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December 10-16, 2014



WEEDING OUT?

PENDING REGULATIONS COULD PUT A CAP ON DISPENSARIES - P. 8



LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE: MADE IN LANSING EDITION - P. 11

ARRESTING LANGUAGE: WHAT QUALIFIES AS TERROR? - HIRTEN, P. 5

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SPECIAL THANKS

Natalie "A Muse" Anwar (photographer)
Michael Kern of On Stage Visuals



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www.lansingarts.org

Passports - Delta Township Clerk's Office



Monday-Friday 8am-5pm plus:

- Thursday, January 8th from 5pm-7pm
- Wednesday, January 28th from 5pm-7pm
- Wednesday, April 22nd from 5pm-7pm
- Tuesday, August 11th from 5pm-7pm
- Thursday, October 8th from 5pm-7pm

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Mary R. Clark, Township Clerk



An Important Notice from The City of Lansing

Revisions to Snow and Ice Ordinance

- ❄️ Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall has ended.
(Snow Ordinance 10.20.06.A)
- ❄️ Ice and snow may not be placed in the street or sidewalk that will cause unsafe conditions for vehicles or pedestrians.
- ❄️ Violation notice may be left at property if sidewalk is not clear. Notice is a reminder that will allow an additional 24 hours to clear snow and ice.
(Snow Ordinance 10.20.06.B)
- ❄️ If you do not clear your sidewalk of snow/ice, the City may clear at owner's expense (minimum \$124).
(Snow Ordinance 10.20.06.C)

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by Berl Schwartz



NOW ON AT A NEW TIME:

7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS

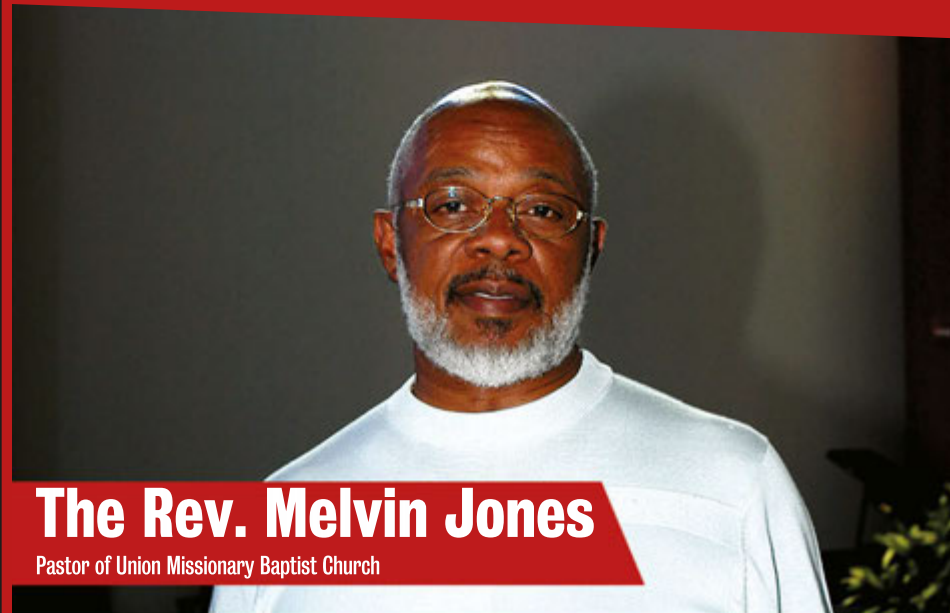
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PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO.
11-904-DD

In the matter of Joshua David
Lawrence

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including:
Milan Theodore Lawrence
whose address(es) is/are
unknown and whose interest
in the matter may be barred or
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St. before Judge Garcia for the
following purpose:

Petition to modify guardianship.

Date: 11-24-2014
Suzanne Lawrence
300 Western Ave Apt. A8
Lansing, MI 48917
219-3490

**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, 2001 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) 371-5600 ext. 10
(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.)

MSU students, faculty protest commencement speaker

An alternative Michigan State University commencement is being planned Saturday for those opposed to one of three speakers, Washington Post columnist George Will.

Will's June column on sexual assault argued that "victimhood [is] a coveted status that confers privileges."

Will is scheduled to speak at the 10 a.m. commencement. An 8 a.m. protest is planned at the Breslin Center and an alternative commencement ceremony is being planned for 12:30 p.m.

"Come protest MSU's insensitive choice of speaker," the Facebook event page states.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon released a statement Tuesday: "Having George Will speak at commencement does not mean I or (MSU) agree with or endorse the statements he made in his June 6 column ..."

Stephanie Nawyn, an MSU Assistant professor of sociology helped plan the alternative ceremony.

"Because Will's comments on sexual assault go beyond a mere ideological difference and actually invalidate the traumatic experiences that unfortunately some of our graduates have had, we felt it was important to send a positive message that Will does not speak for the MSU community," Nawyn said.

- Belinda Thurston

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Female action figure auction to benefit women's center



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New Saper Galleries exhibit threatens to peel the skin off the real world



**PAGE
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The voice of the Detroit Tigers coming to Schuler Books in Okemos



**COVER
ART**

"REEFER SADNESS" Photos by BELINDA THURSTON and BETH WALDON
Design by ANGUS MCNAIR

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Q/15/055 SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept **QUOTES** at the **LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT/CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1110 S PENNSYLVANIA, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912** until 3:00 PM local time in effect on DEC. 16, 2014. Quotes maybe faxed to: 517-702-6042. Complete specifications and forms required to submit **QUOTES** are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197 or for content and purpose of this quote contact Christopher Mumby at (517) 483-4453 or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages quotes from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#14_308

CellCo Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 97-foot communications monopole tower located east of Park Lake Road, East Lansing, Ingham County, MI 48823. Public comments regarding potential effects that this construction may have on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Jill Kotwasinski, Trileaf Corp., 1821 Walden Office Square, Suite 510, Schaumburg, IL 60173, j.kotwasinski@trileaf.com, 630-227-0202.

CP#14_306

CITY PULSE THIS WEEK 7 p.m. Wednesdays

- **Tigers announcer Mario Impemba**
- **State Sen.-elect Curtis Hertel Jr.**
- **City Councilwoman Jody Washington**

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

1. IT'S NEVER ABOUT RACE. IT'S ABOUT "THUGS" IN "BAGGY PANTS" WHO LISTEN TO "RAP!"
I DON'T EVEN SEE COLOR! LITERALLY, I'M COLORBLIND.

2. IT'S UNFAIR TO HOLD POLICE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. MUST THEY BE PESTERED WITH ANNOYING QUESTIONS EVERY TIME THEY KILL SOMEONE?
HOW CAN THEY EVEN FUNCTION UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS?

3. VICTIMS CAN BE DISREGARDED IF THEY WERE IMPERFECT HUMAN BEINGS.
MIKE BROWN WAS A SHOPLIFTER WHO LOOKED MENACING! AND ERIC GARNER WAS OBESE!
END OF DISCUSSION!

4. A GRAND JURY DECISION = AN UNEQUIVOCAL EXONERATION. WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT--SOME SORT OF NON-SECRET, ADVERSARIAL SYSTEM OF JUSTICE BALANCING DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION?
HOW ABOUT FREE PONIES WHILE WE'RE AT IT?

5. PROTESTERS ARE AN IRRATIONAL BUNCH. IN MY OPINION AS A PROFESSIONAL SERIOUS PERSON, THEY'RE ALL COMPLETELY BONKERS!
THANK YOU FOR THAT EXPERT ANALYSIS!
Action McNews Network

6. BLACK LEADERS ALWAYS HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES. THOSE "RACE HUSTLERS" JUST WANT TO EXPLOIT RACIAL TENSION FOR THEIR OWN GAIN!
WHICH IS WEIRD SINCE NONE OF THIS IS ABOUT RACE!

7. IF MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE ALIVE TODAY HE'D BE A WHITE CONSERVATIVE. WHY CAN'T TODAY'S BLACK AMERICANS LIVE UP TO OUR SELECTIVELY-EDITED VERSION OF HIM?
THAT ONE QUOTE OF HIS IS VERY INSPIRING!

