

CITY PULSE

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December 16-22, 2015

THE BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE

Lansing looks back on the launch of an epic franchise

Tree-mendous

State Christmas Tree is an Eye Candy, p. 5

From Trinidad with love

Etienne Charles brings 'Creole Christmas' to Lansing, p. 12



Cirque Dreams HOLIDAZE

THE FAMILY HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

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Dear Readers,

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Once again, it's time for our biennial **Readership Survey** to collect information for our advertisers — whose support makes City Pulse possible.

The survey is online at

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Look for a link in the large banner at the top.

To encourage your participation, we are giving away 50 tickets to NCG and two tickets to opening night for "Motown: The Musical."

Please take the time - maybe five minutes — to help out Lansing's weekly alternative newspaper. It will be up until at least 400 people respond.

Thanks and a very happy holiday season!

— B. Schwartz



Berl



At Wharton Center!



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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FILE NO. 15-1616-GM 15-1617-GM
In the matter of Landon Her and Natalie Her.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: NOY LOR VANG whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 12/30/15 at 10:30 a.m. at Ingham County Probate Court, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge R. George Economy, for the following purpose: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor.
Joseph Yang P78315 PO Box 13271 Lansing, MI 48901 517-618-1727
Johnathan W. Her 5307 Sierra Lansing, MI 48917 517-214-9108 CP#15-300

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CityPULSE

VOL. 15 ISSUE 18

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Hirten: Snyder tarnishes his legacy with anti-refugee effort

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Broad Art Museum's assistant curator adjusts to life in Lansing

PAGE 15



Holt native touring the country with "Cirque Dreams Holidaye"

PAGE 15



"IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY IN A MANGER" By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

COVER ART

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

GAINSBOROUGH DRIVE SANDERSON DRAIN CULVERT REPLACEMENT

CITY OF EAST LANSING 410 ABBOT ROAD EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the Office of the Director of Public Works, up to 2:00 P. M., Thursday, January 21, 2016, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for the removal and replacement of a 48" culvert under Gainsborough Drive along the Sanderson Drain in the City of East Lansing.

The Contract Documents, including Specifications, Plans and Bidding Forms may be obtained at the Director of Public Works' Office, located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan, by paying a Forty Dollar (\$40.00) non-refundable preparation fee.

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of East Lansing, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, which shall be forfeited to the City of East Lansing if the bidder to whom the Contract is awarded fails to enter into a Contract within ten (10) days after the Contract is awarded.

Prevailing wages are required for this project.

The City will apply its Local Purchasing Preference Policy, Policy Resolution 2009-3, in making the award of this contract.

The City of East Lansing reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive defects in proposals, and to make the award in its own best interest.

CITY OF EAST LANSING Marie Wicks City Clerk

CP#15-295

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On December 14, 2015, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

- Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

November 16, 2015 Special Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15-299



THIS WEEK

with Berl Schwartz

Etienne Charles, MSU jazz professor



Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW
WELCOME TO THE MIND-BENDING REALM OF... THE QUANTUM REPUBLICAN UNIVERSE
IN THE QUANTUM REPUBLICAN UNIVERSE, REALITY IS EXTREMELY MALLEABLE.
IN THIS STRANGE DOMAIN, THE TRADITIONAL LAWS OF CAUSE AND EFFECT NO LONGER APPLY!
THE EASY AVAILABILITY OF GUNS IN THIS COUNTRY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MOST RECENT GUN MASSACRE!
OR THE ONE BEFORE THAT! OR THE ONE BEFORE THAT!
OR THE ONE BEFORE THAT!
THINGS ARE TRUE HERE BECAUSE QUANTUM REPUBLICANS WANT THEM TO BE TRUE.
GLOBAL WARMING IS A LIBERAL HOAX!
TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH BENEFIT EVERYONE!
BANNING ALL MUSLIMS IS SO CONSTITUTIONAL, IT WILL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN!
SOME INHABITANTS ARE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT ENTIRELY SELF-CONTAINED REALITIES--THROUGH THE SHEER POWER OF THEIR VERBIAGE!
I SAW THOUSANDS OF MUSLIMS HAVING A GREAT BIG DANCE PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 11! I HAVE AN AMAZING MEMORY--THE BEST! IF YOU CAN'T FIND THE VIDEOS, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN ERASED!
WHO YOU GONNA BELIEVE--ME, OR ALL THE LOSERS WHO AREN'T ME?
OBSERVERS OUTSIDE THE QUANTUM REPUBLICAN UNIVERSE APPEAR TO HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE PHENOMENON BEING OBSERVED.
WE DON'T CARE WHAT THE BIASED MEDIA SAY ABOUT DONALD TRUMP!
THEY'RE ALL LOSERS WHO SHOULD BE FIRED ANYWAY!
MR. TRUMP SAID SO!
WILL IT CONTINUE TO EXPAND--AND ENGULF US ALL? STAY TUNED!

Books books books

LCC, Gibson's in legal fight over book voucher program

Lansing Community College and Gibson's University Bookstore are battling in court over the college's new book voucher program — a program Gibson's says will ultimately kill its business and force it to close perhaps as early as the fall of the 2016 semester.

LCC said it just wanted to provide a no-cost advance for book purchases to students receiving federal financial aid. The program starts Thursday.

"Our goal is, and always has been, service to our students. We want to provide them with the books that they need — at the lowest cost, so that they will be successful," said Devon Bradley, public relations manager for the college. "This is part of a larger initiative in support of Open Educational Resources."

Gibson's sued LCC earlier this month in Circuit Court, claiming, among other things, that the college's program violates antitrust laws and consumer protection laws. Judge Rosemarie Aquilina on Dec. 3 issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting LCC from begin-

ning the program Dec. 17, but Judge Joyce Draganchuk reversed that decision last week, lifting the restraining order and clearing the way for the book voucher program to launch.

"The judge ruled that we didn't meet the criteria for a temporary restraining order," said Matt Buche, owner and manager of Gibson's.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

A sign outside Gibson's University Bookstore across from LCC advertising the store's book reservation program. The store is suing LCC over a new book voucher program that will funnel most federal financial aid monies for textbooks to an online vendor based in Missouri.

"That was our only chance to stop it for this term." He is unsure about the future of his lawsuit.

The new program will offer qualified financial aid students up to \$600

in credit to purchase books through a new online bookstore called MBS, a wholesale distributor based in Missouri. The money will be repaid when their federal aid arrives later in the semester.

Students receive their federal funds for books and other supplies through a Higher One card. The card is not mandatory, and students can instead receive a check from the college.

The Higher One card is essentially a debit/credit card. LCC pays the company to process its financial transactions with the students — \$27,714 for the 2014-2015 school year. Higher

One also makes money from the student through transaction fees.

In the past, LCC would advance students with up to \$600 on their cards before they received their financial aid payment. But there were fewer restrictions on how these cards were used and students could use that card at Gibson's or other stores. Now students who want to use the Higher One book voucher will only be allowed to purchase books through MBS.

Students who want to use their financial aid award to purchase books from Gibson's or Amazon or another student must cover the

purchase themselves until their financial aid arrives. A calculator available on LCC's website indicates an in-dis-

See Bookstore, Page 6

How it works

Here's how officials at the college say the program works and why they call it a "no cost contract."

Let's say Joe Smith is a student who has a financial aid award of \$200. That \$200 covers his books, supplies and classes. He signs up for credit hours totaling \$70 leaving \$130 to cover books and other costs. He then logs onto the MBS online portal for LCC and selects his books on Dec. 17, the first day he can that for next semester. He selects \$30 worth of books through the bookstore. MBS, in turn, sends those books by mail a few days later. When Joe's financial aid is credited to his financial

aid card — provided by Higher One, a for profit company — that \$30 MBS charged for his books is deducted along with his credit costs. So, Joe's \$200 financial aid package is reduced by \$70 for his classes and \$30 for his books, leaving Joe with \$100 on his card. Joe receives that money on Feb. 4, after LCC officials have verified his enrollment in classes.

On the back end, MBS takes Joe's \$30 purchase and bills LCC for it. LCC, in turn, processes the bill, which can take weeks. By Feb. 4, LCC has received Joe's actual federal financial aid.



Property: State Holiday Tree, Lansing

Given the recent pattern of unseasonal temperatures, the lighted State Tree may be the single constant reminder of the current seasonal spirit. Erected at the terminus of Michigan Avenue near Capitol Avenue, the spruce and the oversized red baubles in the Washington Square traffic circle remain an annual source of holiday cheer. Like most of its predecessors, this year's State Tree was harvested in the Upper Peninsula.

Despite the message of peace and rebirth represented by the season, the holiday tree frequently sparks a timeless argument. The debate does not involve the secular or the spiritual traditions of the season, but the choice regarding the superiority of artificial versus natural trees. Few disagreements generate so much heat while offering so little light.

Fans of artificial trees prefer the ease of installation and storage, plus the convenience of no maintenance. Those with a preference for natural trees desire the undeniably seasonal scent. While watering remains a concern, a simple rule thumb dictates that the tree stand hold a quart of water for every inch of diameter at the tree's base. Both groups claim advantage based on environmental concerns, but the results are inconclusive, particularly when natural trees are procured from local farms.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Bookstore

from page 5

trict student can expect to spend \$1,160 a year on books and supplies.

The implementation of the MBS program could be devastating to Gibson's, the company's accountant said in an affidavit filed in Circuit Court.

"Gibson's would not be able to continue as a viable business past the 2016 fall semester, if it did not continue to receive revenue derived from Higher One cards," said

Raymond Lemmen, the accountant.

He said about 18 percent of the company's income is derived from Higher One transactions.

LCC officials say the MBS offerings are ultimately cheaper for the student because the company offers a guaranteed buy back price at the time of purchase. At the end of the semester, MBS holds an on campus buyback program, and pays the student that promised price.

Lisa Mazure, the controller at LCC, said students could expect to save as much as 70 percent on books through discounts from MBS and the promised buyback

price.

Bradley said that the college will not receive any money from MBS, but any commission that would normally be given to the college will be applied as a discount to future book purchases through the program. She said it is unclear how much money MBS stands to make through the program as it has not launched yet.

College officials emphasized that MBS was selected through an open competitive bid process — a process that Gibson's participated in, but lost.

In court filings, the college argued that "students are not obligated to use the book

voucher," but for some students who receive financial aid, they don't see it that way.

"I am mostly upset because I didn't get a chance to opt out," said Chelsea Cole, 19, a social science major at LCC who depends on financial aid to pay for her classes. She works part time at a library.

While she said she was worried the new program might destroy Gibson's, which she said she "loved," she also acknowledged that she purchases her books online from another vendor at substantially lower prices.

— Todd Heywood



PUBLIC NOTICES

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO ELECTORS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE CITY OF LANSING OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE TAXING POWER OF THE CITY AND RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lansing, Counties of Ingham and Eaton, Michigan, intends to authorize the issuance of Limited Tax General Obligations Bonds of the City in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the purpose of financing the Frances Park Pump Station Improvements Project as further described in plans on file with the City (the "Improvements"), related to Wet Weather Control Program State Revolving Fund Project Plan and required by the ACO. The Bonds shall mature in not to exceed thirty (30) annual installments with interest payable on the unpaid balance at an estimated interest rate of 2.50%, to be conclusively determined at the time of the sale of the Bonds.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

The principal and interest of the Bonds shall be payable primarily from funds lawfully available to the City for this purpose, such as revenues derived from the operation of the City's Sewage Disposal System, special assessments, general fund monies and ad valorem taxes pursuant to a pledge of the City's limited tax full faith and credit. Ad valorem taxes may not be levied in excess of the City's charter tax rate limitation for this purpose.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The Bonds will be issued without vote of the electors unless a PETITION requesting an election of the question of issuing the Bonds signed by not less than TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS in the City is filed with the City Council by deposit with the City Clerk WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS after publication of this Notice. If such a petition is filed, the Bonds cannot be issued without an approving vote by a majority of electors voting on the question.

This Notice is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 5(g) of Act 279, Public Acts of Michigan, 1909, as amended. Further information concerning the matters set out in this Notice may be secured from the City Clerk's Office located at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 and email address: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#15-294

A tarnished legacy Snyder's pronouncement on refugees unleashed the wave anti-Muslim bigotry

Even though Rick Snyder has three years left as Michigan's governor, it's not too early to think legacy. He should be remembered as the nation's first governor to propose a ban — or as his administration calls it, a pause — on resettling Syrian refugees or others from the Middle East in Michigan. It unleashed the torrent of intolerance and religious bigotry that is so central to Republican politics.

He knew, or at least should have known, that such a stance was unenforceable and that as governor all he could do was make life even more difficult for people fleeing war and poverty, hunger and disease. What is happening to Syrians is a global tragedy; the disintegration of their country is the refugee issue, according to the United Nations.

Nearly a quarter million people have been killed in that nation's civil war. According to the relief agency World Vision, 4.3 million Syrians are refugees, and 6.6 million are displaced within Syria, half of them children. Most refugees have settled in the Middle East. Ten percent have gotten to Europe and a relatively few to the U.S., which had announced plans to accept 10,000.

