Noon-8 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

REO Town Holiday Pop-Up Market. Offering vintage clothing, handmade goods, local art and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. REO Town, South Washington Avenue between Elm Street and South Street. reo.town.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Signing. With Joyce Benvenuto and Lia Farrell (Lyn Farquhar). Noon-4 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-9486.

MUSIC

Together at Christmas. Concert by LanSING out gay men's chorus. 7:30 p.m. \$20 suggested donation. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW Divorce Custody • Visitation **Child Support** Alimony Property Distribution Domestic Partnership Agreements / Separation **40 YEARS** -AGGRESSIVE EFFECTIVE LAW OFFICES OF STUART R. SHAFER, P.C. 487-6603 1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing www.stushafer.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 >> A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT AT REACH STUDIO ART CENTER

Over 100 works of art from local artists, as well as gift-able items and gift certificates, go up for silent auction Saturday at REACH Studio Art Center's annual holiday benefit. The fundraiser for the REO Town art organization also features food, wine and locally brewed beer. Four artists featured in REACH's gallery will be in attendance to mingle: printmaker Kimberly Lavon, mixed-media artist Ivan ller, beader/weaver Jenny Schu and airbrush artist Wendy Dalton. A preview party before the event offers additional sales and socializing opportunities. 6:30- 7:30 p.m. preview party; 7:30-9:30 p.m. main event. \$20 advance/\$25 at door/\$40 with preview party. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 >> CONTEMPORARY MUSIC POTLUCK

Not all music this month needs to include jingle bells and references to the man dressed in red. A group of local musicians gets together Saturday for an avant-garde performance and community meal. The morning features works by Bjørn Fongaard, Tom Johnson, Pauline Oliveros, Judith Shatin, Christian Wolff and MSU faculty member Alexis Bacon, including Bacon's 2014 piece, "Elegy," for two violas. The day also includes a complete program of paper pieces by 1960s and '70s performance art group Fluxus. The performance may result in the flinging of wet paint, so attendees are advised to wear clothes that can get dirty. Participants are also encouraged to bring a dish to share. 11 a.m. open rehearsal, 12:30 p.m. performance art, 12:45 p.m. lunch, 2 p.m. recital, 3:30 p.m. paper program. FREE, donations encouraged. 1124 Bement St., Lansing.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11 >> HOLIDAY POPS AT LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Lansing Symphony offers an evening of holiday favorites for its annual Holiday Pops concert. The orchestra is joined by guest vocalist Matt Eldred and the MSU Youth Chorale for an evening of carols and seasonal tunes. 3 p.m. \$20-50. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001, lansingsymphony.org.

W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingout.org.
Handel's 'Messiah'. With MSU's Choral Union, University Chorale and State Singers. 8 p.m.
\$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Make the Season Bright. Owosso Civic Players

annual holiday show. 3 and 7 p.m. \$21.50/\$19.50 students and seniors/\$11.50 children. The Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723- 4003, owossoplayers.com.

Family Holiday Sing-a-long. Lead by Carrie Quisenberry. 10-11 a.m. Donations welcome. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org/fiddlescouts. Lansing Area Ukulele Group Holiday Strum and Sing. With ugly sweater contest. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Sir Pizza Grand Cafe, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-4025, benhassenger. com/laugh.

Contemporary Music Potluck. With Fluxus paper pieces as well. 12:45 p.m. FREE. 1124 Bement St., Lansing.

THEATER

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Directed by Andy Callis. 8 p.m. \$5-10 donation. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/ showinfo.

EVENTS

A Not So Silent Night. Benefit for REACH Studio Art Center. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$20 in advance/\$25 at door/\$40 with preview party. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/nssn2016.

Free Public Tours. Meet at Visitor Services just before tour. 1 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing. Holiday Sale! Handcrafts & Cookies. Handcrafts by quality artists and crafters. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. uulansing.org. **Second Saturday at the Museum: The Futurist Designer**. Kids experiment with magnets. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 420-1342, ow.ly/ o7Ez306oVKI.

Second Saturday Supper. Baked chicken dinner. 5-6:15 p.m. \$9/\$5 kids. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

ARTS

Williamston Pop Up Art & Crafts Show. With work from local artists, crafters and makers. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Keller's Plaza Upstairs, 107 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 485-6277.