8. WHITE PEOPLE ARE THE REAL VICTIMS. I JUST FEEL LIKE THERE MIGHT BE SOME RACISM LEFT IN SOCIETY. THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE REAL RACIST!
DR. KING WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED!

TOM TOMORROW © 2014 www.thismodernworld.com twitter.com/tomtomorrow

Free speech and terrorism

MSU case raises questions about Michigan's post 9/11 laws

Michigan State University student Michael Matthew Mullen, arrested last month for allegedly threatening to shoot up a school, is charged with terrorism.

In a post on the social media site Yik Yak in November, Mullen supposedly wrote, "I'm gonna (gun symbol) the school at 12:15 p.m. today." There are

enough school shootings, enough mentally ill, chronically angry, psychotic people with guns that police acted swiftly to apprehend Mullen.

But terrorism?

In the wake of Sept. 11, terrorism has branded our collective psyche. Thirteen years removed from the attacks that leveled the World Trade Center, targeted the Pentagon and brought down an airplane in western Pennsylvania, we find our laws, government and culture have been shaped by fear.

Our response to terrorism has been government-sanctioned torture, offshore prison and rendition sites, indefinite detention, illegal surveillance by the National Security Agency, militarization of police forces and a new body of draconian laws.

In Michigan, as in other states, terrorism laws often overlap traditional criminal law. The statute officially known as the "Michigan anti-terrorism act" was enacted in 2002 and has not been changed since then. Some provisions deal with threats that reflect the general definition of terrorism: harmful biological substance, chemical devices and radioactive material.

But in an astounding overreach the law also defines terrorism as:

- An act that would be a violent felony under the laws of this state, whether or not committed in this state.
- An act that the person knows or has reason to know is dangerous to human life.
- An act that is intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or influence or affect the conduct of government or a unit of government through intimidation or coercion.

It defines "dangerous to human life" as an action "which causes a substantial likelihood of death or serious injury." A violent

felony, according to the law, means the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against an individual.

Where is the line between real terrorism and felonious criminal behavior? It's hard to find. With a law this broad, thousands of terrorist acts — felonies really — happen in Michigan each year. As a result, prisons are filled with thousands of uncharged "terrorists."

Based on Michigan law, it is easy to charge Mullen as a terrorist. A conviction can mean 20 years in prison.

According to news reports, Mullen has



MICKEY HIRTEN



Courtesy Photo

Michael Matthew Mullen

acknowledged posting the shooting statement and calls his action "stupid." While he didn't threaten any particular school, East Lansing and Williamson took actions.

As this case unfolds, there are many issues at play. Among them: Was it really an act of terrorism? What about First Amendment speech and overcharging by the Ingham County prosecutor?

First Amendment attorney Bradley Shafer weighs the merits of the terrorism charge in the context of other over-the-top speech.

"Do you know how many threats there are on the Internet every day? What is protected by the First Amendment and what isn't? These are not easy issues," Shafer said. "As a country we need not to put people at unnecessary risk. But we do permit very coarse communication."

While the state law provides police and prosecutors with sweeping powers, Shafer said terrorism charges should reflect a real threat.

"In his (Mullen's) posting he didn't say where he was going to shoot it up and he didn't identify any school. Literally, it could have been any school in the country," Shafer explained a vague statement like the one attributed to Mullen could bring charges from prosecutors in any state or even from

overseas. The federal government could also weigh in.

Shafer used Ted Nugent's President Obama death threat episode to illustrate how unstructured the terrorism prosecution can be. Speaking at an National Rifle Association convention in April 2012, Nugent proclaimed that "if Barack Obama becomes the president in November, again, I will be either be dead or in jail by this time next year."

His implied threat prompted a Secret Service investigation, and, of course, nothing happened. The threat wasn't real. Also, Shafer cited Sarah Palin's 2010 "Time to take a stand" web site message with "crosshairs" attached to members of Congress, among them, Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in a 2011 Tucson massacre. Palin said the crosshairs were really bulls-eyes.

In Michigan, either act could lawfully merit a terrorism arrest and prosecution based on the section of the law (Section 750.543b (iii)) that criminalizes intimidation or coercion or seeks to influence or affect the conduct of government or a unit of government. Certainly Obama and Giffords fall under the government provision.

In both cases, the First Amendment right to free expression prevailed. But as Shafer explained, it is difficult to know where to draw the lines.

And who draws them is equally important. Stuart Dunnings III, the Ingham County prosecutor, can overcharge in criminal cases to force plea bargains. An example would be his handling of the "improvised explosive device" case in East Lansing in 2009. Four students, stupidly, tossed a fireworks mortar into an East Lansing front yard, the kind that explode in the air in neighborhoods everywhere around July Fourth. No one was injured, there was no damage. They were arraigned on felony explosive charges that carried maximum sentences of up to 20 years in prison.

Twenty years for a setting off a firework.

Shafer says faced with extreme charges and the threat of long sentences, defendants cut their losses. "What choice to you give them? Prosecutors say if you don't deal with me on this crime, and if you are convicted, you will spend the rest of your life in prison."

Of the four charged in the fireworks case, two students took misdemeanor plea deals and each received 18 months' probation, 40 hours of community service and a \$613 fine. The charges were dropped for another. But one of those charged, Nikolai Wasielewski, proclaimed his innocence, refused a plea and to the chagrin of the Prosecutor's Office opted for a trial. The risk paid off and the charges were dismissed, said his attorney, Mike Nichols.

SORE OF THE WEEK



Property: 2015 West Malcolm X Blvd, Lansing
Owner: Doris and Homer Smith (Did not respond for comment)
Assessed: \$47,200

The issues facing this property are well known to Lansing's Office of Building Safety, which has red-tagged the structure. Leaves and debris are piled on the front porch, which itself is in need of corrective maintenance. The main level windows are boarded up, and the exposed wood windows on the upper level need a coat of paint.

Looking beyond the deterioration, the home's form is not unlike others in the area. Telescoping gables on the main entry volume and the jettied second floor dormer embellish the simple footprint and establish the home's Tudor styling. The garage still presents staggered shakes and half-timbering characteristic of the style. It would not be surprising to find similar detailing under the home's vinyl siding.

Like its form, the home's circumstance is shared by other nearby buildings. Built in 1927, this house once faced a row of similar residences across the street (then called Main Street). In preparation for the construction of Interstate 496, a one block wide swath, between Main and St. Joseph, was razed. The vacated land, which ran from Claire Street east to the Grand River, was excavated and the Olds Freeway was built. Homes that remained were no longer part of the formerly cohesive streetscape.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

BRIEF ...

BWL activates equipment to reduce mercury emissions

The Lansing Board of Water & Light has finally activated equipment it installed in 2007 that will reduce mercury emissions at the Erickson Power Plant.

The Activated Carbon Injection system is being operated at a rate designed to reduce mercury emissions by approximately 90 percent. The first few months of operating the ACI system at Erickson will involve testing various carbon compounds and injection rates to help optimize the system's performance.

City Pulse broke the story in July that BWL had not operated the equipment to save money.

According to a Monday press release, operating the ACI at Erickson will cost BWL \$1.5 million a year. The utility will also incur approximately \$600,000 year in costs due to lost sales of fly ash and corresponding landfill expenses.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the Erickson plant, just east of General Motors Delta Assembly Plant, releases 25 to 27 pounds of mercury into the atmosphere each year.

"The BWL has been and continues to be in full compliance with all state and federal air emission regulations and expects to be in full compliance with future environmental regulations," said BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark.

BWL says steps it has taken like building the

REO Town Cogeneration Plan has resulted in a reduced carbon footprint by 20 percent systemwide.

~ Belinda Thurston

...and Briefer

An Ingham County sheriff's deputy died on Sunday when his car hit a tree in Stockbridge during a chase. No arrests as of Tuesday; state police are investigating. ... MSU's eighth-ranked Spartan football team was picked to play fourth-ranked Baylor in the New Year's Day Cotton Bowl. Fifth-ranked Ohio State, the Spartans only loss, are playing first-ranked Alabama in the first round of the College Football Playoffs. ... A Lansing Township police officer fatally shot a man on Monday during a traffic stop. Michigan State Police are investigating. ... Douglas J. may finally have cleared the way for its stalled headquarters in Okemos. The cost of reworking high voltage power lines adjacent to the proposed site (the old Traveler's Club), the reason for the delay, has declined from \$1.4 million to less than \$400,000. ... Auto supplier Kirchhoff Van-Rob will open a plant in Watertown Township in 2015 producing parts for General Motors and other automakers. It comes with 125 new jobs. ... Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's suit to stop the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians proposed Lansing casino was dismissed in federal court in exchange for an agreement not to stop suits against tribal leaders.