Snyder's proclamation, made shortly after a Syrian passport was linked to the terrorist attack in Paris, is the sort of political theatrics one expects from



MICKEY HIRTEN

governors in in the South, wacky stunts like Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott mobilizing the State Guard to monitor U.S. military training exercise and ensure Texans that "their safety, constitutional rights, private property rights and civil liberties

will not be infringed."

Extreme, perhaps, but if Snyder really fears for the safety of Michiganders, the military is an option.

He is facing an insurrection. Cities, counties and townships throughout the state are openly challenging the governor. On Monday, the Lansing City Council and Mayor Virg Benero pledged that the city would aid refugees, designating Lansing a "welcoming community." The East Lansing City Council and Ingham County Board of Commissioners have issued similar proclamations. So has Detroit, Meridian Township, Grand Rapids and Hamtramck — the first majority Muslim city in the U.S.

See Hirten, Page 7

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Hirten

from page 6

Snyder could mobilize the State Guard to surround the Capitol, patrol state office buildings and protect other Michigan soft targets. State Police could provide intelligence. Undercover operatives could infiltrate immigrant groups. Wouldn't this make us safer?

The governor has rejected assurances from the Obama Administration that the two-year-long refugee vetting process is sound even while acknowledging in a Nov. 24 letter to Secretary of State John Kerry and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson that the program is "extensive and rigorous."

Snyder couched his position on immigrants as a common-sense approach to resettlement to give authorities time to review vetting procedures. He wants the matter discussed by the bipartisan Council of Governors, which is meeting this month. But it isn't a bipartisan issue; it's pure politics. About half of the nation's governors — virtually all Republicans — have said their states won't accept Syrian refugees.

The refugee issue has entangled the governor — perhaps to his dismay — in bigotry and xenophobia shaping the political landscape. He attempted over the weekend to distance himself from Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who wants to stop all Muslim immigration to the U.S.

"They're absolutely inappropriate," Snyder said of Trump's positions. "They don't represent the spirit of America." But while abhorring Trump's overt anti-Muslim stance, Snyder's refugee "pause" is anti-Muslim. It links all Muslims refugees in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries to the actions of those who distort their Islamic faith as justification for terrorist activities. For displaced Muslims seeking refuge in Michigan, it is guilt by association.

Of course, painting foreigners with this broad brush is very American. Look at our history. The Irish in the 1840s, invariably Catholics and suspected of loyalties to Rome, were viewed as subversives, competing for low-wage, low-status jobs. Southern Europeans — Italians notably — with darker skins and also Catholic were marginalized and worse. There were the Chinese Exclusion Acts, a long-standing quota system tilted toward Northern Europeans, Japanese internment during World War II, and current campaigns against Mexican immigrants.

Is there a more shameful chapter in our history than the refusal to admit more than 900 German Jewish refugees

who in 1939 were anchored off the coast of Florida in the MS St. Louis?

Should we be surprised that now we turn against Muslims?

Snyder's position, like those of other governors, may be positioned as a measure to protect Americans. But it is really about public relations, like the color coded threat warning system concocted by the government.

No system can be foolproof, especially for terrorists willing to die for their cause. And government vetting can only accomplish so much.

It took the Department of Defense, experts at vetting, 13 and a half years to discover that a "terrorist" imprisoned at Guantanamo — Mustafa Abd-al-Qawi Abd-al-Aziz al-Shamiri, finally released in November — was, in fact, the wrong man.

He is still in custody and when he's released, we know where he won't be going. That would be Michigan.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Members of the Lansing City Council, and the community pose for a picture to celebrate the city's adoption of a resolution declaring city a welcoming place for Syrian and other immigrants.

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Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

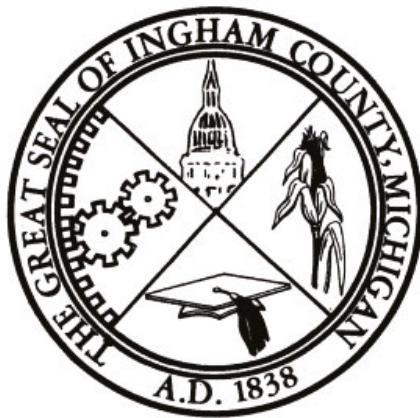
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

SLU-6-2015, 830 & 836 E. Jolly Road
Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot

SLU-7-2015, 1434 E. Jolly Road
Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot/Loading/Storage Area

Z-6-2015, North 35.3 Acres of 203 S. Clippert Street
Rezoning from "A" Residential District to "E-1" Apartment Shop District

The Lansing Planning Board will hold public hearings on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple Street (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider the following cases:

SLU-6-2015. This is a request by Community Mental Health Authority for a Special Land Use to construct a parking lot at 830 & 836 E. Jolly Road. Parking lots are permitted in the "A" Residential district, which is the zoning designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

SLU-7-2015. This is a request by Brian Stiles of Stiles Landscaping for a Special Land Use to construct a parking lot/loading/storage area at 1434 E. Jolly Road. A parking lot/loading/storage area, as part of a landscape center, is permitted in the "A" Residential district, which is the zoning designation of the area of the site upon which it would be located, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

Z-6-2015. This is a request by Ferguson/Continental Lansing, LLC to rezone the north 35.3 acres of the property at 203 S. Clippert Street, being the former Red Cedar Golf Course, from "A" Residential District to "E-1" Apartment Shop District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit future mixed use (residential, office, commercial) development of the property.

If you are interested in these cases, please attend the public hearings, or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the City of Lansing Planning Office, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information concerning these cases, call Susan Stachowiak at 517-483-4085.

CP#15-296

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, **January 5, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Matthew Ao for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 301 M.A.C. Avenue to allow for a game room referred to as an "escape room" where participants work to solve puzzles as a group in order to win the game. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Modified Cluster Plan Development application from FP Investors, LLC for the Falcon Pointe property north of the Hawk Nest Subdivision, west of Thoroughbred Lane and south of State Road; to convert an existing manufactured housing community into a single-family residential development with 102 three-bedroom units. The property is zoned R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15-297

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **January 14, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Cameron and Kimberly Doane, for the property at 830 Michigan Avenue, to remove and replace a single car garage door to a double car garage door. New door will be similar in design, and the existing siding will be removed and reinstalled in order to maintain the original appearance.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15-298

UNIVERSAL APPEAL

Local fans discuss the enduring legacy of 'Star Wars'

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

"A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away ..."

Those words, in brilliant blue, lit up the darkened movie theater and left an indelible mark in my mind's eye. It was a journey my peers and I would take over and over. Not just in the theaters, but in recreations on school playgrounds, living room floors and sandboxes across the country.

It was spring of 1977. I had been drawn into the universe of "Star Wars," the imaginative space epic created by George Lucas.

I wasn't alone.

"It was an integral part of my childhood," said T.J. Bucholz, a political consultant based in Lansing. "My parents took me to see all the movies, and I still remember the opening."

There are now six films, with a seventh opening Friday and two more on the way. The franchise has spawned movies, video games, books and cartoon series. There was even an ill-advised 1978 holiday special, which has gained a cult following despite Lucas' best attempts to bury it.

There are also hundreds of toys and other merchandise tied to all the moves. Total revenue from the blockbuster series, including merchandising and other income sources, has hit an estimated \$28 billion, according to the Statistic Brain Research Institute. When the markets close Dec. 31, the "Star Wars" franchise is ex-



pected to have generated \$1.5 billion in merchandise sales this year alone. In 2012, Lucas, sold the "Star Wars" empire — along with his production company, Lucasfilm — to Disney for \$4.05 billion.

The "Star Wars" franchise gets a new boost this week when the latest installment, "The Force Awakens," opens. So how has the story of Luke Skywalker and company remained in America's pop culture mainstream for nearly four decades? For many, "Star Wars" has become more than a movie. It's an obsession.

Joe DiSano, another locally based political consultant, also saw the movie in the theater when he was a child.

"I saw it in the theater and it con-

sumed my imagination," he said. "It was the only thing I wanted to talk about for years. I would spend hours waiting for the disco version of the 'Star Wars' theme to come on the radio."

Bucholz is a collector of "Star Wars" toys from the late '70s and early '80s. He's proud of his original Millennium Falcon — the starship piloted by Han Solo — and he's working on a collection of the 12 original action figures, still in their packaging. That's an expensive proposal; those figures can sell for thousands of dollars. In the mid-'90s, when the original trilogy was re-released with digital upgrades, an adult Bucholz was home sick in bed. He saw

on QVC a full-size replica of Han Solo frozen in carbonite, a la "The Empire Strikes Back," for sale. There were only a few, and they cost \$2,000 each. He had his credit card out and the phone in hand when his wife came home. She made it clear that the price would be much greater than \$2,000.

"That'll cost you one wife," she told him.

Bucholz does consider himself an "excessive" fan.

"I tell people that I am so much of fan, my only son is named Luke," he said.

Not all "Star Wars" fans take things to that extreme. There are those who just watch the movies, while others dig deeper and read the books. DiSano

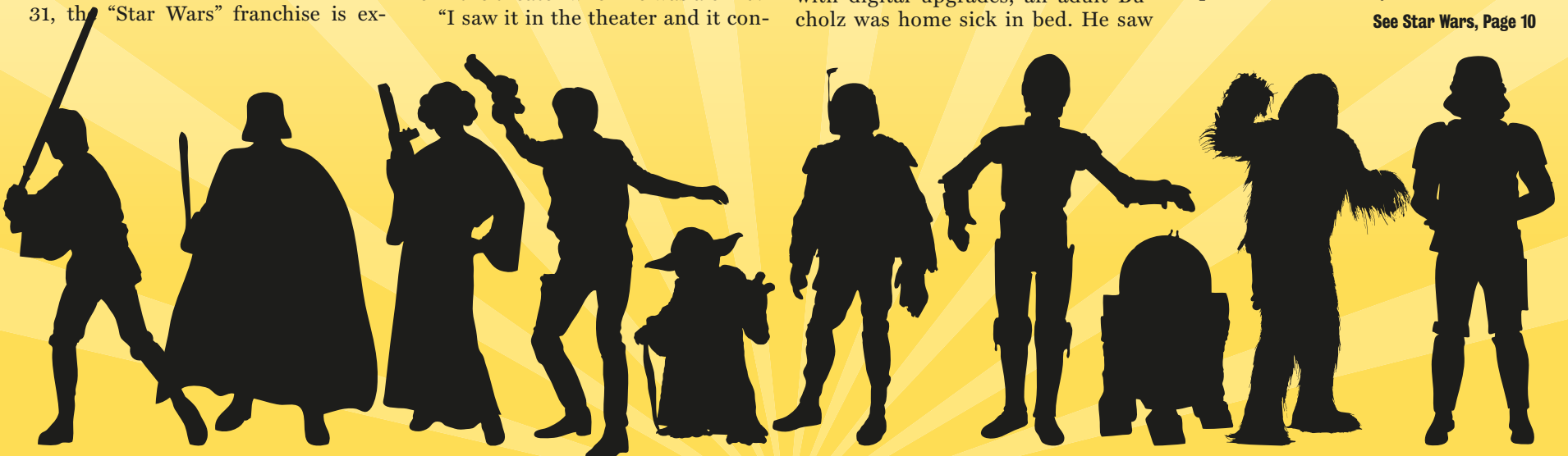
takes it further, monitoring Internet sites and playing the video games. Others take it to a whole different level, spending hundreds or thousands of dollars building replica uniforms and creating costumes of their favorite characters.

For Mason resident M'jit Raindancer-Stahl, the buzz surrounding the film led her to the theater in 1977 as well.

"It's a unifying myth cycle for everyone," she said.

And that's an observation that was echoed by all the fans interviewed for this story. The enduring themes — good versus evil, confrontation with a father figure, the hero's journey — capitalize on the mythic constructs

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HOW'S YOUR GAME?

STAR WARS

from page 9

that most of humanity seems to share. No less than Joseph Campbell, one of America's most prominent mythologist, has said so.

"You see, this thing communicates. It is in a language talking to young people today, and that's marvelous," Campbell told Bill Moyers during an interview in the six-part PBS series, "The Power of Myth."

Lucas has acknowledged that Campbell's book, "The Hero with a Thousand Faces," informed the original "Star Wars trilogy." Lucas consciously set about telling a hero's story, albeit in a sci fi setting, based on that seminal work of myth study.

Woven throughout the film series is a philosophy related to an all powerful energy that binds all living things together: the Force. Obi Wan Kenobi represents the "light" side of that, while Darth Vader represents the "dark" side.

"The force is all of us," said the Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis of Central United Methodist Church. "In a Christian sense, it is the God in all of us."

Farmer-Lewis saw the films while in college. For her, an important theme of "Star Wars" is tolerance.

"All of them are very different beings, but that just doesn't seem to be a problem," she said. "It's very inclusive. That struck me. And that (Yoda), a frog-like person, had the wisdom was perfect."

Bulcholz and DiSano have been scanning the Internet for years, fishing for any hints about what will happen in the new film. Spoilers have leaked, Bulcholz said, adding that he believes one of the "quintessential moments in

cinematic history," the scene in "The Empire Strikes Back" where Darth Vader reveals he is Luke's father, could never happen today.