Sunday, December 11 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. AL!VE, 800 W Lawrence, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteyoga.net. Juggling. Learn how to juggle. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190. Kendo Martial Art Class. Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA,

3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

MUSIC

Together at Christmas. Concert by LanSING out gay men's chorus. 7:30 p.m. \$20 suggested donation. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingout.org.

Make the Season Bright. Owosso Civic Players annual holiday show. 3 and 7 p.m. \$21.50/\$19.50 students and seniors/\$11.50 children. The Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723- 4003, owossoplayers.com.

'Food for Thought' Winter Concert. With the Delta Community Choir. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. (517) 627-6202.

An Evening of Lessons and Carols. With the MSU Children's Choir, chancel and handbell choirs. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road., Okemos. (517) 349-9536, okemospres.org.

Holiday Pops. Afternoon of carols and festive tunes. 3-5 p.m. \$20-\$50. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001, lansinsymphony.org

LCC Concert Choir. Directed by Kelly Stuible-Clark. 4 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

MSU Russian Chorus Concert. Seasonal music sung in original language by a capella ensemble. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Emanuel First Lutheran Church, 1001 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 646-9626.

THEATER

A Christmas Quartet – Four Plays of Christmas. Mid Michigan Family Theatre performs. 3-5 p.m. \$7/\$5 children and seniors. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road Okemos. (517) 339-2145, mmft.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Directed by Andy Callis. 2 p.m. \$5-10 donation. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/ showinfo. from page 26

N. East St., Lansing.

ow.ly/2VGI304fahD.

ARTS

Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

EVENTS

Out on the town

Free Public Tours. Meet at Visitor Services just

Festival of Trees. Showcase of holiday trees.

Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

before tour. 1 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E.

Noon-6 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100

Holiday Open House & Concert. Live holiday

1-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge, 200 Wood St.,

dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles,

One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure.

moon. 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium,

755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672,

Christmas in the Village. Tree lighting and

347-7300, meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

historical reenactments. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian

Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517)

Art Opening for Matthew Gillengerten at

EagleMonk Pub & Brewery. Crafter shows

cutting and cribbage boards, wall art. 3-5 p.m.

FREE, EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount

Hope Highway, Lansing. eaglemonkbrewing.com.

Big Bird and Elmo take imaginary trip to the

4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838

jazz by Generations, plus holiday crafts and snacks.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. 6 p.m. \$8

Tuesday, December 13 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com. Bible and Beer Study. 6 p.m. Buy your own beer. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600.

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All experience levels welcome, 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfc. com.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, 639.toastmastersclubs.org. Course in Miracles. Very relaxed, kind and happy group. 7 p.m. FREE. Call for location, (517) 482-1908. Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. You are not alone. Get support in your weight loss. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 819-3294. Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening,

See Out on the Town, Page 28

TUESDAY, DEC. 13 >> COMEDY COVEN XXII: S.A.D. II

Regulars at Comedy Coven's monthly shows at the Robin Theatre may have cleared their agenda for the third Tuesday night of the month, but hold it — this month, the witty witches host their evening of occult humor one week early. The comedy trio, comprising Tricia Chamberlain, Stephanie Onderchanin and Emily Syrja, face the Ghosts of Depressions Past, Present and Future in this holiday-themed evening of standup and sketches. Joining them are guest performers Lauren Booza, Justin Covington, Ne Loveslife and Abby Veitengruber. \$7 adv./\$10 at door, if available. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. comedycoven.com/shows.

2420, elpl.org.

Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades

7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal

CADL Williamston Holiday Open House &

School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

(517) 999-2631, ow.ly/10wp301l6Sf.

St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

347-2021, cadl.org.

Reindeer Visit. Live reindeer, wintry crafts and

more. 4:30-5:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201

CADL Haslett Holiday Open House & Reindeer

Visit. Live reindeer, magician, Santa and more.

6-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St.,

Cards Against Humanity Tournament. Earn

discounts for winning black cards. 7-10 p.m. FREE.

Christmas Jingo. All ages play Bingo-like game.

3:15-4:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania

Holiday Stories with Santa. Santa recites "Twas

CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517)

Social Bridge. Come play bridge and meet new

the Night Before Christmas." 6:30-8 p.m. FREE.

American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing.

Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-

Monday, December 12 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

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

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

THEATER

North Pole Radio Hour. Songs and dramatic readings from 1946. 7-8:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students/ seniors FREF, Bath Middle School Auditorium, 13675 Webster Road, Bath. (517) 641-6721, bathschools.net.