~Mickey Hirten



Belinda Thurston/
City Pulse
Nakeshwa Flanagan addresses the Town Hall forum on justice inequality.

#AllLivesMatter

Community forum on racial issues gives voice to a movement for justice

By BELINDA THURSTON

The justice system is flawed.

That was the overall tone at a town hall meeting Tuesday night in the aftermath of the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner in New York at the hands of police.

Anger and frustration — made more raw by the decisions by grand juries in both cases not to indict police officers — bubbled up when real stories were shared at the meeting at Union Missionary Baptist Church called by the Greater Lansing Clergy Forum. Several hundred attended.

"What brings us together is really a lack of trust — lack of trust that has accumulated because of some of the happenings lately," said the Rev. Melvin T. Jones, senior pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Lansing.

"It has made us recognize that there are some problems with justice for individuals who are outside of the system," Jones said. "And it's important to us to address those questions about the system for it is one of our goals to hopefully create necessary systemic change ... especially when it comes to deadly force."

Law enforcement officials presented information about various programs they believe are evidence of a desire for balance and fair justice. Researchers shared projects and sought feedback to send to the White House. Mayor Virg Bernero asked the community for help getting more diversity on the police force.

But that got frustrating as organizers shared comments from Twitter and Facebook, such as, "When will we have a conversation that is not constrained?"

One black father attending the town hall shared his concern about the impact of being pulled over often will have on his children and their perceptions of police. One white woman shared that her husband is pulled over regularly and she has never

been pulled over and they share one car. Her husband is black.

Ideas shared at the meeting included:

- Using independent prosecutors in cases of deadly force
- Collecting data on civilian deaths by police
- Encouraging standing down: If it isn't a felony or no lives are in danger, officers are asked to stand down from violence as a response.
- Updating racial profiling data annually in local police departments and posting it publicly.

Jones issued a suggestion to black men: "We need to recognize that there is some racialization in our community. We don't want to ignore that issue because it's real. For the most part we are already feared because we are black.

"Let me further suggest that if we know, then we ought to act in ways that diffuse a situation when we encounter what could possibly be a bad reaction on the part of police."

While some focus was on changing policies and laws, the conversation ultimately focused on changing perception and views and creating common ground and responsibility.

Former Lansing police officer Nakeshwa Flanagan said the community needs to see more officers on the street and on foot in the community. The department also needs more diversity to reflect the community it serves.

She also issued a challenge for sustained community involvement and engagement beyond the meeting.

"If you can walk the walk, talk the talk," she said. "And as much as we want to complain, I challenge you to ask yourself what are you doing? As much as we want to point fingers, what are you doing?"

There was talk of continuing the conversation with more meetings and discussions within a month.

Jonathan McKinney of the regional NAACP said, "The work is being done to keep this momentum going. This isn't a moment right now, this is a movement."

CAN YOU SPOT THE TOURIST?

In Greater Lansing, tourism can mean anything from meetings and conventions, sports tournaments, parents visiting children at MSU or a weekend getaway. A critical benefit of a healthy flow of traffic to the Greater Lansing region is the money tourists inject into the local community - \$472 million each year in economic impact!

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Source: Anderson Economic Group 2013



Their final battle

Auction of female action figures will benefit The Women's Center

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Nancy Lombardi vigorously shook a heavy crystal globe with Wonder Woman inside, fists akimbo. The fluid swirled with sparkly pain from freshly punched enemies. Or maybe it

Female Action Figures & Memorabilia

Silent Auction benefitting the Women's Center of Greater Lansing
1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Red Cedar Friends Meeting House
1400 Turner St., Lansing
www.womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org

was Amazon magic. "Isn't that cool?" Lombardi, 68, had to summon up super strength to lift the globe's base, as massive as the Temple of Minerva, let alone shake it. She admitted to ordering it by mistake from a now-defunct comic store on Michigan Avenue.

"I thought it was a little snow globe for \$7.50 but it was a big one for \$75.00," she said. She didn't sound too disappointed.

Lombardi, a white-haired Quaker and feminist, loves to collect female action figures. Her collection of some 100 figures from videos, TV, movies and comics is a cross-section of American pop culture and sexual politics.

This Saturday, Xena, Princess Leia, Seven of Nine, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, the lady LEGO

firefighter and all the others will team up to do some serious good. Lombardi is auctioning most of her collection off, with proceeds to benefit The Women's Center of Greater Lansing.

She and her partner of almost 33 years, Ann Francis, are moving to a smaller home and won't have room for the figures.

Lombardi started collecting female action figures about 15 years ago, inspired by the late-90s TV series "Xena: Warrior Princess."

She was impressed, not by a lethal blow or daring attack, but a scene in the episode "Been There, Done That," where Xena protectively cuddles up on a blanket with her sidekick, Gabrielle, after a hard day of battle.

She couldn't believe what she was seeing on TV.

"A relationship between two strong women, traveling the world and having adventures," she said. "I was hooked."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Lombardi came to Michigan and began working at Lansing Community College in the mid-1970s. She headed the art program for 14 years. She started the computer graphics program and served as a dean.

"It was extremely male dominated when I first got there," she said. "It was a fantasy for me to see Xena and think of many of the administrators who were giving me a hard time as the villains."

At an early job interview, a department chairperson told Lombardi she was not suit-

ed to the job because she was divorced and couldn't get along with men.

"I have to work with them, not live with them," she replied.

Before long, she found other women with an interest in female action figures. One of them worked in a male-dominated IT firm. To help get her through the day, the woman collected female characters from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and set them up with a little conference table in her office.

For Lombardi, prowling the aisles of Meijer or Toys "R" Us became an exercise in cultural observation.

"I never collected the kinds of figures that were male fantasy figures," she said. "There are some characters in comics that are very buxom, with very skimpy clothing. I look more for women who are strong, independent, truly a hero."

The eons-long run of masculine-driven rapine and destruction also known as "history" has no jurisdiction in Lombardi's collection. Lombardi loves the blithe mix of period costumes and myths in "Xena."

"There's nothing real about it at all," she said. "It's totally chop-socky. Xena fought off the entire Persian invasion force by herself. Not very realistic, but fun."

Lombardi's figures range widely in target age and rendering style. All of the female Power Rangers and Fisher-Price Rescue Heroes are here, including Wendy Waters, wielding a mas-

sive water cannon that could cap an offshore oil rig. Two Wrestlemania stars of the '90s, Ivory and Chyna, bristle with polyurethane abs, ready for a rematch.

In Lombardi's view, the heyday of female action figures peaked in the late 1990s, when even Wrestlemania got in on the action. After 9/11, she noticed fewer female action figures on the shelves, or even advertised.

"The games, the action figures, were all male, and that stuck until the Hunger Games figures started coming out," she said.

Even now, there are fewer female action figures than there were when she started collecting.

"Iron Man's got a girlfriend that's nice, but we don't get an action figure," she said.

Patrons at Saturday's silent auction may have to outbid a few local therapists along with collectors. In sand tray therapy, patients build a miniature world to encourage self-knowledge and work out problems. Several local therapists use the technique and have already asked Lombardi about her collection.

The most compelling figure in the collection is a silver-haired, broadaxe-wielding powerhouse version of Lombardi only three inches high. It's not for sale. Her neighbor across the street, Matt Smar, made it out of clay and gave it to her as a birthday present.