"It would be on social media," he said. "There is no way to discover something like that again."

The biggest rumor surrounding the latest film — and one which troubles Bucholz the most — is that Han Solo, the swashbuckling, smart-talking pilot, will die in "The Force Awakens." Harrison Ford, who originated the character and reprises his role in the new film, has been asking Lucas to kill off the iconic anti-hero for years.

"My son and I have tickets to the preview," Bulcholz said. "If Han Solo kicks the bucket, I'm walking out."

Other local fans Anna Rossmann, Todd Letts and Andrew Miller — fans so dedicated they have their own "Star Wars" costumes — said that if Han Solo dies, that is not necessarily a bad thing.

"This is about the next generation," said Miller. "Here's the new heroes. So the little kids will be into the new heroes the way we were into the current set."

Rossmann agreed.

"Those people are in the original trilogy," she said. "They've been through a lot. Time happens. And death is part of time."

"They're all old," Farmer-Lewis said of the actors from the original trilogy. "That's comforting. It happened to me, so why wouldn't happen to them?"

Regardless of what happens in the new film, she has a hope "that the cause of good would be picked up."

"It's important to always see that we are re-entering these stories to make them our own," she said. "It's a great moral tale, not just fiction. They inhabit and inform us as we live by stories. These movies resonate for a reason."

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'Live action figures'

Locals find community in costumes

By TODD HEYWOOD

As Todd Letts, in his full "Star Wars" scout trooper costume, stepped off the elevator in NCG Cinemas Saturday morning, a teenage boy walked past. The youth stopped, backtracked and exclaimed, "Whoa!"

For Letts and his comrades — Anna Rossmann of Lansing and Andrew Miller of East Lansing — the stares and pointing are something they have grown accustomed to when they trot out their "Star Wars" costumes. They refer to themselves as "live action figures."

They are part of the Great Lakes Garrison, a local offshoot of a worldwide "Star Wars" fan group, the 501st Legion. The group comprises fans who spend hundreds of hours — and sometimes thousands of dollars — painstakingly recreating the costumes from the film franchise.

The 501st Legion, according to its website, "is an all-volunteer organization formed for the express purpose of bringing together costume enthusiasts under a collective identity within which to operate. The legion seeks to promote interest in 'Star



Left to right: Andrew Miller, in his storm trooper uniform; Anna Rossmann, as the character Rey; and Todd Letts, as an imperial scout trooper; pose for a photo in front of a "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" poster at NCG Cinema in Lansing.

Wars' through the building and wearing of quality costumes and to facilitate the use of these costumes for 'Star Wars'-related events, as well as contributions to the local community through costumed charity and volunteer work."

Rossmann said her membership in

the group even helped her make a connection with fans in Japan on a recent trip.

"They were able to bring others together, and they could show us around," Rossmann said. "You can just reach out to people, wherever they are, and you share that common thing of

'Star Wars.' It's like a family"

The group members wear their costumes to events like comic conventions and meet together regularly to discuss — sometimes in exacting detail — the costumes, the films and the stories.

The group has affiliates in every state and all over the world. Letts said the group even had a member who was stationed in Antarctica for a time.

The group is more than social, however. Many of the local groups partner to raise money for charities. The 501st Legion's website touts its success in raising funds. In 2013, members participated in or attended events that raised over \$32 million for charities. Members have donated almost 30,000 hours of their time to assist in charity fundraising.

The organization has also taken on the fight against bullying, launching its own anti-bullying program, "The Heart of the Force," aimed at 5 to 10 year olds.

Despite all this good work, Miller said, sometimes people will hear about the hobby and frown on them.

"Then I tell them we raised, worldwide, millions of dollars for charity events," Miller said. "That tends to stop them in their tracks."

ABOUT THE COVER:

When City Pulse decided to create a "Star Wars" nativity scene for the cover, we realized this idea was fraught with theological issues. So we turned to the Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis of Central United Methodist Church to help us navigate potential pitfalls.

Farmer-Lewis — a self-proclaimed nativity enthusiast and "Star Wars" fan — met reporter Todd Heywood and City Pulse creative director Jonathan Griffith at the Mega Mall in north Lansing. Rich Kelley, owner of the indoor flea market and antique mall, helped us gather up over 60 "Star Wars" figures to use in the photo.

From there, Farmer-Lewis and Griffith worked together to sort the figures into good and evil characters. Farmer-Lewis selected

only good characters for the nativity, noting that in Christian tradition, the nativity is about innocence. But she also selected Darth Vader. You might notice Darth Vader is distant from the action — a deliberate choice. Darth Vader is presented as an evil character, she said, but there is also a promise of redemption.

Farmer-Lewis said she finds many parallels between the "Star Wars" film series and Christian theology. One of the strongest examples is the self-sacrifice of Obi Wan Kenobi, where she sees a direct parallel to the crucifixion.

"Obi Wan realized he will be more powerful in death," she said. "That is the Christological force. So darkness does not gain more power than lightness."



City Pulse creative director Jonathan Griffith (left) and the Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis arrange "Star Wars" figures for this issue's cover photo.



ARTS & CULTURE

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STAR ON THE TREE

ETIENNE CHARLES BRINGS 'CREOLE CHRISTMAS' TO LANSING

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A lavish photo spread in the December 2015 edition of *Vanity Fair*, “Jazz on the Loose,” gave some love to 36 virtuosos under 33 who are headlining “the hottest live jazz scene since World War I,” a fresh era of anything-goes, multi-cultural, polystylistic energy.

A piece of that colorful new scene came to Lansing’s REO Town district Thursday. How about Tchaikovsky’s “Spanish Dance” from “The Nutcracker” tossed into the simmering pot of a Venezuelan joropo rhythm, with swinging jazz solos on flute, trumpet and electric piano poured on top?

It’s no wonder that the chef behind this musical *mélange*, MSU’s Trinidad-born professor of jazz, Etienne Charles, sits right in the middle of the *Vanity Fair* spread — seated at a booth at New York’s Havana Central restaurant, trumpet at rest in his right hand.

The sold-out concert at the six-month-

Etienne Charles will be the sole guest on “City Pulse on the Air” at 10:30 a.m. Saturday on 89FM the Impact. Download or stream the podcast at lansingcitypulse.com.

old Robin Theatre was packed with music from Charles’ new CD, “Creole Christmas.” The album is a blend of jazz, R&B, calypso, old folk rhythms and a couple of Christmas chestnuts, all stirred together into a buoyant, joyous celebration.

In the *Vanity Fair* photo, Charles is looking at the camera with an impatient expression, like a Mafia don whose breakfast has just been interrupted.

At the Robin, he was a lot nicer. When the concert was over, the man in blue velvet road-blocked the door and forced everyone to submit to further charm as he thanked them for coming.

The Lansing date was one of only three chances to catch “Creole Christmas” live in 2015. The first was Nov. 29 at Queen’s Hall in Trinidad; the second was Dec. 2 at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola in New York’s Lincoln Center.

Dylan Rogers and Jeana-Dee Allen, busy proprietors of the Robin Theatre, had little time to savor a coming-of-age night for their fledgling venue. The duo had just hours to turn the theater over for a series of weekend holiday concerts by Rogers’ Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle. But they were clearly pleased.

“Etienne is a superstar,” Rogers said. “He’s been a wonderful gentleman to work with.”

Charles spotted the Robin Theatre while eating lunch next door.

“It’s a great venue, the sound is really cool,” he said. “It’s designed for theater, which means it’s designed for jazz musicians to play acoustically.”

Charles’ CD features an international ros-

ter of 27 musicians, but the music begs to be heard live.

“It’s totally different when you hear it in person,” Charles said. “I wanted to give the scope of what I know and feel about Christmas, growing up in Trinidad. Being from a musical family, Christmas was about playing music on the porch.”

Legends who appear on the CD, such as calypso great Relator, were not on hand Thursday. But the stage was overloaded with present and former students of MSU’s Jazz Studies program, forged in short order into a strong, supple unit.

“This is the first time I’ve ever been the oldest person on the bandstand,” Charles, 32, told the audience.

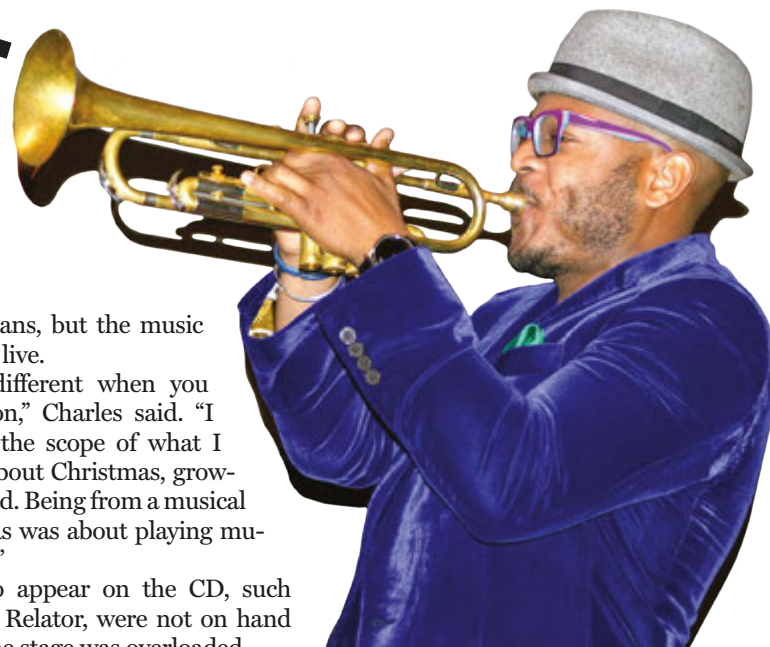
The band personified the multi-cultural mix touted by critic Will Friedwald in *Vanity Fair*. A phalanx of four horns, counting Charles, cranked the power knob as high — or higher — than the recording. MSU student Seth Ebersole juggled tenor sax, flute and baritone sax, flanked by Markus Howell of Florida on alto sax and Kirby Fellis, also from Trinidad, on trombone.

Guitarist Olin Clark of Grand Rapids enriched the texture all night, joining Charles for a gentle duet on “I’ll Be Home For Christmas.” The rhythm section, barely visible behind the mob on stage, hung in through the music’s many changes like shifting bedrock: French-born Kim Vi on piano (and a holiday-bell-like Fender-

he wants to teach you a thing or two, but he’s completely divorced from hipster condescension. There is a welcoming, human glow at the center of his new CD, no matter what direction it takes.

Charles deployed some 27 musicians — young and old, American and Trinidadian — to prepare a varied spread of calypso, R&B, gospel, straight-up jazz and other styles from Charles’ native island. A relentless bounce and lightness of touch make “Creole Christmas” go down so easy, despite its density and variety.

Much of the glow of the album comes after the song is over and the groove keeps going, like the aftertaste of a rum ball, overlaid with solo musings from trumpet, piano, horn or steel drum.



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

Trumpeter Etienne Charles, clad in stylish blue velvet, charmed the crowd at Thursday’s sold-out “Creole Christmas” concert.

Rhodes), Aneesa Al Mussawir of Oakland, Calif., on bass and Jud Branham IV of Ann Arbor on drums. On several tunes, Charles commandeered a pair of conga drums and brought the music to a rolling boil.

As if that weren’t enough, Charles brought singer Antwaun Stanley of Flint to the stage for two electrifying tunes, starting with the gospel classic “Go Tell it On the Mountain.” No less than Jon Batiste, bandleader for “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” recommended Stanley to Charles after Stanley sang on the Nov. 20 “Late Show” with Ann Arbor funk group Vulfpeck.

Stanley’s precision, energy and force were more than a match for Charles’ clar-

See Creole, Page 13



Claws retracted

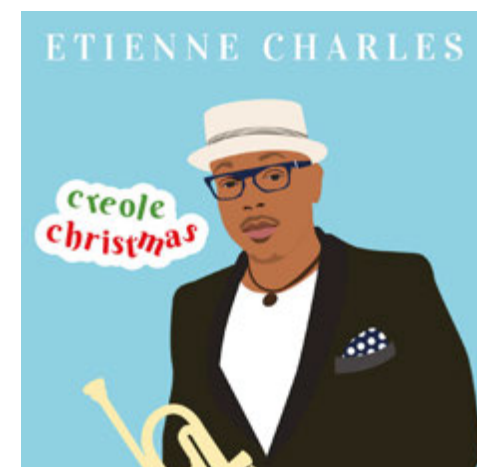
'Creole Christmas' blends sentiment and style

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Jazz cats love to bring out the claws. Tying with a mousey tune like “Santa Claus is

Coming to Town” — adding sudden accelerations, harmonic refractions and insider quotes — is an instinct they can’t fight.

Etienne Charles’ new CD, “Creole Christmas,” does mess with Santa, but briefly and gently. Casual jazz fans who prefer their music “straight” need not run for the hills. The young MSU jazz professor is an international trumpet star and



Creole Christmas
Etienne Charles
2015, Culture Shock Music

See Charles, Page 13



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

Left to right: Singer Antwaun Stanley, Charles, saxophonist Markus Howell and trombonist Kirby Fellis deliver a spirited performance at Thursday's concert.