EVENTS

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

DEC. 13-14 >> CANNABIS SAVES CHRISTMAS

The First Cannabis Church of Logic and Reason, a mid-Michigan-based congregation founded earlier this year, aims to provide holiday gifts to families in need. The organization, which centers around a spiritual appreciation of nature and cannabis, is gathering donations for its first-ever Cannabis Saves Christmas charity event, where parents can pick up a free toy and stocking to give to their children for the holidays. Donors can drop off new and like-new toys, wrapping supplies and stockings at the Capital City Compassion Center up until the event or contribute money at paypal.me/cannabissavesxmas. 3-4 p.m. preview for veterans and service members; 4-8 p.m. public. Capital City Compassion Center, 910 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 200-8323, cannabisismyreligion.org.





November 17 - December 18, 2016

"... the anything-but-serious 'The Nerd' was a joyful escape." ~ City Pulse

"... a team of actors who never shy away from the over-the-top humor that makes this comedy a classic." ~ EncoreMichigan.com

"... delights the audience with a side splitting comedy that makes you laugh out loud until you cry." ~ williamstontoday.com

"... a classic that is still fresh in its ability to tickle the funny bone and plant joy in the closing days of 2016." ~ EncoreMichigan.com

"... clever dialogue that builds on previous exchanges." ~ City Pulse

Directed by John Lepard Featuring: Kristy Allen, Blake Bowen, Eric Eilersen, Greg Hunter, Desten Knox, Alex Leydenfrost, Anne Miranda

Larry Shue

Williamston Theatre 122 S Putnam St.,Williamston 517-655-7469 www.williamstontheatre.org



6300 South Cedar, Lansing - (517) 882-7530 • 7433 West Saginaw, Lansing - (517) 323-4309 FinleysAmericanGrill.com

Out on the town

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analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176. **Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph

St., Lansing. tops.org. Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Hone your speaking and leadership skills 7-8:30 a.m. MICA Gallery, 1210

and leadership skills 7-8:30 a.m. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 337-7551, yawnpatrol. com.

MUSIC

WILLIAMSTON THEATRE **Christmas Music with Catbird Seat.** Music duo performs on dulcimer, flute and guitar. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743, cadl.org.

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. Featuring Bill Heid. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Joe Newberry Live in Concert. Holiday show with folk singer/songwriter. 7:30-9:10 p.m. \$15. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-7880, elderly.com/calendar/ newberry.

LCC Experimental Music Ensemble. Directed by Cesar Potes & Beth Lewis. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/ showinfo.

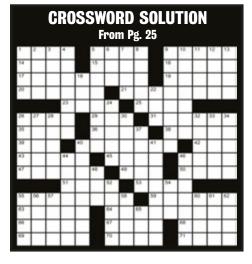
Jennifer Lewis with Family and Friends. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

EVENTS

Comedy Coven. Occult-themed comedy show. 8-9:30 p.m. \$7 in advance/\$10 at door. Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. comedycoven.com.

Cannabis Saves Christmas. Families in need can pick out a toy and stocking for children. 4-8 p.m. FREE. Capital City Compassion Center, 910 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 200-8323, cannabisismyreligion.org.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing. After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-



2420, elpl.org.

Decorate a Gingerbread House. Ages 8-12 make mini gingerbread house. Call to register. 3:30-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

CADL Downtown Lansing Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit. Santa, live reindeer and holiday activities. 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

CADL Okemos Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit. Live reindeer and wintry treats. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Grand Re-Opening Celebration. Family-friendly activities and new addition viewings. 4:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib. mi.us.

LCC West Toastmasters. Public speaking group. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314, Iccwest. toastmastersclubs.org.

Mid-day Movies. "Elf" (PG). 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

Rat Pack Tuesday. \$5 classic cocktails and Frank Sinatra party. 4-11 p.m. FREE. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, ow.ly/5d31305pMUM.