"He really put a lot of work into it," Lombardi said, laughing. "Even my eyebrows are gray."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Introduced: 11-05-2014
Public Hearing: 12-02-2014
Adopted: 12-02-2014
Effective: 12-10-2014

CITY OF EAST LANSING
ORDINANCE NO. 1343
AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING AND RESTATING THE UNIVERSITY PLACE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE PLAN (PLAN No. 1) OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Act 197, Public Acts of Michigan, 1975, as amended, ("Act 197"), the City Council of the City of East Lansing, Michigan (the "City"), has previously established the Downtown Development Authority of the City of East Lansing (the "Authority"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has previously adopted the University Place Development and Finance Plan (Plan No.1), which was approved after public hearing by the East Lansing City Council pursuant to Resolution of the Council November 5, 1986 at a regular meeting of the Council;

WHEREAS, in compliance with the provisions of Act 197, the Authority has prepared an Amendment to the University Place Development and Finance Plan (Plan No. 1) for the purposes of Amending and Restating the University Place Development and Finance Plan (Plan No.1) and;

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2014, City Council conducted a public hearing regarding the merits of the Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 as required by Act 197; and

WHEREAS the City Council has given the taxing jurisdictions levying taxes subject to capture by the Authority an opportunity to meet with the City Council and to express their views and recommendations regarding the Amended and Restated Plan No. 1, as required by Act 197; and

WHEREAS the City Clerk has published notice of the hearing twice in the City Pulse, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, the first of which was not less than 20 days prior to the hearing; and caused the notice to be mailed by first class mail to all property taxpayers of record in the Authority's District, posted notice in at least 20 conspicuous and public places in the Downtown District, and mailed notice by certified mail of the hearing to the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction levying taxes subject to capture in the proposed Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 not less than 20 days before the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

- (1) Public Purpose. The City Council hereby determines that the Plan Amendment No. 1 constitutes a public purpose.
- (2) Best Interest of the Public. The City Council hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the public to proceed with the Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 in order to halt property value deterioration, increase property tax valuation, eliminate the causes of the deterioration in property values, and to promote growth in the Downtown District.

- (3) Findings. City Council hereby makes the following findings:
 - (a) The Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 meets the requirements set forth in Section 17(2) of Act 197 and the requirements set forth in Section 14 of Act 197.
 - (b) The proposed method of financing the development is feasible and the Authority and the City have the ability to arrange the financing.
 - (c) The development is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 197.
 - (d) The Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 is in reasonable accord with the master plan of the City.
 - (e) Public services, such as fire and police protection and utilities, are adequate to service the Development Area.
 - (f) Any changes in zoning, streets, street levels, intersections, and utilities, to the extent required under the Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 are reasonably necessary for the development plan and for the City.
- (4) Approval and Adoption of the Plan Amendment. The Amended and Restated Plan No. 1 is hereby approved and adopted. A copy of the Amended and Restated Plan No.1 and any later amendments thereto shall be maintained on file in the City Clerk's office.
- (5) Conflict and Severability. All ordinances, resolutions and orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed, and each section of this Ordinance and each subdivision of any section thereof is hereby declared to be independent, and the finding or holding of any section or subdivision thereof to be invalid or void shall not be deemed or held to affect the validity of any other section or subdivision of the Ordinance.
- (6) Paragraph Headings. The paragraph headings in this Ordinance are furnished for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered to be a part of the Ordinance.
- (7) Publication and Recordation. This Ordinance shall be published in full promptly after its adoption in the City Pulse, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, qualified under State law to publish legal notices, and shall be recorded in the Ordinance Book of the City, which recording shall be authenticated by the signature of the City Clerk.
- (8) Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and immediately upon publication as required by law.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CLEANING HOUSE

LANSING PREPARES TO TIGHTEN MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY RULES

By **BELINDA THURSTON**

It's Friday night and the club is hopping. Red neon signs flash, "Open," "Darts, Pool, Big Screen TVs."

Cars line the street and are queued up at the front door of the "lounge."

This is the scene at the corner of Cedar and Holmes streets at the Got Meds Lounge, a medical marijuana dispensary. It's one of more than a dozen illegal dispensaries operating openly in Lansing.

It's party scenes like this that some say stigmatize valid medical marijuana use. Skeptics say the facilities are nothing more than fun rooms for getting high or engaging in illegal activities.

If state legislation passes in the lame duck session, there will be no more lounges or clubs. There will be provisioning centers with mandatory testing of the marijuana for safety. Towns can choose if they will allow dispensaries or ban them.

"This will be strictly regulated," said Robin Schneider, a lobbyist for the National Patient Rights Association, a non-profit medical marijuana advocacy group. "There will be no smoking marijuana on premises then getting in your car."

The image of a medical marijuana dispensary should be professional and medicinal, Schneider said.

"These places should not be making a spectacle of themselves," she said.

OPERATING IN A HAZE

In the last year dispensaries have been slowly and quietly opening doors in the north, south and east sides of the city. There are still far fewer than the more than 40 that once operated in Lansing, but the number is on the rise.

"Right now they've been operating in a legal no-man's land," said Mayor Virg Bernero. "We are trying to comply with the people's will."

The haze was created because of court cases that ruled dispensaries were not protected under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, which 63 percent of Michiganders supported in a 2008 vote. In 2011, the state Appeals Court ruled dispensaries illegal in the McQueen case. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette notified the 83 county prosecutors that they are empowered to shut down dispensaries.

Following the ruling, Former City Attorney Brigham Smith issued a cease and desist letter to city dispensaries. At the time, the city had started a licensing program for dispensaries, but that was shut down before any licenses were issued.

Most heeded legal advice and closed, but a few never did. They have operated ever since with impunity, and new ones have sprung up.

Check WeedMaps.com or download the mobile app and you'll be directed to more than 120 dispensaries across Michigan. You can look up their menus with names of strains like "Green Crack," "Durban Poison," and "Cannatonic #4." Some even send text alerts with daily deals offering "20 percent off select connoisseur line." The sites advertise prices ranging from \$10 per gram to more than \$20 per gram.

Some communities like Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti cap the number of dispensaries. Others like Mason have a moratorium on dispensary applications.

"I'm hopeful that the new state law will give clarity to all parties and will give the local government proper authority to regulate these establishments," Bernero said. "My posi-



Belinda Thurston/City Pulse

Michigan Avenue has at least three medical marijuana dispensaries. Lansing is considering capping the number of dispensaries to two or three per ward.

tion is that banning is not an option."

Ingham County has more than 3,700 medical marijuana cardholders and 975 caregivers — individuals licensed to grow marijuana and assist patients. There are more than 96,000 cardholders across the state and more than 22,000 caregivers.

The recent uptick of Lansing dispensaries could be an intentional rush in order to be grandfathered from any rules the state imposes.

"I think for all the people who are running out and trying to open right now and investing money and trying to get open, they are not going to be grandfathered," Schneider said. "They're going to lose their investment. Getting a license is going to be very competitive. You're going to have to show the community and the state that you're qualified. For a while we will probably see less provisioning centers."

MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

COUNTY PATIENTS CAREGIVERS

BARRY.....	590.....	178
CLINTON.....	536.....	170
EATON.....	1,374.....	425
INGHAM.....	3,713.....	975
SHIAWASSEE.....	1,055.....	253
MICHIGAN.....	96,408.....	22,966

AS OF NOV. 12, 2014, MICHIGAN BUREAU OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES

ANTICIPATION OF REGULATION

House Bill 4271, which awaits state Senate action after it received House approval, would regulate and control

medical marijuana dispensaries. The bill allows communities to choose to allow or ban the facilities. Dispensaries — to be called provisioning centers — would have to provide municipalities with test results ensuring that the medical marijuana they sell is free of contaminants. The bill would prohibit on-premises cultivation or use of the drug and generally prohibit dispensaries from opening within 1,000 feet of a school.

The Lansing City Council Public Safety Committee has been working to tighten the city's existing ordinance in anticipation of state regulation, according to Chairwoman Jody Washington.

"None of us are against dispensaries," Washington said. "We want to make sure they are open legitimately."

The committee is considering capping the number of dispensaries to two to three in each of Lansing's four wards. Washington said it's also been looking at zoning.

"The committee could ban them from Michigan Avenue altogether," she said.

Schneider has been attending the committee meetings and keeping the Council abreast of where the legislation stands.

"I think Lansing is being very progressive," she said. "First, they've been very tolerant of the existing businesses. I think overall we do not want medical marijuana patients meeting in parking lots or on street corners trying to get their medicine."