Creole

from page 12

ion trumpet and the young band's tireless enthusiasm. Later in the night, Charles brought Stanley back for a bouncing,

house-party romp through Donny Hathaway's R&B classic, "This Christmas," to close the show. All hands locked into the groove, bouncing and swaying like commuters on the A Train, while Stanley reared back and summoned up two rounds of call and response from a thoroughly wowed and lucky audience.

Charles

from page 12

Defly deployed contrasts, dusted with a common spirit, keep the CD fascinating from end to end. The R&B groove of Donny Hathaway's "This Christmas" is balanced by a gentle duet with MSU guitarist Randy Napoleon on "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Napoleon's banjo-ish chords on acoustic guitar tiptoe around the tree, hand in hand with Charles' muted trumpet.

It's a sweet spread, but not too sweet. Whenever Charles' little boat drifts toward Christmas Candyland, he throws in a harmonic cross-current, a triple ripple of rhythm or a fresh instrumental flavor.

Maybe the key to the success of "Creole Christmas" is that the sentiment is built into the music and doesn't have to be forced. The old-world lilt of "Juliana" and "Roses of Caracas Waltz," by Venezuelan music pioneer Lionel Belasco, bring out colors that seldom glow from a Christmas CD but add another room to the party. (Venezuela is only eight miles away from Trinidad at its closest.) Charles grew up hearing these tunes, especially at Christmastime.

"Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" takes off from Duke Ellington's famous version, thickening the mystery and creasing the rhythms like origami, making you aware of music deep in the folds that you'd never noticed. (How does Charles do that?) At nearly eight minutes, this track goes deep and wide, with exploratory solos by all, un-

til a dramatic return to the famous melody and a lovely coda by baritone saxophonist Tony Lustig.

Storytelling is a big part of Trinidadian music, and stories are woven into the mix — but not the ones you might expect. "Father Christmas," a novelty tune by the Mighty Spoiler of calypso fame, is sung by present-day calypso great Relator. He sings about waking up Christmas morning to find a policeman "like Jack Palance" at his door, ready to haul him into jail for non-payment of alimony. "Tell Santa Claus," with breathy vocalist David Rudder, tells a fable of a little boy who asks for a "trumpet or concertina" for Christmas. The heart-tugs are tempered by nimble, lively interventions, especially from Charles. Their voices make fragile magic together when Rudder sings, "I just want to play all day," and Charles illustrates the lyric, as if it were a children's book, with his horn's golden washes.

There's more to describe, but I haven't got the space. Discovery is part of the fun of "Creole Christmas." Suffice it to say that the variety of voices and recurring notes of humor, sentiment and anti-commercialism add up to a coherent, human message that never overshadows the music.

Perhaps that's why the only certified, jazz-ified standard on the disc, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," doesn't come off as hipster snark. The jazz tics and tricks are there, but the claws are retracted. You can feel the affection for the song's familiar chord changes — and for the big guy himself. A wobbly, pot-bellied trombone solo by Wycliffe Gordon tips the scale decisively toward merriment.

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'People are nice here'

Mild culture shock hits Broad's new assistant curator

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A dead hydrangea danced on the glass outside the Broad Art Museum café when I sat down to talk with the museum's new assistant curator, Steven Bridges. The impromptu performance on a sunny Friday morning in December got Bridges talking about the challenges of putting art into a building with unorthodox spaces, angles and eddies.

Bridges, most recently a curatorial assistant at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, came to the Broad last month. When the hydrangea show was over, he talked about his own art, the joys of curating, adjusting to life in Lansing's slow lane and staying focused on the Broad's public mission.

LC: That's strange and beautiful.

SB: How is it staying up there? Those people (walking up to the door) are looking at it too. It's really fascinating. It won't blow up and out.

It's doing a dance on the wall.

Exactly.

Things look different when they come near this building.

It's an unintentional collaboration!

What's your impression of the challenges and possibilities of this building?

That was a huge draw for me. It's incredibly dynamic. It totally thwarts the white cube gallery space. You can't work against the spaces; you have to work with them. There are angled walls, deep and sharp corners that are not typical, even of a contemporary art gallery. That means working with artists who do site-specific works that specifically respond to the space, and that's really exciting for me.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Steven Bridges, a former curatorial assistant at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, was recently appointed assistant curator at the Broad Art Museum.

And there are these interesting vantage points that are strange but very exciting.

Where do you come from and how did art come into your life?

I was born and grew up in Syracuse, N.Y. My father was a physicist. He would draw out these diagrams and graphs. I had no idea what they were, of course. Me and my siblings would try to trace them and inadvertently make abstract drawings.

There's a cliché that curators are frustrated artists.

I've heard it before. It's a very personal practice for me. I have no interest in being an artist/curator. It's important to delineate my role as curator and not blur those lines.

Do you still make art?

I'm a bit of a dinosaur. I still shoot black and white medium-format photography on film. I've been using a Holga — an all-plastic Russian camera, almost like a toy camera. Things are blurry, you can't really focus.

Things are very imprecise. I enjoy that very much. I've modified the camera to do even stranger things. When I shoot a roll of film, that entire roll of film becomes one giant negative, with no frames.

How did you find the path toward curating?

I got a B.A. in art from Reed College in Portland and took an internship at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, an old mattress factory converted into a museum. That was my first foray into being a curator and I fell in love with it.

(I curated) a show of Cuban artists. All the artists were denied access to the U.S., so we had to create this show in their absence.

Could you name two or three artists whose work you think is particularly exciting and might work well here?

I'm drawn to an artist like Tomás Saraceno. He often collaborates with scientists and engineers to create these really interesting projects. He has a project now in Germany where they've recorded a spider walking on its web and amplified it into an acoustic landscape. Bringing someone like that, and tapping into the knowledge that exists here at the university, is an exciting prospect for me.

Another artist I've been interested in is Cheryl Pope. She's done a lot of work in Chicago addressing issues of gun violence. Her practice toes the line between community activism and object making, sculptural practice.

That's another really interesting possibility for me: to bring in artists that are interested

in engaging with not just the university, but other communities in the Lansing and East Lansing area, artists who bring other voices in.

Are you concerned about making the Broad and contemporary art accessible to a broader public?

I want to address that more directly. You have a public institution. Is it serving the public? A museum has to be a social contract. It should be in conversation with the people it's serving.

You have to listen, get people in the door and make them feel comfortable. That's an issue all museums are facing, even at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. It's a mantle I feel strongly about, and hope to carry out with the work here.

Are you having any problems with culture shock, moving here from Chicago?

It's a different pace of life but one that suits me well. I'm renting a house on the east side of Lansing. Having that space and not having terrible neighbors above or below, I love all that.

I live around the corner from the Soup Spoon Cafe, which I understand is an institution in this town. I love that place. The Jerusalem Bakery is right around the corner. I'm finding those places near where I live that you like to go to, that build a sense of home. I grew up near Syracuse, a college town, and being here reminds me quite a bit of that. It feels good. I also grew up with winter, so I'm happy. There's been no shock.

It's also striking to me that neighborhoods here are so mixed, with different ages, races, ethnicities. It's not like the neighborhoods in Chicago, which can be kind of separate from each other.

I take Route 1 on the (CATA) bus to MSU and people say "thank you" to the driver. They say hello. Maybe that's the shock. People are nice here.

Sound decision

Holt native tours the country with 'Cirque Dreams Holiday'

By SARAH SPOHN

Known for its daring, Broadway-meets-balancing-acts performances and magnificent costumes, "Cirque Dreams Holiday" relies on a cast of behind-the-scenes workers to keep everything running smoothly. One of the many cogs in this well-oiled theater machine is Holt native Rachele Hough.

Hough, 25, is the sound engineer for the holiday-themed touring show. She landed the job two years ago through an interview over Skype. Since then, the show has taken her everywhere from Atlanta to Ontario.

"I tour with this show," Hough said. "Wherever they go, I go."

("Cirque Dreams Holiday" comes to Wharton Center Thursday through Saturday. See the event highlight on page 23 for details.)

The best part of the gig, she said, is being part of a show that brings people so much joy.

"My favorite part of my job is when the

show ends," she said. "The audience begins to leave, and everyone is smiling and laughing and talking about the show on the way out. The glow on people's faces that they get when they come to a show is the best thing about my job. This show allows people to forget about life's problems for a few hours and enjoy the magic."

When she was younger, Hough wanted to be a nurse. It wasn't until high school that other possible career options entered her life. Theater became a strong interest during her years at Holt High School.

"I got into theater when I was a sophomore," she said. "My experience there changed my life forever. It was the building blocks that got me into my career now. Theater really saved me and gave me a wonderful future. It was the only reason I liked to be in school."

Not only did theater give her a purpose, it also provided her with a role model.

"My mentor was Jeff Miller. He ran the theater program (at Holt High School) and really was the one who encouraged me to go into sound engineering for a career," Hough said. "He taught me a lot and got me started and really supported me."

After graduating in 2008, Hough attend-



Courtesy Photo

Holt native Rachele Hough is touring the country as sound engineer for "Cirque Dreams Holiday."

ed Lansing Community College and studied technical theater, specializing in sound engineering. She earned her associates degree from LCC in 2011.

High school theater was a transformative experience for Hough, but she worries not all students will get the same opportunities. School funding and budget cuts often lead to cuts in performing arts and music programs,

programs that she sees as crucial parts of a balanced education.

"People underestimate the arts and the power and influence it has over young minds," she said. "Without the theater in the school, I wouldn't be where I am today."

While audiences only experience the show for a few hours, Hough said that mounting a stage show like this is a full day's work.

"The day begins with the load-in. We unload the truck, and set it all up on stage. The performers come in and we do a sound check, and they all warm up and practice. We do the show, pack it all up and head to the next city," she said.

And while she loves the job, Hough admits there is a lot of stress during the live show.

"My job is to control what everyone hears and to appease the whole audience," Hough said. "(It's) no easy feat, because everyone's senses are vastly different."

While touring the country has been a great experience, Hough is looking forward to being back home with her friends and family in Holt.

"Everyone always wants to work on a tour show that goes to their hometown," she said. "I'm glad I get to do that."

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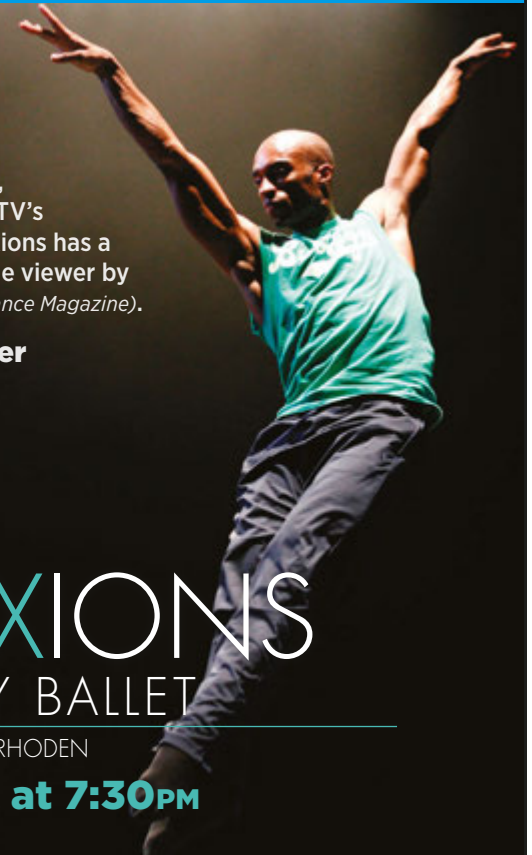
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Healthy holidays

'Target to Table' offers alternatives to unhealthy eating

By **BILL CASTANIER**

With Christmas just around the corner, that New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds can't be far behind. With a holiday season that now seems to stretch from Halloween to the mid-January college football national championship game, it can be tough to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"Be aware of what you are eating," said Kristen Johnson, co-author of the new lifestyle cookbook, "Target to Table." "You can eat a Christmas cookie, but you don't need five."

The new cookbook, which she wrote with her twin brother, Matt Johnson, mixes lifestyle changes with easy-to-prepare healthy

recipes. The cookbook is an offshoot of the family business, On Target Living. The East Lansing-based company was founded by their father, Chris Johnson, in 2007. The concept is based around a balance of three lifestyle concepts: rest, eat and move.

Matt Johnson, a Grand Valley State University graduate with a degree in corporate fitness and wellness, was hired as company president in 2011. Kristen Johnson, a registered dietician and Western Michigan University graduate, joined the company last year as a dietician and public speaker.

"I grew up this way, and I couldn't get away from it," she said.

Matt and Kristen Johnson will be at Schuler Books & Music's in the Eastwood Towne Center location Jan. 14, for a cooking demonstration, tasting and discussion. See schulerbooks.com for event details.

In addition to "Target to Table," which pushes lifestyle changes and healthy eating for the general population, the Johnsons also work with corporations to improve health and performance of employees.

"Companies are using On Target Living to lower health care costs and to engage more employees in their health decisions," Kristen Johnson said. "They usually see immediate results in productivity and lower health care costs."