The Nature of Chocolate. Look at history, ecology and making of chocolate, plus a tasting. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder. Broadway musical comedy about an heir to a family fortune. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Wednesday, December 14 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com. Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic. Talk and demos on contemporary shamanism. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5-\$10 donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727,

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SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 25								
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RUSTY NAIL / BEER GROTTO / MAX & ERMA'S / CHUN CHI

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Last month, restaurateur Jeff Oade added roll-up, garage-style doors to his REO Town building. He'll spend the next year transforming that space into a restaurant named the Rusty Nail.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

As REO Town continues its gradual shift from gritty historic district into gritty cultural mecca, even longtime business owners are getting in on the action. Last month, restaurateur Jeff Oade started work with a developer to renovate the storefront at 1210 S. Washington Ave. in the heart of REO Town. Oade will spend the next year transforming it into the Rusty Nail, a new restaurant that will be part of the neighborhood's ongoing transformation.

"It's been exciting watching the rest of REO Town being developed, and I thought it was a good time to do something," Oade said. "But I wanted to do something special — I didn't just want another bar.'

The building, directly across from the Lansing Board of Water & Light's REO Town cogeneration plant, also features four apartment units above the restaurant space. Oade said the build-out will cost about \$150,000 and will include a brand new kitchen.

Last month he punched two giant holes in the streetfacing walls and added garage-style roll-up doors, which will give future Rusty Nail patrons access to the elements.

"It's a big space, and the doors will open up to a

Out on the town

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willowstickceremonies.com.

MUSIC

Manchester Community Brass Band. "Silver and Gold (and a bit of brass) for Christmas." 8-8:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

EVENTS

Cannabis Saves Christmas. Families in need can pick out a toy and stocking for children. 4-8

big patio, giving it a nice, open feel," Oade said. "It's going to look very different from what people may remember it as."

In the late '90s and early '00s, the building was home to Oade's Hidden Camel, a low-key dive bar/ performance venue. It closed seven years ago. Before that it was Mac's Saloon, one of four Mac's-branded locations in Metro Lansing owned by Oade's family. Of the four, only one remains: Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. on Lansing's east side.

"Twenty years ago, there used to be lines around the block to get in to that place six nights a week," Oade said. "It's a great location, and I'm glad they still seem to be doing (well).

Oade also owns/operates Oade's Bar & Grill, 936 Elmwood Road on Lansing's west side, near the Lansing Mall. He said he's working with a chef to create a menu for the Rusty Nail, but nothing has been finalized yet.

"It's going to take about a year to get it ready, so there's plenty of time to work on the menu," Oade said. "I'm not rushing things. I want to make sure this is as perfect as we can get it and that it will be a good fit for the neighborhood."

Down and out

Following the surprise closing of Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza two weeks ago, two more high profile Metro Lansing eateries have called it quits within the last week. Tony Sacco's Eastwood Towne Center neighbor Max & Erma's closed last week, and on Monday, downtown Lansing craft beer destination Beer Grotto was shuttered. Owners of both businesses were unavailable for comment.

Earlier this year, Max & Erma's, a national chain based in Nashville, Tenn., closed 13 of its restaurants across the country, including eight in Michigan. The Eastwood closing was announced via a sign posted in the window. The Beer Grotto made its announcement through Facebook.

'Dear Beer Friends," the post read. "With deep sadness, we regret to inform you all that the Beer Grotto-Lansing will be permanently closed for business effective today (...) Always remember: It's not about the glass being half-full or half-empty, the point is the glass is refillable."

The Beer Grotto anchored the west side of the Stadium District, a mixed-use development project owned and operated by the Gillespie Group. There is no word yet as to what will become of the 4,200-square-foot space. Stay tuned.

Asian persuasion

Chun Chi, an authentic Chinese restaurant, opened near Frandor last month. The building, previously home to Schwartz's Deli and a Mr. Taco location, had been sitting idle for over a year. Chef Jim Guo said that the owner, Chun Chi — who the restaurant is named after — wanted to offer Lansing palates a genuine taste of China.

'You're getting authentic Chinese flavor in these dishes," Guo said. "There are some Americanized items on the lunch menu, but I'd say for 95 percent of our menu, it's all straight from China.'

Most items are priced under \$10, with the lunch buffet coming it at \$5.25. Guo said all ingredients are sourced from local Asian grocery stores, which import a lot of spices and specialty items. Guo lists the menu's fish dishes and hot pots as being most representative of the restaurant's authenticity.

'We also leave the bone in on our chicken and beef dishes, so you get that extra flavor," Guo said. "Americans don't seem to like picking meat off the bone, but in Chinese cooking, that's what it's all about."