Schneider supports regulations that ensure safety for the patients and for the surrounding community.

"I think there are some places in operation right now that don't have good security; most don't have testing for safety before giving medicine to their patients, and some have public nuisance issues," she said. "We want them to be something positive for the community, operate a responsible business, have an actual business plan."

Schneider said "Colorado is one of the better models." It is legal to carry up to an ounce of marijuana and public retail stores are allowed. Broadway in Denver is experiencing a Renaissance of development around marijuana establishments, some wanting to call it the Green Mile.

DISPENSARIES

FROM PAGE 8

LANSING IS 'PRO POT'

Emerald City opened about three months ago on Cedar near Mt. Hope Avenue. It could be easy to miss except for a small sandwich board on the curb with the words "Meds, \$10" written in chalk.



Washington

Owner Doug Yeo said he knows it's risky to open but he wanted to provide a service to people in need.

"The fact that Lansing is pro pot is the only reason we are able to be open," he said.

Still, he said he was frugal on some costs like his signage.

"I'm not going to spend thousands of dollars on a sign and any minute they could come and shut me down," Yeo said.

Jim Herbert, CEO of Neogen Corp., who lobbied for strict regulation before the court ruled dispensaries illegal, wrote to Councilwoman Jody Washington in April:

"Once again we are seeing the 'sprouting' of marijuana shops along Michigan Avenue. I believe these so-called dispensaries violate federal law, state law, local ordinance and ruling of the Michigan Attorney General. I believe that it is clearly within your authority to stop this illegal activity."

He continues: "Though I believe the illegal dispensaries are a detriment to our entire city, they are clearly a detriment along the Michigan Avenue corridor that we all have worked so hard to rejuvenate."

Herbert did not return calls for comment.

Nancy Mahlow, president of the East Side Neighborhood Association, wants the free-for-all of dispensaries to end.

"It's not that I'm against them," said Mahlow, recalling when Lansing had more than 40 dispensaries. "I'm against 20 up and down Michigan Avenue. There needs to be some kind of control." (Michigan Avenue had 11 before the court ruling.)



Bernero

She said allowing dispensaries to remain open without a state regulation is wrong.

"I think it's a slap in the face not only to the citizens and the city but it's a slap in the face to the other individuals who want to open a dispensary," she said.

There are at least three dispensaries with identifying signage on Michigan Avenue on the east side. Mahlow said she has counted up to eight at times.

Lansing Police Chief Mike Yankowski did not return calls for comment, but he has reported in the committee meetings that dispensaries are "popping up like mushrooms," according to Washington.

The mayor passionately defends the Medical Marijuana Act and the voters who supported it in 2008.

"My position personally is we cannot ban the facilities," he said. "Banning is not an option."

"Our goal is to comply with the public wish to facilitate the use of medicinal marijuana and of course to maintain the integrity of our neighborhoods," he said.

But there has been no recent action to shut down Lansing dispensaries. And when asked about it, officials politely dance around a hot potato.

Councilwoman Jessica Yorko, vice chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, said, "We should spend resources to shut them



Courtesy photo

Medical marijuana is grown by caregivers. Caregivers can acquire 2.5 ounces of usable marijuana and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for a qualifying patient. The caregiver may assist up to 5 patients.

down if the police got support from the prosecutors and the court to do it."

Bernero said, "It's not that we're not policing them. It's difficult to police them."

Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning said he hasn't received any recent cases from Lansing police.

"It's just like any other crime, if we get information that a crime has been committed then we prosecute," he said.

He said he does welcome state legislation regulating dispensaries however.

"Anything could make this whole mess clearer than what we have," he said. "Of course, I take that back: Knowing the Legislature, that may not be the case."

A QUESTION OF LEGITIMACY

Yeo did wonder if existing dispensaries are not grandfathered in, how would Lansing choose which facility gets a license?

"Will it be a first-come-first-served kind of thing? Do I camp out in a tent outside the licensing office?" he asked jokingly.

Indeed how the city will choose, how much the fees will cost and what the future holds for the facilities that are in business remain unanswered questions.

Yeo and other dispensary operators who didn't want to be named questioned why their business needs so much control. Are there limits to the number of drug stores in the city? Party stores?

SEE DISPENSARIES, PAGE 10

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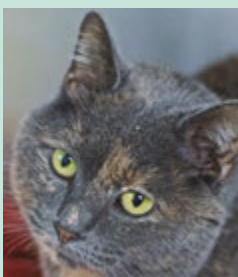


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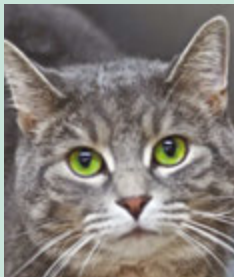
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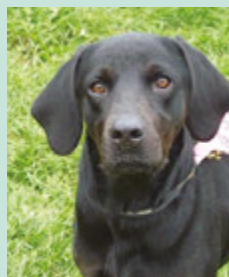
Alice

Alice is a big sweetie! She loves people and especially loves attention. She can't wait to find her forever home! Sponsored by: Linn & Owen Jewelers



Dino

Dino is very much a lab mix. He loves to run and run. He is very playful and not all dogs will appreciate his play style. He'd love an active home. Merry Christmas, Kathy Guerre Morris



Sadie

Sadie is a typical hound mix. She has lots of energy and needs room to run. She'd make a great running partner! Sponsored by: Dale Schrader



Pan

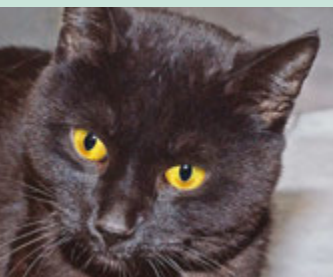
Pan is a super sweet guy. He loves playing around, especially outside. He'd make a great family dog, because he has excellent manners.



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DISPENSARIES

FROM PAGE 9

It all comes down to a stigma with marijuana — medical or not.

City Pulse spoke to one caregiver on condition of anonymity. The person's family doesn't know about the caregiver's registered status. The caregiver has children. They might not understand, much less the school system or neighbors. Despite medical marijuana being legal and legitimate, it remains socially and politically triggering.

"There is a lot of stigma involved," the caregiver said.

Until that stigma is transformed to accept marijuana as legitimate, medication communities will remain at odds.

Even Yeo said he has family members who don't know what he does for a living.

"I don't understand why there's such a bad stigma," he said.

The result breeds an underground making all the fears of skeptics come true.

"Detroit is a different country," the caregiver said. "It's kinda like the wild wild West."

The caregiver described police executing undocumented raids and keeping product and money without filing police reports.

Growing and harvesting is a costly venture that could yield nothing one year and more than the state allows the next, according to the caregiver. Dispensaries offer a location for the sale of "overages" — where excess yield can be sold so as to avoid prosecution.

Working within the law can be hard if your harvest yields more than the law allows or you're a patient without access to a caregiver.

A search on Craigslist reveals an active if not desperate community.

"I am a certified patient who's caregiver has stopped growing. I am looking for



Courtesy photo

Medical marijuana dispensaries would not be allowed to permit smoking of marijuana on premises in pending state legislation.

someone new to provide meds in the East Lansing area. - Michael."

"Medical Marijuana overages for CARDHOLDERS ONLY! - \$170,175 (Lansing, EL, Holt, Mason, Okemos, Pottersville areas)."

Provisioning centers are needed, according to the caregiver. They provide a vital role in helping patients and giving growers a relief valve when they run over.

Mahlow said she hopes Lansing can strike a balance that works for patients, businesses and the overall community.

"I'm invested in the east side," she said. "I've lived here for over 30 years. I'm very passionate about it. I'm selfish and I want the best. This is my city. I want the best for my city. I don't want to settle for less than anything else. It needs to be regulated just like anything else."



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last minute gift guide



made in lansing edition

the vinyl frontier

local entrepreneurs make art out of old record albums

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Who knows why interest in vinyl records is waxing these days. Perhaps it's the soothing crackles and pops of a needle sneaking through the grooves, or maybe it's just nostalgia for dust jackets and liner notes. But for Records Redone, albums are both the message and the medium.