She emphasized that lifestyle changes begin at home. That's why the twins decided on a cookbook that emphasizes quick, simple and healthy recipes that can easily be made at home. She added that healthy cooking is easier now than ever before.

"Every grocery store offers more healthy choices," she said. "It's kind of exciting. There are all kinds of choices that weren't



Courtesy photo

"Target to Table," an offshoot of East Lansing-based lifestyle brand On Target Living, offers healthy, easy-to-prepare recipes.

around 10 years ago."

Johnson added that it's important to know what the ingredients are and how to pronounce them.

"The place to start is with the ingredients," she said. If it's a long list, "it's probably not good."

Her preferred ingredients are fresh from the garden with no processing or boxes, especially from local growers.

"Local is the way to go, and you are helping the local community," Johnson said.

Johnson has several tips for incorporating healthy choices into everyday cooking.

ONLINE BONUS:
Check out this review on lansingcitypulse.com, which includes the recipe for Fruitilicious Upside-Down Cake, Kristen Johnson's favorite recipe from "Target to Table."

She suggests using coconut oil instead of butter and Greek yogurt in place of sour cream. She also recommends ground bison as a healthier alternative to hamburger.

The cookbook recipes are based on the "food target" ring developed by Chris Johnson. The food target is a series of concentric circles that go from poor and fair decisions in the outer circles to better and best decisions in the center circles. Poor decisions, for example, includes items like chicken nuggets and ice cream. The best decisions include foods like lentils, avocados and wild-caught fish.

"The more processed food is, the more you should avoid it," Kristen Johnson said.

One of the main objections that Johnson encounters is that healthy eating is more expensive.

"That's true, but it's too expensive to get sick," she counters. "You need to spend a little more now."

The cookbook starts with a short primer on the concept of target eating, including a guide to making simple, healthy smoothies. It moves from there into a typical cookbook format, ranging from beverages and snacks to entrees and desserts. The book's overall concept is not about dieting, but rather about creating a holistic healthy lifestyle, Johnson said.

She also has some advice for those who worry about overdoing it this holiday season: Stay with your workout plan and don't change your healthy eating choices.

"But if you do fail, just own it," she said.

And for that one great Christmas cookie, don't worry, she said. It's only once a year.

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

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Fri., December 18: 1-6pm
Sat., December 19: noon-6 pm
Meridian Mall location

Richard P. Smith, author of Great Michigan Deer Tales, will visit Schuler Books for his annual book signing, featuring his various titles, including Deer Hunting, Stand Hunting for Whitetails, Tracking Wounded Deer, Animal Tracks and Signs of North America, Black Bear Hunting, and Understanding Michigan Black Bear.

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



A knightly return

Encore, encore!

By MARK NIXON

F. Scott Fitzgerald got so many things right about this land, but he was dead wrong about there being “no second acts in American lives.” Actor-turned-president Ronald Reagan comes to mind. So does Lansing’s ever-inventive Old Town. (If you don’t remember it from 30 years ago, you only missed squalor stewed in despair). It seems the every other movie to hit the big screen is a reboot/remake/sequel of some sort.

Add another successful encore to our midst — the venerable Knight Cap restaurant. The director, the set design and much of the supporting cast — all different. They’ve tossed a good chunk of the old script, er, menu. Knight Cap is back, and Lansing’s dining crowd ought to be tap-dancing down the sidewalks of Michigan Avenue.

The diver scallops? As good as I’ve tasted this side of Nova Scotia. The duck confit? It will give some fine French restaurants a run for their money. Salmon imported from the bonnie banks of a Scottish river? As delicate and fresh as wild-caught salmon I’ve tasted in Alaska.

All that and much more is being whipped up nightly in a kitchen not much bigger than a walk-in closet.

It wasn’t this way in recent years. The old Knight Cap had a tired, ‘70s feel about it — think Lansing-born Burt Reynolds’ character in “Boogie Nights.” In a 2013 review, I wrote the Knight Cap “has lost a step ... nothing terrible about the food. But not much terribly exciting, either.”

Clearly, that has changed. Credit new owners Leo Farhat Jr. and his son, Gregory Farhat.

The decor is brighter, highlighted by a striking bas relief of a helmeted knight and his royal steed. You can hardly miss it. Well, you can hardly miss anything in this place. Knight Cap remains as intimate as a medieval sanctuary. I counted two booths, 14 closely parked tables and eight cheek-by-jowl stools at the bar. That’s it. The epitome of dining intimacy.

The stars of the show, for my money, are the seafood entrees. The lightly encrusted walleye (\$28) was expertly prepared. It reminded me of that amazing walnut-encrusted walleye perfected by chef Craig Common at the Common Grill in Chelsea. The scallops (\$17) were plump, sweet, tender and not over-broiled. These are notoriously hard to get right, and Knight Cap nailed it.

The “minor roles” on the menu are worthy of a shout-out. The roasted beets (\$6) and asparagus with hollandaise sauce (\$4) were more than garden variety add-ons. The real standout for me was the \$15 mushroom sard: button mushrooms in garlic butter, brandy, cream, dijon mustard and a red wine sauce, served with a crostini. This appetizer is big and rich enough to be a meal by itself.

If you have room for dessert, try a slice of the bourbon pecan pie (\$7) with melted chunks of dark chocolate. Amazing. Your blood sugar levels should return to normal within a week.

The duck confit (\$28) is worth the price. The juices and fat supply a gamey flavor to the duck that is so lacking in most poultry. Judy and I are devoted fans of all things duck — which is why they duck for cover whenever we approach. (Ba-doom crash! Thank you folks, I’ll be here all night.)

Our frequent dining companion, Bruce, lauded Knight Cap for providing “honest

Still the best filet in town.

By GABRIELLE JOHNSON

If you’re going to sell me an off-menu special, you have to tell me the price.

During a dinner at the recently renovated Knight Cap, now under new ownership, we listened to our server — and two other nearby servers — wax poetic about that evening’s bay scallop risotto and club-cut New York strip steak, all without

mentioning a price. That automatically makes me assume that it’s \$100 and thus off-limits. On our return visit, my suspicion that this vagueness was a directive, not simple forgetfulness, was confirmed. The fiancé and I had dinner at the bar on our second visit, and the bartender also failed to tell us the prices of the specials. I find this highly annoying.

Rant over. Let’s talk about the restaurant’s new look. Gone are the red brick walls, heavy draperies and 1970s key party lighting. The muted blues and grays of the new Knight Cap scream minimalism, while the arrangement of tables is anything but. Servers weave their way through a labyrinth of

closely placed tables. But an intimate dining experience has always been part of Knight Cap’s charm.

And while Knight Cap has improved in style, it has, unfortunately, taken a step back in quality of service. I long for the days of Ricque, the understated and elegant waiter who murmured the specials to you like he was telling you a secret. Now we have high school students in ill-fitting vests, so eager to please that they pick their way across the dining room every five minutes to refill your water glass. One server was so clueless that he described the peppercorn-crusted steak as corn-crusted — and didn’t realize the error of his ways because he didn’t know what peppercorns are. Seriously?

As I ordered my filet (\$40), I stared at the waiter. We both knew that he had follow-up questions to ask, but I had no confidence that he knew what they were. To be fair, “How well do you want that cooked?” is a version of the correct question. On the positive side, my filet was beautifully cooked to the requested medium rare, but the accompanying fresh green beans could have used another two minutes in the sauté pan. The fiancé’s New York strip (\$35) was cooked as requested and well seasoned, and he liked the side of rice pilaf. Knight Cap has always known how to cook a fabulous steak, and, for my money, it’s still the best filet in town.

Our Brussels sprouts with jalapeño bacon were salty, smoky and roasted until crispy (\$5). Delicious. On our next visit, I tried a holdover from the old Knight Cap menu, the medicettes (\$16). The tender, marinated beef tips are coated in bread crumbs and cheese and served with the world’s best Béarnaise sauce. Made with butter, egg yolks and herbs, Béarnaise sauce ranks right with the Eiffel Tower and chocolate mousse as my favorite contributions from France to the world.

The fiancé’s Scottish salmon (\$25) flaked apart with a touch from his fork,

Knight Cap

4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, closed Sunday

320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 484-7676, knightcap.com



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

Top: The Scottish salmon is one of the standout seafood options on Knight Cap’s revamped menu. Above: The chocolate bourbon pecan pie is a decadent way to cap off a dinner at Knight Cap.



OZONE'S BREWHOUSE/URBANBEAT/CREOLE COFFEE CO.

Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Ozone's Brewhouse owners Kyle (left) and Dan Malone stand outside the future taproom of their planned Old Town brewery.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

In recent years, a seemingly unending flow of bohemian spirits and entrepreneurial developers — and the occasional crossbreed of the two — have swept into Old Town and infused it with disparate elements. Rough-and-tumble shift bars. Upscale art galleries. Hair salons. Funky restaurants. Contemporary office spaces. And every time the neighborhood seems to settle into a groove, something else comes along and tweaks its personality again. Three new projects — one launched this week and two down the pipe — are aiming to supply the district's next tweak.

"We like to think of our beers as liquid art," said Kyle Malone, co-owner of **Ozone's Brewhouse**. "We like to experiment with (traditional) beer styles and be creative. And we like where Old Town is headed. We want to be part of the future here."

Malone will be opening the brewery with his father, Dan Malone. They're moving their new venture into a former warehouse at 305 Beaver St., just north of the Old Town shopping district. The building is owned by a property development group headed by **MessageMakers** founder and president Terry Terry.

"This is going to expand Old Town's footprint," Terry said. "Dan and Kyle are bringing something new to the neighborhood."

Kyle Malone, 26, was inspired to get into craft beer by his dad, who has been a home brewer for over 20 years. He gained his formal brewing knowledge at the Siebel Institute in Chicago and went on spend three and half years at Three Pints Brewing Co. in Indianapolis.

"It's a hobby run amok, but opening a brewery is something I've wanted to do for a while now," Malone said. "And going into business with my dad, where we agree on nine out of 10 things, it just makes sense."

Between the two of them, they have created hundreds of beers, including a chocolaty house porter, a barrel-aged Amarillo black IPA and a cherry-vanilla amber, which exemplifies the mix-and-match philosophy of Ozone's.

"They used to call my dad 'Ozone Malone' because his head was always in the clouds," Malone said. "He always liked trying something new. The beers we brew will be different from what's being made right now locally, which are stylistically correct. We're not necessarily going to be doing things that are stylistically correct. There will be a good yin and yang balance."

The Malones are converting about 3,000 square feet of the 10,000-square-foot warehouse into the brewery, with the "shed" out front to be converted into the taproom. A section of bar from the old Mustang Bar (which closed in 1986) will be reused at Ozone's, and an outdoor beer garden is planned. Malone estimates that between the site upgrades and infrastructure, they're investing over \$300,000. They're aiming for a spring opening.

"What's going on in Lansing right now is great — it reminds me of the recent revival of Grand Rapids," said Malone, who grew up in West Michigan. "It's exciting to be part of this."

No urban legend

Meanwhile, the former home of the Mustang Bar, 1213 and 1215 Turner St., will soon reopen as **UrbanBeat**, a performance venue/event space. On this project, Terry is partnering with Joni and John Szykiel, a couple who recently launched **Created to C**, a boutique marketing and branding company nearby.

UrbanBeat is set to open early next year. I'll tell you more about that soon, as well as a glass art studio Terry is developing at 1125 N. Washington Ave.

Creole café

Last month, Old Town got its first taste of fine dining when **the Creole** opened at 1218 Turner St. The building is the former home of the legendary Creole Gallery, an art gallery and performance space started by the late Robert Busby. The Creole was the latest addition to the fledgling Potent Potables Project ownership group, which also includes **Zoobie's Old Town Tavern** and **Cosmos**. I say "was" because the Creole's conjoined twin — **Creole Coffee Co.** — became the newest when it opened earlier this week.

"We're trying to bring something special to Old Town, while still being respectful of what came before us," said Sam Short, one-third of Potent Potables, along with developer Al Hooper and attorney Aaron Matthews. "Particularly to Robert. We're trying to keep his vision alive."

Half a dozen oversized tin signs from Busby's private collection adorn the Creole Coffee Co.'s exposed brick walls. They were found in the basement after Hooper moved into the loft above the Creole with his wife (and the building's owner), Jamie Schriener-Hooper.

Executive chef Dan Konopnicki has crafted a menu heavy on Louisiana-inspired cuisine, including a variety of sweet and savory crêpes, quiches and tortes. There are also Southern standbys like shrimp and grits and the French-influenced pain perdu (a fancy name for French toast), which has a corn flake crust and is topped with orange zest. On the lunch side, there are salads, fried oyster sandwiches, po' boys and an innovative take on the Parisian staple, croque monsieur.

And the Francophilia doesn't end there: All the coffee at Creole Coffee Co. is brewed in a French press, which will sit on your table if you're dining in. On the weekends, there is also be a mimosa option (made with fresh-pressed orange juice) and a New Orleans-style brunch buffet.

"Besides **Golden Harvest** and **Blondie's Barn**, there just aren't that many creative breakfast options around," Short said. "We're trying to stretch the concept of what breakfast can be."