Chun Chi

521 N. Clippert St., Lansing 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday (517) 708-0616

p.m. FREE. Capital City Compassion Center, 910 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 200-8323, cannabisismyreligion.org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE. Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215. ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370. After School Action Program. Light meal, tutoring and activities, 4-6 p.m. FREE, Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

Arm Knitting. For ages 6 and up. 1-2 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6 build early literacy skills. 11:15 a.m.-noon FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643. Preschool Holiday Storytime. Preschoolers enjoy holiday stories and craft. 9:30-10 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 4855185, cadl.org.

Senior Discovery Group. Joan Nelson speaks on recent travels to Micronesia. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org. Toddler Holiday Storytime. Toddlers enjoy holiday stories and crafts. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL

Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder. Broadway musical comedy about an heir to a family fortune. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

'Home Alone' for the holidays Pairing wines with Hollywood's most famous Christmas dinners By JUSTIN KING

It's time for some real holiday talk, Lansing.

Those gorgeous holiday dinners, complete with baked hams and other clichés, often exist only in the idyllic, two-dimensional worlds of the Hallmark Channel and



made-for-Lifetime movies. Sometimes a cooking disaster means you end up at the only restaurant in town that's open, or maybe you're eating pizza

on Christmas Day because it's exactly what you want. Sometimes films give us a more realistic look at the holidays, so let's take a look at some of Hollywood's most famous unconventional dinners and see what they can teach us about holiday wine drinking.

Tradition gone wrong from "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

If you're old enough to be the Weeknd's parents, you might remember the scene where Chevy Chase carves into film's most notoriously dry turkey — even the dog pukes up the bones near Randy Quaid's feet — just before half the table says the Pledge of Allegiance. If you're hedging your bets on mom and pop getting the turkey right, get yourself some Beaujolais Nouveau. It's inexpensive (\$10-13) fruity fun that can take your mind off an overcooked bird.

Beaujolais Nouveau is released the same year that the grapes are harvested, which can make for a clumsy wine. If the grapes are picked in the first week of September, how do you make a great wine by November? You don't. But you can still make a fun wine, and



Justin King/City Pulse

If you're opting for duck over turkey this holiday season, Costa di Bussia's Barolo is complex enough to pair with any fowl.

that's all that matters. Unfortunately, this was a crap year for Beaujolais. Hail rocked much of the French region in April. But there are a few bright spots. Albert Bichot's 2016 release, for example, is fun and delicious for just \$10. It's a light bodied, tart red that is a tasty turkey foil, with notes of cranberry, raspberry and cola nut.

Kevin McCallister's cheese pizza in "Home Alone"

Do not be ashamed at your food choices. I'm serious. Go ahead and get two pizzas to go on Christmas Eve. Because everyone likes pizza, and pizza likes you.

So what do you drink with cheese pizza? If you're a child unencumbered by the sting of aftershave, you drink Pepsi from a Solo cup. But what if you're a grown adult reliving your youth with a movie featuring burglars with poor motor skills?

Sparkling wine. That's it. End of discussion. The bubbles and the cheese play together in a pruriently decadent way. In this



situation, go cheap or go home. You can find 49M Crémant de Loire for about \$15, and you'll be rewarded with a super fun, fruity wine with bubbles that will satisfy your needs. It's a sparkler made from chenin blanc, chardonnay, and cabernet franc grapes, giving it big fresh apple, pear and white peach flavors. This wine is dry, which is perfect for pizza, because pizza is the star. Kevin McCallister knew that.

This is an important life lesson, a rule so steadfast that it's worth belaboring. Macaulay Culkin's character hits his sweet spot the moment he gets his own cheese pizza. The family has left, and here he is, ready to eat the food he craves. Kevin is the American everyman, just looking for a place to call his own in the world, one pizza at a time. This feeling never stops, ladies and gentlemen, so be prepared.

The duck in "A Christmas Story"

Much has been made about the political incorrectness of the Chinese restaurant scene. But know this: When a server cuts a duck head off at your table, get your knife and fork ready, because that restaurant is legit.

One of the more enjoyable aspects of this scene is that it's difficult what the Parker family thinks of the duck decapitation. Their faces register somewhere between shocked, playful, hungry and immature. And that sums up the holiday experience for most families.

Are you feeling inspired? Are you going to be that girl that brings a nice duck home for Christmas dinner?