"Two years ago, my girlfriend wanted a handmade gift," said artist/entrepreneur James Pleyte. "I had bought a dremel tool that summer at a garage sale for \$5, and I took it to a record. That was the beginning."

Pleyte is the founder of Records Redone, a two-man art business that specializes in turning old albums into figure/ground-style silhouettes. Check out Jimi Hendrix's face emerging from the "Crash Landing" LP. An old Supremes album becomes a Michigan map. The New York skyline carves a path along the top of Billy Joel's "52nd Street."

When he visited his girlfriend, who had moved to Chicago, Pleyte stopped into a store selling Michigan products and showed the owner a picture of some of his work. The store owner immediately placed an order for

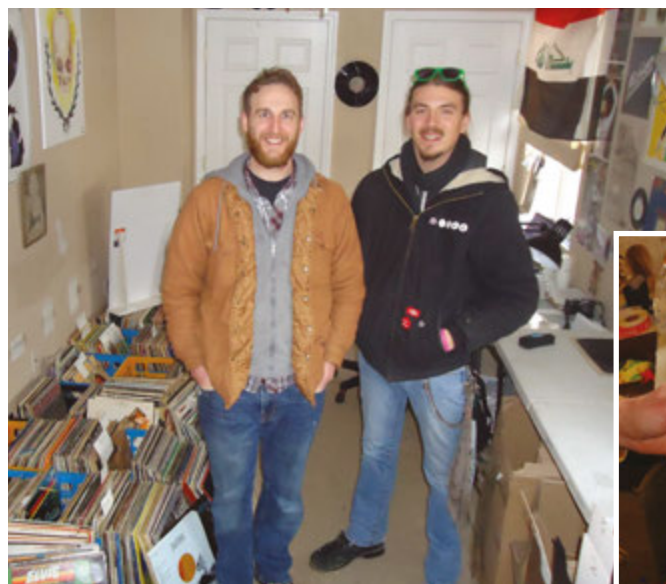
15 pieces, and they've been doing business ever since. Pleyte now works with seven stores around the country, and his work is featured in Las Vegas lounges and Washington hotels.

"It's all happened pretty quickly," Pleyte said. "Especially because I was essentially developing (the business) as I went."

That exact process is an industry secret, but to keep up with demand and maintain uniform quality Pleyte moved on to computer-operated cutting. An image is uploaded to a computer and a desktop CNC machine cuts the piece out of an old album. Pleyte and his business partner Derek Vaive, both 29, finish by hand with a utility blade.

"It took months and months to figure this out, and we're still refining the process," Pleyte said. "But I get to do something I love and work with my best friend. It can't get be better than this."

Business is primarily done through his website, recordsredone.com, but Grace Boutique of Old Town, 509 E. Grand River Ave., features some of his work. Records Redone also does custom work. Output has recently expanded to bookmarks, clocks and



Left: Records Redone co-owners James Pleyte (left) and Derek Vaive in the home office. Below: Pleyte points to the detail on a Jimi Hendrix piece.



bowls, with pieces running between \$30 and \$75.

Pleyte, a Lansing native who studied philosophy at Michigan State University, waxes philosophic about the criticism he's received for whittling away at what is essentially an endangered species.

"Twice, people have said 'how dare you?' but I only cut things that nobody else wants," Pleyte said. "We shop the 50-cent bins of all the local record stores, and have good relationships with all the store owners. What I'm working with only needs to be half clean."

And he said as a lifelong collector, he is tempted to play with his work occasionally.

"Every now and then I find one I want to keep," he said. "Yesterday, I found a CCR greatest hits album. I'm going to listen to this a few times before I cut it."

Although he said he enjoys working from home, Pleyte said if business keeps up he'd like to open a brick-and-mortar establishment.

"Our dream next step is to have the world's most unique record store," Pleyte said. "One side would be nothing but cheap vinyl, where you could buy anything for \$5. The other side would be our art. With an endless supply like that, there's no limit to what we could come up with."

baby's first christmas

How to help new parents make the holidays special

By CITY PULSE STAFF

After a particularly long, cold winter like Lansing had last year, baby rates tend to spike the following year. Funny how nature works. That means a whole generation of ice storm babies are getting ready to celebrate their first holiday season.

As the time approaches, however, parents and extended family don't know how exactly to celebrate with a little person who will likely have zero memory of the event.

Consider these aspects when planning your holidays around a baby:

- New parents typically are short on time. There's little time to shop, eat and sleep. Friends and family of new parents can give the gift of time this holiday season. Offer your services as a babysitter so new parents can enjoy some alone time, or simply lend a hand with household chores so the new mom and dad can relax instead of work while their bundle of joy is napping.

- Baby's first months are filled with opportunities to capture every moment. Digital technology means some photos never make it to hard copies, but even if photos rarely find their way into frames, preserving early memories is essential. Computers can

fail and camera cards can break. A wireless memory card will automatically upload images from a camera to a computer or external memory source, ensuring no precious snapshots are lost.

- New parents' nourishment may come from any package that's easily torn open with their teeth while tending to a crying infant. Meals, snacks and food baskets make great gifts that keep parents fed and happy. Consider memberships to fruit of the month clubs or call the new parents' favorite restaurant and send them a meal.

- Sometimes new parents just need some pampering, whether it's a shopping excursion, a visit to a hair dresser, an appointment with a masseuse or something as simple as a long, uninterrupted hot shower. A gift card to a spa or salon may make a good gift for a luxury-starved parent. Just remember to factor childcare into the equation so that Mom or Dad will not have any excuse to cancel their appointment.

New parents face many challenges, and helping them through their first holiday season as a mother and father can make this precious period that much more memorable.

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By KRISTA WILSON

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(517) 487-6847, oldtown-generalstore.com

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1212 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 721-1868, motherandearth.com



Courtesy photo
Jewelry inspired by the night sky at Lansing Art Gallery.

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8099 Coleman Road, Haslett
(517) 339-8978, glpg.org

Lansing Art Gallery

For all you #LuvLansing-ers out there, check this out: Lansing Art Gallery has ceramic necklaces and earrings that feature a map of downtown. Other pieces include handcrafted cosmic-inspired sterling silver jewelry accompanied with semi-precious stones that resemble the night sky. \$15 - \$150

119 N. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 374-6400, lansingartgallery.org

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119 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 665-4000, fireworksglasstudios.com

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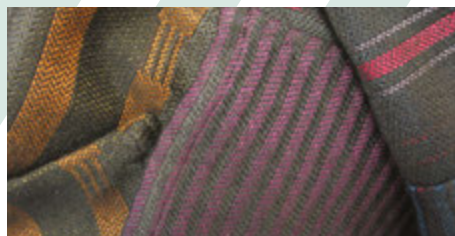
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hunger never takes a break

Food, volunteered time are also good gifts this holiday season

By DANIELLE WELKE

Whatever you call it — tzedakah, zakat, alms, shabdosh, charity — this is the time of the year when people in mid-Michigan start to think about giving their time, money or food items to nonprofit organizations. The Greater Lansing Food Bank is a leader, distributing to seven counties and over 120 food pantries to families in need. Not only does the Food Bank receive food, but it also supplies shampoo, toothpaste, dog food and a variety of miscellaneous supplies that are needed for everyday life.

“Organized chaos” is what Sarah Szwejda, the volunteer coordinator at the Greater Lansing Food Bank, calls the activity in the warehouse. The large open space is filled with employees working on forklifts, student volunteers who sort food items and employees organizing the day-to-day responsibilities.

“We don’t put a value judgment on food,” she said. “There is a huge need out there, and we will process whatever gets donated. We have zero control over what gets donated.”

Stores such as Meijer, Kroger and Foods for Living and companies such as Nabisco help with weekly donations.

“We could not exist without them,” Szwejda

said. She said the majority of the food comes from retail organizations and food companies while individual donations, USDA food drops and other local nonprofits fill in the gaps.

“We have such great support from the community,” Szwejda said “Hunger never takes a break, so think about volunteering at non-traditional times of the year.”

There are many ways you can give, whether it’s time, donated food items or a tax-deductible monetary gift. You can be a food sorter at the warehouse, a volunteer driver or driver’s helper. You can also help out at one of the monthly distribution centers.