Creole Coffee Co.
1216 Turner St.,
Lansing
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monday-Friday; 8
a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-
Sunday
(517) 371-1361,
thecreolelansing.com



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Creole Coffee Co. executive chef Dan Konopnicki created the café's menu to reflect authentic New Orleans cuisine.

He ate

from page 19

to goodness steak knives" and not those awful serrated knives that tear instead of slice. He is a steak lover, and on separate occasions had an amazing rib-eye steak "cooked to perfection" and a tenderloin that was "downright cold" inside.

This is the bane of many restaurants. Overheat the food, and the quality plummets. Underheat it, and it reaches your table practically begging for a sweater to stay warm.

Another example: My seafood chowder (\$15) was creamy, silky goodness. But it

arrived on the cool side. It was explained to me that heating it too much makes the cream "fall apart." Still, there has to be a way to have it hot without wrecking it. If we can put a man on the moon ...

Since its opening in 1969, the original Knight Cap was known for its stellar service. It hasn't missed a beat with the new owners. The service is spot-on, attentive without being cloying.

Every show has an off-night, and it's safe to say this place will have an occasional, ahem, off-knight. (You've been a great audience, don't forget to tip the waitstaff.) But the show must go on, and does. I predict the nightly performances will continue wowing the crowds for a long time to come.

She ate

from page 19

and a taste that I wrestled away from him melted in my mouth. His side of truffled macaroni and cheese (\$4), however, tried to make a fool of us. Not to be insufferably pretentious, but truffle is a distinctive taste. The aroma of truffles or truffle oil is so intense that you can almost taste it before you open your mouth. Truffles smell sexy. This macaroni and cheese had none of that — no truffle, not a hint.

For dessert, we had the chocolate

bourbon pecan pie. In the past, I'd been vocal about my low regard for dessert at the old Knight Cap. I'm happy to report that those days seem to be gone. The pie was creamy, with a buttery crust, rich filling and a drizzle of crème fraîche that lent the perfect note of tanginess.

A note to co-owner Leo Farhat, whom I saw in the dining room that night of our first visit: I see what you're trying to do here and I love you for it. But those servers need some serious training. They should know how to properly pronounce all the words on the menu, French or not. And they've got to know what peppercorns are.

OUT ON THE TOWN

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 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

H.E.R.O. Class Series: Kitchen Cabinet Series #3 Countertops and Sink Installation. Home improvement class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2. French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Aux Petits Soins-Travel Bugs 2. French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Story Art Time. Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

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

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books and Beyond Club. Share and discover books. Grades 6 and up. 4:15-5:15 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Leslie Branch, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

EVENTS

CADL Dansville Holiday Celebration. Stories, treats, crafts and live reindeer. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Making the naughty list



Courtesy Photo
L.A.-based burlesque performer Go-Go Amy is one of several performers who will take the stage at Saturday's "Tease-A-HoHo" burlesque variety show.

Saturday, Dec. 19

It's unseasonably warm in Michigan this week, but one local event is hoping to turn some cheeks rosy red without the help of winter weather. Michigan's largest burlesque variety show, Tease-A-Gogo, brings its risqué holiday show to the Avenue Café Saturday.

Founder and producer Autumn Luciano started the ever-changing show in April 2013, with the hopes of bringing a fresh brand of entertainment to the Lansing area. The bi-monthly burlesque production was held at popular LGBTQ nightclub Spiral Dance Bar during its first year before taking up residence at the Avenue Café.

"It was a better space and venue for this show," Luciano said. "There's a bigger stage, more seating areas and more places for the audience to see the stage from."

The bigger space has allowed for more elaborate set designs and a bigger crowd, Luciano added. Tease-A-Gogo's typical event turnout has grown from around 100 people to over 250 people since the switch.

Each show is a montage of

performances, usually based around a central theme, ranging from vaudeville-esque sideshow acts to sexy burlesque (and boylesque) striptease. Saturday's show will feature several mainstays of the Tease-A-Gogo series, including Naughty Autie, Vivacious Miss Audacious and Sadie Sparkles. Audience members are encouraged to come decked out in their best burlesque, drag or holiday-themed apparel. Luciano, who also owns Decadence Dolls pin-up studio, takes hundreds of photos to post on the Tease-A-Gogo Facebook page, including performers during and after the show and candid shots of the crowd.

In a new twist, Luciano took her show on the road this year. The Lansing show is the final stop on a first-ever, six-city tour throughout the Midwest. She decided to take the show on the road with the help of her friend, Go-Go Amy, whose L.A.-based variety show, Pretty Things Peepshow, made a name for itself touring international stages. Luciano is excited to showcase

Lansing as a budding outlet for burlesque and variety, and hopes the tour will draw a new crowd to future shows.

"(Go-Go Amy) had been encouraging me to take the show on a short tour for awhile," Luciano said. "We decided to plan it together. Having her experience with producing has really helped me take the show to the next level."

In addition to the usual array of burlesque dancers, drag queens and circus sideshow performers, puppeteers from Rasputin's Marionettes in L.A. will be flying in with their handcrafted puppets that do naughty and hilarious things.

"I'm very excited for the whole show, but I think I'm most excited for the puppets," Luciano said. "We've never had puppets in Tease-A-Gogo before. It's going to be hilarious."

— MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM

Tease-A-HoHo
Holiday burlesque variety show
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19
\$10
18+
The Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
teaseagogo.com

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

LIGHTS & CAVES AT THE LOFT

Saturday, Dec. 19 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 7 p.m.



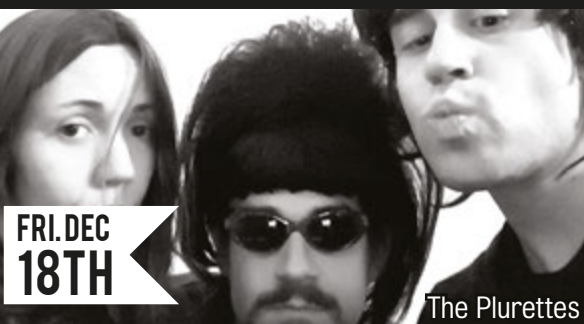
Saturday's Fusion Shows Holiday Extravaganza show features a roster of local indie bands, including co-headliners Lights & Caves and Secret Grief. Warming up the stage are Alaska, Dyno Gee and Parkway & Columbia. Since forming in early 2013, Lansing-based Lights & Caves has performed throughout Michigan, opened for MGMT at 2013's Common Ground Music Festival and released a full-length album, "In Satori." The 2013 album was recorded in Chicago with producer Mike Govaere at Downbeat Studio. Fans of Manchester Orchestra, Radiohead or Coldplay might want to check out Lights & Caves. Co-headliner Secret Grief, a Muskegon-based band formerly known as Tiger! Tiger!, performs as a 10-piece band for this special show. Fans of Cursive, the Get Up Kids or Brand New might dig this emoting indie-rock outfit.

SAT. DEC 19TH

Light & Caves

THE PLUETTES' UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY AT MAC'S BAR

Friday, Dec. 18 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, \$8 adv., 8 p.m.




Celebrate the holidays with tacky attire and vintage pop and doo-wop tunes at the Ugly Sweater Christmas Party Friday at Mac's Bar. Headlining the night is the Plettes, an oldies cover band. The group comprises Lansing-based musicians Tommy Plural and Hattie Plural (of the Plurals) and Loren Pudvay (of the Hunky Newcomers). The trio performs fuzzed-out, punky interpretations of '60s girl-group classics. The band's set list features a heavy dose of Motown, Brill Building and Phil Spector songs, including cuts from the Supremes, the Ronnettes, the Shirelles and the Shangri-Las. The Plettes formed at a Halloween show two years ago and has performed sporadically since — sometimes in full costumes. Sharing the festive bill are Laney Agogo, Nick Krzywnos, Red Wires and Bluffing the Ghosts.

FRI. DEC 18TH

The Plettes

LIL' FLIP AT BINNI'S BAR AND GRILL

Thursday, Dec. 17 @ Binni's Bar, 820 W. Miller Rd., Lansing. \$30, \$15 adv., 7 p.m.



Lil' Flip, best known for his 2004 hit single, "Game Over (Flip)," performs Thursday at Binni's Bar. Openers include BIG\$, Dem Silent Boyz & Blake Wilson, Matik, BuckWILD & Ratchet, Tha Real New Orleans, Mahk-Deane, Steve O Da Stoner, Kinfolk and more. In 1999, Lil' Flip, real name Wesley Eric Weston, Jr., signed his first record deal with Suckafree Records. The Houston-based rapper released his debut LP, "The Leprechaun," the following year. By 2002, Columbia Records picked up Lil' Flip and released his "Undaground Legend" album — it was certified platinum later that year. In March, Flip released his sixth studio album, "El Jefe." The disc, distributed by SoSouth Records, featured singles "Game Over II" and "In My Pimp C Voice;" the latter is a tribute to the late rapper Pimp C. Advance tickets are available by calling (810) 447-4466.

THURS. DEC 17TH

Lil' Flip

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic, 8 p.m.	The Devil's Cut, 9 p.m.	Tease A Gogo, 10 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.			DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Scott Seth, 8 p.m.	Darrin Larner Jr., 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Kevin Schaffer, 6 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Paulie O., 8:30 p.m.	Bob Schultz, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	DJ YAY, 9 p.m.
Copper, 2874 E. Lake Lansing Rd.				
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.		
Darb's, 117 S. Cedar St.			Scott Seth, 9 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.		Karaoke w/Jamie, 9 p.m.	DJ Fudgie, 10 p.m.	DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	The New Rule, 9:30 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 143 Kent St.		Holiday Sing Along, 7 p.m.		We Three Strings, 7 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9:30 p.m.	Miranda, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Alistair, 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.			Icey/Dicey, 7 p.m.	Lights and Caves, 7 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Evening with Julian McCullough, 8 p.m.		Pluettes, 8 p.m.	Mr. Denton on Doomsday, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Dragspel, 9 p.m.	Dewaynes, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Hopening Quartet, 9 p.m.	Hot Mess, 8:30 p.m.	Hot Mess, 8:30 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			El Cabong, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Life Support, 7 p.m.	Life Support, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		Tell Yo Mama, 8 p.m.	Bill Slaght, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.	The Rotations, 8:30 p.m.	The Rotations, 8:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.		Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLaughlin, 8 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.				

Out on the town

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CADL Haslett Holiday Open House. Live reindeer, refreshments, crafts and jolly surprise visitor. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Paper Snowflakes. All ages make snowflake crafts. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Preschool Holiday Storytime. Holiday stories and craft. Ages 3-6. 9:30-10:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185, cadl.org.

Preschool Storytime with Tinkerbell. From 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Allen Street Farmers Market – Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 After-School Teen Program. For grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Food Drive. Drop off non-perishable food items for charity. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SS Hair Designers, 3233 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 327-5300.

Thursday, December 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 7-8

p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room 214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

Tarot Study Group. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

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

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Genealogy Club. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

BookSleuth LIVE. Library offers book suggestions via Twitter and Facebook. 1-6 p.m. FREE. cadl.org, facebook.com/cadlibrary, @cadl on Twitter.

Chipmunk Story Time: Moon Game. Story, craft and nature walk for preschoolers. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

MUSIC

Bluegrass Jam. All bluegrass musicians welcome. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-7880, ow.ly/VMxXk.

Karaoke. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Drum Circle. All levels welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

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

The Lansing/DeWitt Sunrise Rotary Presents: The DeWitt High School Chamber Choir. Holiday favorites performed. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Region International Airport, 4100 Capitol

City Blvd., Lansing. (517) 599-2782, ow.ly/VMyDc.

THEATER

Cirque Dreams: Holiday. Holiday circus spectacular. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$35/\$25 students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$23. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

EVENTS

Gentle Yoga. Yoga basics. 9-10 a.m. \$10/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. elpl.org

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

After-School Teen Program. For grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Food Drive. Drop off non-perishable food items for charity. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SS Hair Designers, 3233 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 327-5300.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

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

Craft Corner. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. 3-6 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

Ladies Figure Skating. Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.

Lunch @ MSC. Call ahead to reserve meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Mind Benders at the Meridian Senior Center. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center,

4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Minecraft Game Night. All levels welcome. Registration required. Ages 8-15. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840 ext. 202, cadl.org.

One on One Life Coaching. Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. elpl.org

Tripper's Comedy Club. 9-10:30 p.m. \$5 Subject to change or cancellation. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.

Friday, December 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Mud And Mug. Pottery class, BYOB. Ages 21 and up. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1-3. French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4), 10:30 a.m. (0-2) & 5:15pm (ages 4-6). \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitsoinsllc.

Comprehensive Approach to Weight Loss. Wimbledon room, call to register. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 1-800-SPARROW.

EVENTS

Alpacas of Tealwater Ranch Holiday Sale. Alpaca education and wool products for sale. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Tealwater Ranch, 1312 N. Ionia Road, Vermontville. tealwater ranch.com.