Do your family a favor and bring some Barolo with your fowl. Barolo, a little tiny place located just outside of the Italian city of Torino, makes some of the world's most savory, full-bodied wines. Barolo winemakers use the nebbiolo grape. It's worth holding on to bottles of Barolo for many years, but if you give the wines some oxygen in their youth, you are halfway to holiday magic.

The trouble with Barolo wines is that most of them are between \$60 and \$150. But this is not so with one of the current releases from Costa di Bussia. This release from the vineyard's 2011 harvest is herbal, earthy and compelling in its youth. It features notes of molasses, hens of the woods mushrooms, dry rose petals and American Spirits cigarettes. That is to say, it's already complex, and it can match any duck you throw at it. You can expect to pay about \$45 a bottle, but that's one of the best value northern Italian wines you'll see this year.

These are only suggestions, friends. But they will make stomachs happy whether you're cooking for your extended family or squirreling away with your personal cheese pizza.

Justin King is a certified sommelier and owner/general manager of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktail-focused restaurant in DeWitt, whose staff will probably watch Christmas movies and eat cheese pizza for their Christmas party.



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 NEW RESTAURANTS

#1 LANSING BREWING CO.

Home of the Angry Mayor IPA, Lansing Brewing Co. has become a downtown Lansing hotspot. 518 E Shiawassee St., Lansing (517) 371-2600 lansingbrewingcompany.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday.

#2 THE CREOLE

The Creole specializes in classic cocktails with old-school preparation styles 1218 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-1361 thecreolelansing.com 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

#3 SADDLEBACK BBQ

Craft barbecue joint located in Lansing's REO Town 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 323-7320 tequilacowboy.com/lansing 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#4 TEQUILA COWBOY

Country Western joint with frequent concerts located in the Lansing Mall. 107-109 E. Allegan St., Lansing. (517) 316-0066 lostresamigonsonline.com 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Tuesday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 OLD NATION BREWING COMPANY

A Williamston brewery and brewpub offering craft beers and food 1500 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston (517) 655-1301 oldnationbrewing.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.midnight Friday; 9 a.m.-midnight Saturday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

Jose's Cuban Sandwich & Deli moves into the Avenue Café

Business displaced by

fire until mid-January **By TY FORQUER**

Book your

holiday pa

A fire Tuesday morning at Jose's Cuban Sandwich and Deli on Grand River Avenue has forced the sandwich shop out of its home. The deli hoped to reopen quickly, but the damage is worse than the owners originally thought.

The sandwich shop was not homeless for long. The owners told City Pulse that they will take over the kitchen at the Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, until mid-January and plan to be open later today.

"I think they'll be a great addition to

the Avenue," said Colleen Kelley, owner of the Avenue Café. "We're glad to have them for the holiday season."

Editor's note: In an odd coincidence, I had planned to write about a sandwich from Jose's Cuban Sandwich and Deli in the Dish, which normally appears here. Look for the return of the Dish/the Drink next week.

What's your favorite dish/drink?

Do you have a go-to dish or drink at your favorite local restaurant? We want to know about it. Email your favorite dish/drink and a short explanation about why you love it to food@lansingcitypulse.com, and it may be featured in a future issue. If possible, please send a photo along with your description -anice smartphone photo is fine. Cheers!

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Hot Chicken Kitchen 123 S. Washington Square, Lansing (517) 203-5176 hcknashvillestyle.com Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daily

Midtown Brewing Co. 402 S. Washington Square Downtown Lansing (517) 977-1349 midtownbrewingco.com

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402 S. Washington Ave. (517) 977-1349

Sun-Wed 11 a.m.-midnight

Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.

Lil' BBQ Shack 5920 S. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 975-5328 Hours- Mon-Sat: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Zaytoon eat good, feel good, toon on! Home of Authentic Chicken Shawarma! We offer an extensive Vegan and gluten free menu as well as traditional meat favorites. Zaytoon is a fast-casual restaurant, making us the HEALTHY alternative to fast-food! Open Monday-Saturday 11am-8pm. Catering Available.

Lil' BBQ SHACK is an dine-in, carry-out counter service restaurant that serves smoked meat. Brisket, Pulled Pork, Spare Ribs, and Smoked Jumbo Chicken Wings are smoked all day in an outdoor stick burner rotisserie smoker. We provide great BBQ meals at affordable prices. The Lil' BBQ SHACK with big flavors. Lil BBQ SHACK was officially open on May 20th 2016.





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