You can also participate in the organization’s Gleaner program, which puts fresh fruit from local farms into the hands of people in need. There are longer time commitments for Gleaner, which include growing food through one of the local community gardens. You can grow a section to donate as well as reap the rewards for your family. To encourage healthy eating with the fresh fruits and vegetables, some distribution centers give out recipe cards to teach people how to cook. But through it all runs the theme of donating in a unique way that actually promotes healthy eating.

“There is a huge national conversation about (healthier options),” Szwejda said. “Donated food is always welcome, but it would be great to call ahead first to see what the food bank is in need of. (Or you can) combine your local food drive with a donation drive.”

Donated money is it tax-deductible. You can even indicate which part of the organization your money goes to. Better yet, nonprofits like the Food Bank have more buying power with your money than you do when it comes to purchasing food items.

“Our dollars go a lot further than yours,” Szwejda said

So this giving season give to a local organization that you believe in and let others in our community enjoy the holidays as much as you will.



Courtesy photo

If you’re looking to do something charitable this holiday season, consider donating money or time to a local nonprofit.

For more information on the Greater Lansing Food Bank, go to greaterlansingfoodbank.org. For information on other nonprofit organizations in the area that need volunteers to donate time and tax-deductible money, go to volunteermatch.org.



Photo by Marvin Hall Photography

Jayden Page, 10, opened the "Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective" show Saturday with a classical version of "Winter Wonderland." Jayden's father is Rodney Page, who also performed at the third annual event. Jayden is a 5th grader at Whitehills Elementary School in East Lansing.



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How deep the rabbit hole goes

New Saper exhibit threatens to peel the skin off the real world

By **JONATHAN GRIFFITH**

While browsing the eclectic works along the walls of East Lansing's Saper Galleries, it's easy to feel like you've tumbled down one hell of a cultural rabbit hole. The pieces come from eras throughout time and from all over the world, with styles and media as varied as the subject matter. If there's could be a factor that lends consistency to this artistic smorgasbord, it's the enthusiasm for the works by the gallery's owner, Roy Saper. With energetic aplomb, Saper can illustrate the ways of how well deserved an exhibit's home on his walls can be.

On the gallery's walls, you'll witness the all-out naval combat of John Bentham-Dinsdale's warships as well as serene windows into early 20th century life by Fabienne Delacroix. But if Saper's new collection of still-life paintings of fruit and jars by Colombian born artist Juan Carlos Ospina Ortiz seems a little dry at first, don't be so quick to dismiss it. Just think of Saper as Morpheus from the late '90s cyberpunk actioner "The Matrix" in the pivotal scene where he proffers the film's hero with a perception-altering choice: Believe what you want to believe and walk away or listen to Saper and see how deep the rabbit hole goes.

"This guy is a master of his style and that is evident by his technical skill," Saper said while admiring one of Ortiz's pieces. "That's the kind of artist that deserves attention and that's why we brought his collection here."

The works in Ortiz's collection convey a



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

complexity that the casual observer might not notice at first glance. The still life works feature the subject matter one would expect from the form: Bowls of fruit and pitchers set atop platforms that are draped in cloth. But it's when the duration of your viewing passes a "moment's glance" that the works really come to life. Everything down to the leaves on the grapes is rendered in stunning detail. Those very leaves are one of many details that

Saper feels serve as testament to the mastery conveyed in the works.

"A great artist sees details that others don't see," Saper said. "You might see a leaf, but (someone like Ortiz) sees 30 shades of green. When you look at them in the painting, you feel like you could touch them."

But the rabbit hole goes deeper still. Ortiz repeats several objects in the works that have reflective surfaces like steel pitchers or glass

jugs. These objects might initially seem banal or incidental at first, but if you look closely at the reflection of the surfaces, it's almost like an entire other work.

The tiny details of the environment in which the work was created bend and diffuse around the object in a manner that you almost expect to see your own face as you look at the painting. You can even see the lamp that brightly illumined the workspace and dictated the lightning dynamic of the objects that were rendered.

Saper receives thousands of submissions per year, but he admits Ortiz's garnered his curiosity. It wasn't until Ortiz's works were in front of him, however, that Saper's attention was piqued.

"Ortiz is the Tiger Woods, the concert master of the orchestra," gushed Saper. "He's a talent that just so excels, I just want to share it."

The technical prowess on display in Ortiz's work is undeniable. It would seem that no detail is too small for him tackle, be it the labyrinthine reliefs on a stand that holds fruit or the tiny reflections of light in the seeds of the fruit itself. If talent seeped in the classic style is not enough to give you moment to garner your interest, Saper has one more facet to share that may win your attention.

"It's these kinds of works that encourage us to look at things in a new light," Saper said. "It's gives us cause to pause and reflect. To take in and appreciate all that's out there that costs nothing to enjoy."

Glow for it

Despite the chill in the air, the fourth annual East Lansing Winter Glow festival attracted a robust crowd to downtown East Lansing.

The event was held in front of the Marriott Hotel, where Santa and Mrs. Claus posed for pictures inside. Some folks patiently waited their turn to ride the horse drawn carriage through the streets. The smell of fresh roasted cinnamon nuts wafted through the air as many revelers watched an ice carver form themed pieces out of chunks of ice.

There was a special outdoor holiday farmers market featuring vendors from the East Lansing Farmers Market and the heated Jingle Jam Music Tent, which hosted three performers who did holiday songs.

Nearby another crowd had formed around a fenced area where two well-mannered reindeer presented themselves for head pats and photographs.

— **ARINIKO O'MEARA** (Photos by Ariniko O'Meara)



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CURTAIN CALL

'Miracle' workers

Williamston Theatre delivers near perfect holiday show

By PAUL WOZNIAK

The antique furniture and appliances, non-English words in spoken English, the guilt, and the stubbornness should all be familiar to anyone who grew up in a working class, ethnic-religious home. Playwright Tom Dudzick nails the Polish-Catholic family in "Miracle on South Division Street," which is no doubt transcribed from his own experience. In spite of its familiar character types and "traditional values"-themed story, Williamston Theatre's production, directed by Rob Roznowski, feels refreshingly original.

"Miracle on South Division Street"

Williamston Theatre
8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 3 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays (through Dec. 28; no show Dec. 25)
\$22-\$27
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org

Set in Buffalo, N.Y., Ruth Nowak (Emily Sutton-Smith) has crucial news for her two siblings and her mother, Clara (Ruth Crawford). The story they were all told about their grand-

father and the miraculously appearing Virgin Mary statue in their neighborhood may not be factual. The details of this revelation are spoiler material, but they are identity changing.

Ruth's revelation propels the plot, but Clara's reactions shape the show. Crawford captures the tenacity and outspoken authority of a woman who values family and faith above anything else. When Clara expresses disap-



Photo by Chris Purchis

Clara (Ruth Crawford) trying to figure out what exactly Ruth (Emily Sutton-Smith) is trying to tell her in "Miracle on South Division Street" at the Williamston Theatre.

pointment in her children, the audience cowers in shame.

Sutton-Smith plays the perfect foil, giving Ruth the unsteady backbone supported by knowledge of the truth. For Ruth and her siblings, telling unwelcome truths carries the same sentence from their mother as deliberately disobeying the rules. Tony Sump plays Ruth's levelheaded brother Jimmy with controlled restraint. Sump's low-key mensch beautifully counters Wendy Hedstom, as the sister, Beverly.

Hedstom is a kinetic force that brings all the actors' performances together. As the model mouthpiece for mom, Beverly hides her insecurities behind her bravado, but Hedstom provides that bravado real punch.

Bartley H. Bauer's stunningly realistic scenic design adds authenticity with chrome-lined countertops and a Formica-covered table and chairs straight from a 1950s museum display (or my grandparents' house). Michelle Raymond's prop design enhances the effect with an antique toaster and vacuum cleaner that, according to Clara, "still work." Perhaps the real prop highlight is the set of real (and criminally embarrassing) high school yearbook pictures of the actors hanging on the kitchen wall.

Dudzick's material is rather lowbrow and under a lesser director could veer into a broad caricature of working-class prejudices and ignorance. But Roznowski keeps the performances honest and the play from turning into an episode of "All in the Family." The pace drags in a few moments near the beginning and the end, but when the play does go sentimental, the tears in the audience feel well earned. It's a near perfect holiday show that hardly resembles a typical holiday show.