Jingle Bell Storytime. Holiday stories. Ages 2-6. Registration required. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 West Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

Kids Skate. 6-8 p.m. ages 13 and under; 8-11 p.m., ages 14 and up. \$8. Skate City Roller Rink, 905 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

Minecraft Game Night. All levels welcome. Ages 8-15, registration required. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Capital

See Out on the Town, Page 24

THURSDAY, DEC. 17-19 >> 'CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE' AT THE WHARTON CENTER

Soaring snowmen and acrobatic angels hit the Wharton Center stage in "Cirque Dreams Holiday." The colorful holiday extravaganza celebrates the season with elaborate production numbers, extravagant costumes and live music, all performed in a winter wonderland setting. 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets start at \$38. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18-20 >> 'AN AMERICAN NUTCRACKER' AT GREATER LANSING BALLET CO.

Mouse militias and sugar plum fairies take the stage as the Greater Lansing Ballet Co. presents a fresh take on Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." The show tells the beloved story of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince and their struggle to defeat the Mouse King and his army, set with all-new choreography and updated costumes. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 4 p.m. showing on Sunday. \$25/\$20 students and seniors/\$12 children. Pattengill Middle School Auditorium, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. (517) 372-9887, greaterlansingballet.com.

FUN with Toys For ALL AGES

Cast aluminum and bronze sculpture by Michigan artist, **Scott Nelles.**

Some of our collection of Scott's coin banks.

Flying saucer with a retractable ramp and lift off lid in cast aluminum with cast bronze alien family.

Visit our collection of gifts for everyone.

Ray gun with moveable trigger.



MACKEREL SKY

211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com

Holiday Hours

Dec. 1-23 Sunday: 12pm-4 | Monday-Friday: 10am-8pm | Saturday: 10 am-5pm

Dec. 24: 10am-2pm | CLOSED Dec. 25, 26, 27 & Jan. 1, 2, 3, 4

Out on the town

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Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351 ext. 3, cadl.org.
RCS Movie Night. "Scrooged" screening with film-inspired cocktails. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing. (517) 908-9950, redcedarspiritsdistillery.com.
StoryTime. For ages 2-5. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.
TGIF Party. Dance party. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$13.

Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath.
After-School Teen Program. For grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.
Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.
Food Drive. Drop off non-perishable food items for charity. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SS Hair Designers, 3233 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 327-5300.
Season of Light. Planetarium show. 8 p.m. \$4/\$3.50 students and seniors/\$3 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing.

(517) 355-4672, abramsplanetarium.org.
MUSIC
Holiday Wishes Christmas Variety Show. Proceeds benefit food bank. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 pre-sale/\$5 kids. Food donations encouraged. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2682, gholidaywishes.com.
Mason Orchestral Society Holiday Concert. Holiday favorites and more. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7215, masonorchestras.org.

1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.
Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.
Tai Chi at Allen Market Place. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

MUSIC
Holiday Wishes Christmas Variety Show. Proceeds benefit food bank. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 pre-sale/\$5 kids. Food donations encouraged. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2682, gholidaywishes.com.
Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.
A Celebration of Christmas in Northtown. Daryl Hibbert and others perform live. 4-6:30 p.m. FREE. Agape Christian Church, 3021 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 394-2663.
A Jazzy Little Christmas. MSU Jazz professors perform. 8-10 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/VMFIR.
Atomic Boogaloo Band with The Vivacious

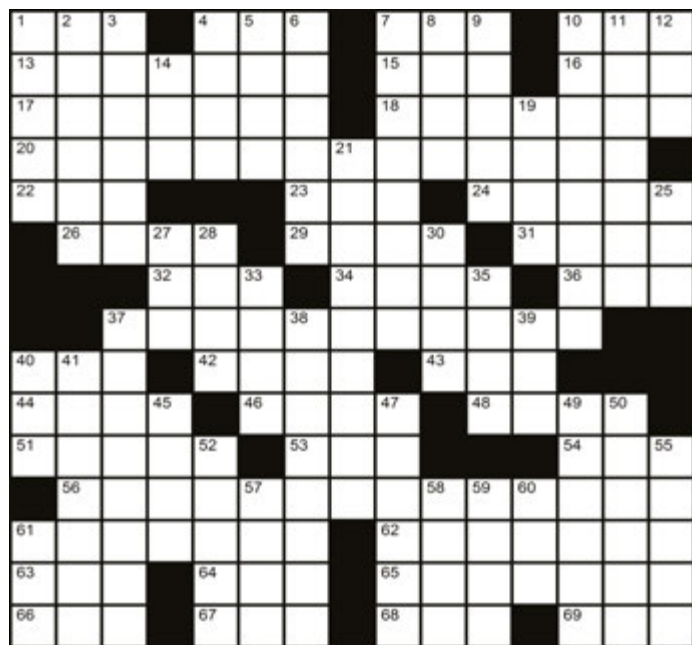
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"We've Got U Surrounding" — vowel play from both sides.
 Matt Jones

Across

- 1 How-___ (instructional books)
- 4 Kind of bar lic.
- 7 "Today" rival, initially
- 10 Chiding sound
- 13 "Not my call"
- 15 FF's opposite, on a VCR
- 16 "That's ___ quit!"
- 17 Malaria medicine
- 18 Canniest, for instance
- 20 Group that keeps count from AK to WY
- 22 "A garter snake!"
- 23 DDE's command in WWII
- 24 Denounces strongly
- 26 Armenia and Georgia, once
- 29 James Bond's first foe
- 31 Former Texas governor Perry
- 32 "Don't reckon so"
- 34 Singer-songwriter Redding
- 36 Reticent
- 37 WWII naval cruiser named for a Hawaiian city
- 40 Night wear, for short
- 42 ___ Kong International Airport
- 43 Congressional assent
- 44 Feels sorrow over
- 46 They're known for 10s and 20s, but not 30s
- 48 Slipper tips



- 51 "Snowy" heron
- 53 Sombrero, for one
- 54 Audio collectibles
- 56 1929 Luis Bunuel/Salvador Dali surrealist short film
- 61 One side of a drill bit, e.g.
- 62 What student loans cover for
- 63 Namath, in 1977
- 64 "May ___ now?"
- 65 Palindromic 1992 album from Bela Fleck and the Flecktones
- 66 Bauxite, e.g.
- 67 Maze runner
- 68 Gees' predecessors
- 69 1/6 of a fl. oz.
- Down**
- 1 Canadian wool cap
- 2 Catalogued musical works
- 3 Stones' companions
- 4 "___ Eyes" (1975 Eagles hit)
- 5 Air purifier emissions
- 6 Waiting for the London Underground, perhaps
- 7 Take hold of
- 8 Restaurant request
- 9 One of four in an EGOT
- 10 Dessert made with espresso
- 11 Steadfast
- 12 Actress Cattrall
- 14 1300, to civilians
- 19 Equipment
- 21 Dictator
- 25 Astronomer's view
- 27 OR personnel
- 28 Pageant adornment
- 30 Like a mechanic's rag
- 33 Yell that puts the brakes on
- 35 Wintertime bird treat
- 37 Password accompanier
- 38 Not one minute later
- 39 Chinese philosopher ___-tzu
- 40 Tense beginning?
- 41 As they say, go for it!
- 45 Denominational offshoot
- 47 Town square centerpiece, maybe
- 49 "Billy ___" (2000 movie)
- 50 Lampoons
- 52 His and her
- 55 Break of day
- 57 "Young Frankenstein" heroine
- 58 "Sho ___!"
- 59 "Vaya con ___"
- 60 Bar assoc. member
- 61 To and ___

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$28. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.
Cirque Dreams: Holidayze. Holiday circus spectacular. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$35/\$25 students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com

Saturday, December 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing,

See Out on the Town, Page 25

SATURDAY, DEC. 19 >> A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS WITH MSU PROFESSORS OF JAZZ

Sick of hearing the same old Christmas songs on the radio year after year? MSU's jazz faculty super-group, the Professors of Jazz, are here to solve your holiday tune woes. Each year, the professors get together for "A Jazzy Little Christmas," presenting seasonal favorites in creative jazz arrangements. The group's lineup comprises Etienne Charles (trumpet), Randy Gelispie (drums), Diego Rivera (saxophone), Xavier Davis (piano), Randy Napoleon (guitar), Michael Dease (trombone) and Rodney Whitaker (bass). 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19 >> WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AT LANSING CITY MARKET

If the warm weather is ruining your holiday spirit, swing by the Lansing City Market Saturday for a dose of seasonal fun at its Winter Solstice Celebration. The event includes live music, vendor specials, holiday-themed gifts, ornament decorating, free sleigh rides, and a cooking demonstration. Santa will make an appearance to listen to children's Christmas wishes. 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-6460 ext. 234, lansingcitymarket.com.

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

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	9	8			6	5	
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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 26

Out on the town

from page 24

Miss Audacious. Eclectic music performance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Pay what you can. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. atomicboogaloband.com.

Deacon Earl: Acoustic at Ellison Brewery. 8-11 p.m. FREE. Ellison Brewery & Spirits, 4903 Dawne Ave., East Lansing. (517) 203-5498.

Tease A Gogo Holiday Burlesque Extravaganza. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

Mr. Denton on Doomsday w/Jenn's Apartment & Sumarah. 9 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

Free Public Tours. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

BevDev. Behind-the-scenes look at cocktail creation. Noon-1:30 p.m. \$5. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N Larch St Lansing. (517) 999-2631, americanfifthspirits.com.

Family Tree Talk-Holiday Edition. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 South Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Home for the Holidays All-Nighter @ ICAC. Fun events and pet adoption, all night long. 11 a.m.-11:59 p.m. Adoption fees vary. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 242-7440, ac.ingham.org.

Practice Your English for Kids. All levels welcome. 1-2 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. elpl.org.

Winter Solstice. Live music, vendor specials, sleigh rides and more. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive Lansing. (517) 927-9795, ow.ly/VJuyi.

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 2 and 8 p.m. \$25 at 2 p.m.; \$28 at 8 p.m. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Cirque Dreams: Holiday. Holiday circus spectacular. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets from \$35/\$25 students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Sunday, December 20

EVENTS

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

Free Public Tours. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Home for the Holidays All-Nighter @ ICAC. Fun events and pet adoption, all night long. Midnight-4 a.m. Adoption fees vary. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 242-7440,

See Out on the Town, Page 26



SATURDAY, DEC. 19 >> THE ATOMIC BOOGALOO BAND HOLIDAY PARTY

Lansing's own jazz/funk instrumental trio, the Atomic Boogaloo Band, brings a one-of-a-kind Christmas concert to the Robin Theatre Saturday. The band comprises Greater Lansing music scene veterans Andy Callis (Farfisa electric accordion), Aaron Holland (guitar) and Bob Bryan (drums). Burlesque dancer Vivacious Miss Audacious joins the band for this show, adding her high-energy dancing and hula-hooping to the mix. 7:30 p.m. Pay what you can. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. atomicboogaloband.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19 >> MSU COMICS CLASS IN-STORE SIGNING

One of MSU's more interesting course offerings is Comics and Visual Narrative, where students learn to write and illustrate comic strips and other visual narrative works. The course is led by Professor Ryan Claytor, who runs Lansing-based comic publisher Elephant Eater Comics. To mark the end of the semester, students from the class will display, sell and sign their works at East Lansing's Hollow Mountain Games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Hollow Mountain Games, 611 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. elephantateer.com.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 16-22

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Neanderthals were a different human species that co-existed with our ancestors, homo sapiens, for at least 5,000 years. But they eventually died out while our people thrived. Why? One reason, says science writer Marcus Chown, is that we alone invented sewing needles. Our newborn babies had well-made clothes to keep them warm and healthy through frigid winters. Neanderthal infants, covered with ill-fitting animal skins, had a lower survival rate. Chown suggests that although this provided us with a mere one percent survival advantage, that turned out to be significant. I think you're ready to find and use a small yet ultimately crucial edge like that over your competitors, Aries.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Artist Robert Barry created "30 Pieces," an installation that consisted of pieces of paper on which he had typed the following statement: "Something which is very near in place and time, but not yet known to me." According to my reading of the astrological omens, this theme captures the spirit of the phase you're now entering. But I think it will evolve in the coming weeks. First it'll be "Something which is very near in place and time, and is becoming known to me." By mid-January it could turn into "Something which is very near and dear, and has become known to me."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "There is in every one of us, even those who seem to be most moderate, a type of desire that is uncanny, wild, and lawless." Greek philosopher Plato wrote that in his book *The Republic*, and I'm bringing it to your attention just in time for your Season of Awakening and Deepening Desire. The coming days will be a time when you can, if you choose, more fully tune in to the uncanny, wild, and lawless aspects of your primal yearnings. But wait a minute! I'm not suggesting you should immediately take action to gratify them. For now, just feel them and observe them. Find out what they have to teach you. Wait until the new year before you consider the possibility of expressing them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Congratulations! You have broken all your previous records for doing boring tasks that are good for you. In behalf of the other eleven signs, I thank you for your heroic, if unexciting, campaign of self-improvement. You have not only purified your emotional resources and cleared out some breathing room for yourself, but you have also made it easier for people to help you and feel close to you. Your duty has not yet been completed, however. There are a few more details to take care of before the gods of healthy tedium will be finished with you. But start looking for signs of your big chance to make a break for freedom. They'll arrive soon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The English word "fluke" means "lucky stroke." It was originally used in the game of billiards when a player made a good shot that he or she wasn't even trying to accomplish. Later its definition expanded to include any fortuitous event that happens by chance rather than because of skill: good fortune generated accidentally. I suspect that you are about to be the beneficiary of what may seem to be a series of flukes, Leo. In at least one case, though, your lucky break will have been earned by the steady work you've done without any fanfare.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may not have to use a literal crowbar in the coming weeks, but this rough tool will serve you well as a metaphor. Wherever you go, imagine that you've got one with you. Why? It's time to jimmy open glued-shut portals . . . to pry loose mental blocks . . . to coax unyielding influences to budge . . . to nudge intransigent people free of their fixations. Anything that is stuck or jammed needs to get unstuck or unjammed through the power of your willful intervention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to consort with hidden depths and unknown riches. In every way you can imagine, I

urge you to go deeper down and further in. Cultivate a more conscious connection with the core resources you sometimes take for granted. This is one time when delving into the darkness can lead you to pleasure and treasure. As you explore, keep in mind this advice from author T. Harv Eker: "In every forest, on every farm, in every orchard on earth, what's under the ground creates what's above the ground. That's why placing your attention on the fruits you have already grown is futile. You can't change the fruits that are already hanging on the tree. But you can change tomorrow's fruits. To do so, you will have to dig below the ground and strengthen the roots."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the coming weeks, the pursuit of pleasure could drain your creative powers, diminish your collaborative possibilities, and wear you out. But it's also possible that the pursuit of pleasure will enhance your creative powers, synergize your alliances, and lead you to new opportunities. Which way will you go? It all depends on the kinds of pleasures you pursue. The dumb, numbing, mediocre type will shrink your soul. The smart, intriguing, invigorating variety will expand your mind. Got all that? Say "hell, no" to trivializing decadence so you can say "wow, yes" to uplifting bliss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Garnets are considered less valuable than diamonds. But out in the wild, there's an intimate connection between these two gemstones. Wherever you find garnets near the surface of the earth, you can be reasonably sure that diamonds are buried deeper down in the same location. Let's use this relationship as a metaphor for your life, Sagittarius. I suspect you have recently chanced upon a metaphorical version of garnets, or will do so soon. Maybe you should make plans to search for the bigger treasure towards which they point the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ready for the Cool Anger Contest? You can earn maximum points by expressing your dissatisfaction in ways that generate the most constructive transformations. Bonus points will be awarded for your ability to tactfully articulate complicated feelings, as well as for your emotionally intelligent analyses that inspire people to respond empathetically rather than defensively. What are the prizes? First prize is a breakthrough in your relationship with an ally who could be crucial to your expansion in 2016. Second prize is a liberation from one of your limiting beliefs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A fourth-century monk named Martin was a pioneer wine-maker in France. He founded the Marmoutier Abbey and planted vineyards on the surrounding land. According to legend, Martin's donkey had a crucial role in lifting viticulture out of its primitive state. Midway through one growing season, the beast escaped its tether and nibbled on a lot of the grapevines. All the monks freaked out, fearing that the crop was wrecked. But ultimately the grapes grew better than they had in previous years, and the wine they produced was fabulous. Thus was born the practice of pruning, which became de rigeur for all grape-growers. What's your equivalent of Martin's donkey, Aquarius? I bet it'll exert its influence very soon.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "The deepest urge in human nature is the desire to be important," said educator John Dewey. If that's true, Pisces, you are on the verge of having your deepest urge fulfilled more than it has in a long time. The astrological alignments suggest that you are reaching the peak of your value to other people. You're unusually likely to be seen and appreciated and acknowledged for who you really are. If you have been underestimating your worth, I doubt you will be able to continue doing so. Here's your homework: Take a realistic inventory of the ways your life has had a positive impact on the lives of people you have known.

Out on the town

from page 25

ac.ingham.org.

Candlelight Vesper Service. Excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" performed. 4 p.m. FREE. Friendship Baptist Church, 2912 Pleasant Grove Road Lansing.

PFLAG Greater Lansing Area Meeting. LGBTQ group reviews past year. 3-5 p.m. FREE. First Congregational UCC Church, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 925-1125.

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 2 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Kendo Demonstration. Demo of Japanese sword-based martial art. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL DOWNTOWN Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, cadl.org.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate levels. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Road, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteyoga.net.

George and Oatmeal Save Santa. Christmas planetarium show for families. 2:30 p.m. \$4/\$3.50 students and seniors/\$3 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672, abramsplanetarium.org.

MUSIC

Caroling at Potter Park. Okemos Community Church singers carol under holiday lights. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,

Lansing. (517) 349-4220.

Mid-Michigan Folkgrass Jam. Join in or just watch. 2-6 p.m. \$4 suggested donation. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382, re-news.net/mmbio.

Monday, December 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.

Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health. Weekly class. 1 and 5:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-0717.

Downloading CADL eBooks, eMagazines and Music. Course on accessing CADL's online library. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

EVENTS

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

Kids Reading to Dogs. Kids read to trained dog. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

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

Write for Rights at Annual Peace Community Gathering. Sign letters for prisoners of conscience and share dessert potluck. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 803-7813.

Tuesday, December 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL DOWNTOWN Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, cadl.org.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

Overeaters Anonymous. Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2015 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 THAI FOOD

#1 BANGKOK HOUSE

City Pulse readers love its spiced-to-order Thai favorites
420 E. Saginaw St., Suite 112, Lansing
(517) 487-6900
bangkokhouselansing.com
Temporarily closed due to fire.

#2 NO THAI

Michigan-based chain that, despite the confusing name, serves up quality Thai food
403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 336-5555
nothai.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 TASTE OF THAI

Known for its drunken noodles and curry dishes
1105 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 324-0225
tasteofthaeastlansing.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 1-10 p.m. Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Sunday

#4 THAI PRINCESS

City Pulse readers love Thai Princess' contemporary take on Thai cuisine
1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos
(517) 381-1558
thaiprincessmi.com
11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday

#5 ASIA'S FINEST

Unpretentious South Lansing joint known for its pho and its Thai and Vietnamese specialties
6443 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 393-1688
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; 4-9 p.m. Sunday



SUNDAY, DEC. 20 >> CAPITAL CITY BRASS BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Capital City Brass Band rings in the holiday season with "Celebrate!" a concert of holiday-themed music. Sunday, the holiday show comes to the Grand Ledge High School Auditorium. The event also includes a pre-concert community sing sing-along at 2:30 p.m. "We are really excited about these holiday concerts and hope the community will enjoy listening to our music and getting into the holiday spirit," said Tracy Sonneborn, president of Capital City Brass Bands. The band also performs Friday night in Jackson, see website for details. 3 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge High School Auditorium, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge. capitalcitybrassband.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 20 >> POP-UP HOLIDAY MARKET AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

Still looking for that perfect gift? REO Town's Robin Theatre is opening its doors Sunday to offer locally made crafts and curated vintage goods for your last-minute shopping needs. A wide variety of items will be on display, ranging from vintage clothes to original art prints and paintings to locally roasted coffee beans. Featured vendors include Rust Belt Roastery, Remark Clothing, MiddleWestMarket, Kimberly Lavon INK, Papercuts Handmade, Mary "Makeshift" Molnar and more. Live entertainment will be provided by various artists in a holiday-themed open mic format. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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Out on the town

from page 2

system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing.

(517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc. **Yawn Patrol Toastmasters.** Learn public speaking. 7-8:30 a.m. Studio 1210 Place, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 859-2086. yawnpatrol.com.

EVENTS

Sporcle Live! Trivia. Team based. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

Winter Break Cinema. Animated feature, "Home," PG. 2-3:35 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Ave.,

Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

Wednesday, December 23 MUSIC

Marshall Music Ukulele Play-Along. All ages and levels welcome. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9

p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info
Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.
Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2 and Travel Bugs 2. French immersion class for toddlers and kids. Ages 2-4 meet 5:15 p.m., ages 6-9 meet 6:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Christmas Worship Services



CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
5PM & 7PM
southlife.org
South CHURCH

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1020 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing

Christmas Eve: 12/24
5:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols - Family Worship
8:30 p.m. Musical Prelude
9 p.m. Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day: 12/25




Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Service

8:00 pm Carols and Candles

Come as you are and share with us the joy of Christmas!



Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ
Lansing, MI

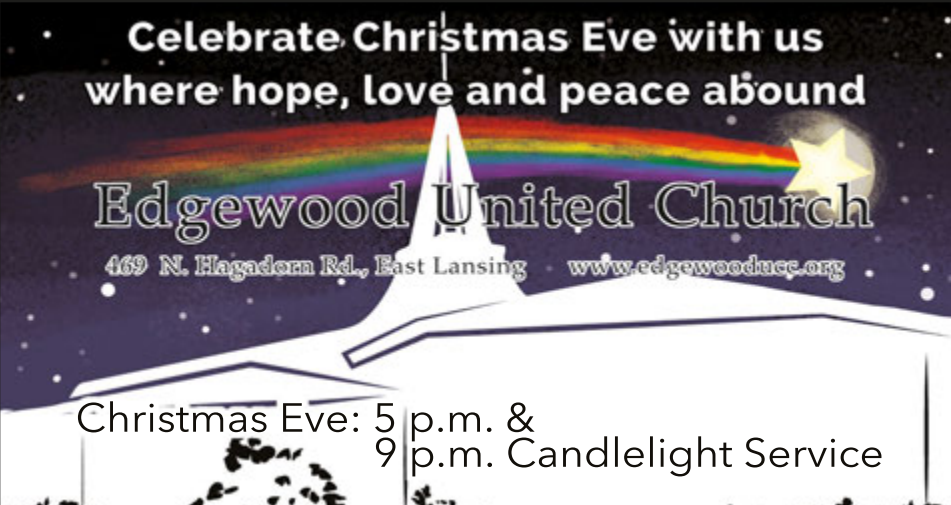
125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Sunday - 10 AM
(517) 484-7434
PilgrimUCC.com




Celebrate Christmas Eve with us where hope, love and peace abound

Edgewood United Church
469 N. Hagadem Rd., East Lansing www.edgewooduce.org

Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. & 9 p.m. Candlelight Service



University
United Methodist Church & Wesley Campus Community


Sunday, December 20
10:30 a.m. - Where is God Leading Me?

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve
5 p.m. - Family Service, designed especially for families with young children
8 p.m. - Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27
10:30 a.m. - Keeping the Story Alive in Us, Service of Covenant Renewal

1120 S. Harrison Rd. East Lansing • UniversityChurchHome.org

Please Join Us!



Blue Christmas

December 22, 2015 - 7 p.m.
It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Only it's not.

- Not for everyone
- Not when there is an empty chair at the table
- Not when you are ill
- Not when the depression seems too much to bear
- Not when you've lost your job and you don't know how you will feed your family

Sometimes trying to smile and say Merry Christmas is more difficult. It's pretty near impossible.

How do you live with the hope and promise of the season while struggling with sorrow and distress. *Blue Christmas* is a safe place to celebrate the birth of our Lord while acknowledging our grief, loneliness and pain.

In this service we will sing songs appropriate to the season, reflect on our pain through scripture, and we will pray for hope and comfort.

This invitation is for anyone and everyone in our community who is trying to balance the expectations of the season with the sadness they are experiencing.

Refreshments will be offered at a reception following the service.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa, Lansing (across from the Capitol)



ADVANCED Care
PHARMACY SERVICES

Discreet &
Compassionate
Care

Customized medication packaging
simplifies complex medication schedules

- /// Free delivery
- /// Full-Service pharmacy
- /// Serving Lansing since 2001
- /// Locally owned and operated
- /// Our pharmacists are experts in medication therapy and management



Edgewood & Cedar Plaza
6250 S. Cedar Street, Lansing

(517) 887-3539
www.advcr.com

Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30
24/7 Emergency Service



THE FRIENDS OF
Turner-Dodge House
& Lansing Parks and Recreation

PRESENT
4TH ANNUAL
Festival of Trees



Saturday, December 5th thru
Sunday, January 3rd
ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

\$5.00 per person
Children 12 & under FREE

please call 483-4220 for admission times
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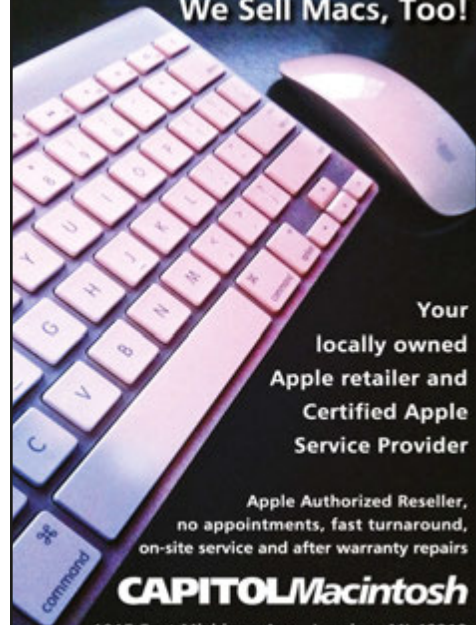
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