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Mario world

The voice of the Detroit Tigers reflects on 20 years in the big leagues

By BILL CASTANIER

In 1995, Mario Impemba had been calling play-by-play in minor league baseball for eight years and he was wondering how much longer he could last. Then he got a call from the Angels — that would be the major league baseball team based in Anaheim. Although his story does make it seem like someone was

looking out for him. “I had a wife, a young son, and I wasn’t making any money,” Impemba said by phone from his home in Southeast Michigan. “There was a lot of McDonald’s and a lot of bus rides.

Mario Impemba

Author talk and book signing
6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16
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schulerbooks.com

I had a big baseball card collection and I was selling it off to eat.”

Impemba was up against a group of “very qualified announcers,” but was the Angels hired him to do their play-by-play for radio broadcasts.

“I was very lucky,” he said. Impemba, 51, now the voice of the Detroit Tigers and a broadcaster for Fox Sports Detroit, tells this story and others in his 224-page book “If These Walls Could Talk: Stories from the Detroit Tigers Dugout, Locker Room and Press Box,” co-written with Mike Isenberg.

Anaheim was a long way from Plainview, Texas, where Impemba got his first job in sports journalism. The Sterling Heights native graduated from Michigan State University in telecommunications in 1985. While at MSU, Impemba spent a lot of his time working with the Michigan State Radio Network announcing everything from fencing to women’s basketball games.

“At that time I would do anything to get my foot in the door,” Impemba said. “I had littered the country with tapes (of myself) doing play-by-play, but Texas was somewhat of an eye opener for me. For a guy from Detroit it was culture shock. It served its purpose and I got a solid base (of) reporting



Courtesy photo

Mario Impemba, the voice of the Detroit Tigers, will be at Schuler Books in Okemos Tuesday for an in-store appearance.

and editing.”

Impemba moved back to the Midwest in 1987 where he landed his first job in baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals-affiliated minor league team, the Peoria Chiefs. He also called for the city’s International Hockey League team. Later he did play-by-play for the minor league teams Quad City Angels and the Tucson Toros.

“I climbed the baseball ladder,” he said. But in the back of his mind he said he “wanted to do what Harwell did,” referring to the late Ernie Harwell, the Detroit Tigers long-time announcer.

“Growing up I listened to Paul Carey, Ernie Harwell (and) George Kell, but I also listened through the static to Jack Buck (in St. Louis) and Harry Caray and Jack Brickhouse (in Chicago),” Impemba said. “But Ernie was always my hero.”

He said each announcer has his own indi-

vidual style, but his style is to focus on what is happening on the field.

“I’m not the entertainer, not the guy who has fancy catchphrases,” Impemba said. “I respect the game.”

He said when he was hired to work with the Detroit Tigers in 2002 the transition from the radio booth to the TV booth put him under a lot of pressure.

“I was on my own in the radio booth — now I was part of a team,” Impemba said. “There was some extra pressure. I was coming back home and didn’t want to fall on my face in front of friends and family. It took me a couple of years to finally be comfortable. TV follows more of a game plan than radio.”

He said he has watched the announcer position change dramatically as technology has advanced.

“When I started at Peoria, I would have the stats of the opposing team faxed to me,” Impemba said. “Now you just pore through the Internet. You can read any newspaper and any writer around the country.”

He also has observed that the fans are much more knowledgeable.

“I initially looked at blogs with skepticism, but they have interesting opinions and they can spark something,” Impemba said. “With the Internet you can’t fudge and you can’t be lazy.”

Another change he’s observed is the game now relies on “advanced metrics,” where everything from over-shifting defensive

players’ positions to the number of pitches thrown is detailed by numbers.

“I think every major league team has a Harvard or Yale graduate working with numbers,” he said. Although numbers are important, he said an announcer has to establish a relationship with the players, but he can’t get too close because “you have to be honest about what they do on the field.”

In 2002, Impemba moved back to the Detroit area to take over the Tigers’ play-by-play

“I wanted to be a major league announcer and I wanted to do it in Detroit,” Impemba said. “You can’t get any luckier than me.”

Impemba’s appearance at Schuler Books is a ticketed event, with tickets available at both Lansing-area Schuler locations. Tickets are free with the purchase of “If These Walls Could Talk” (only one ticket needed per family). Impemba will only sign books purchased at Schuler. If you have previously purchased a copy from Schuler, show your receipt to get a ticket.

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Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, December 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fcgl.org.

Gift Tags, Cards & Calligraphy. Make handmade cards & gift tags. Also, calligraphy, 4-7 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Human Rights Day: Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

EVENTS

Senior Holiday Craft at ANC. Coffee and conversation. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Strategy Game Night. 18 and over. Learn and share favorite games. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Therapy Dogs in the Library. Pet a dog and ease the stress of finals week. 1 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700. lib.msu.edu.

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.

Teen Movie Mania. Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 24



The billionaire up there

• • • Tuesday, Dec. 16 • • •

The 19th national tour for “Annie” makes its way to East Lansing next week, 37 years out from its debut on Broadway in 1977. Its origins go back further still if you consider the beloved Depression-era comic “Little Orphan Annie” the musical was based on. The comic’s author, Harold Grey, probably had no clue back in 1924 when the strip debuted that his cartoon would be responsible for inspiring timeless hit songs like “It’s the Hard Knock Life,” “Maybe” and the eternally optimistic “Tomorrow.”

But here in 2014, when “Annie” hits the Wharton stage, it will be a homecoming of sorts for actor Gilgamesh Taggett (pictured left), who plays the show’s patriarch, Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks. The Michigan native grew up in the rural city of Caro a couple hours away. Speaking by phone from the road, Taggett said

being raised in a farming town where theater was marginalized helped build his character as a driven New York billionaire.

“Coming from such a small town, I didn’t have much opportunity to participate in theater,” Taggett said. “I want to show young people without (school) arts programs that never giving up can pay off. I was a 45-year overnight success.”

After graduation, Taggett tried his hand at acting, singing, standup comedy and participated in poetry slams before focusing on musical theater. Turns in “The Producers,” “Amadeus” and “The Who’s Tommy” gave him enough stage swagger to tackle the iconic role of Warbucks.

The story is familiar: Annie, a plucky, red-haired orphan, is stuck in an orphanage living under the tyrannical eye of the drunken Miss Hannigan. The girls are forced to scrub floors and eat cold gruel — hard knock life, indeed. But happenstance puts Annie and her dog, Sandy, in the lap of luxury when she’s picked to live with Warbucks for the Christmas holiday.

This tour is directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin. All of the original songs are in place as well as all new choreography.

Fans of the 1982 movie may not recognize some

of the songs, such as “Hooverville,” which were cut from the film. But the world of “Annie” is firmly set in a time when bread lines were long and faith in the government was low, unlike the remake that opens later this month. Then, Taggett will have to compete with Academy Award-winner Jamie Foxx, who plays Warbucks as a telecom tycoon.

“To be in the same company as Jamie Foxx is an honor,” Taggett said. “I have always loved his performances even back to his comedy days. I am excited for the new movie. It’s not really competition. It’s just putting ‘Annie’s name out there.”

“Annie”

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16-Thursday, Dec. 18; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21
\$34-\$69/\$25 students
Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com



—CITY PULSE STAFF

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. DEC 12TH

10TH ANNUAL PUNKS VS. POKES

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$8, \$7 adv., 18+, 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12

With a promise of “tuneful twang, thunderous punk and everything in between,” each year Punks Vs. Pokes hosts a dueling roster of punk rock and alt-country bands at Mac's Bar. The annual showcase is hosted by Aaron Bales of Flatfoot, the headlining “poke” band. Flatfoot, which formed in 2000 at Michigan State University, is an Americana-tinged rock ‘n’ roll band reminiscent of the Flying Burrito Brothers and the Pogues. This year's show features punk bands the Fiction Junkies and the Hunky Newcomers. On the pokes side is country-fried the Devil's Cut and Paul Dubya & the Oak River Bridge Boys Band. For those who dig the Replacements and the Misfits but also have a soft spot for Buck Owens and George Jones, this show might be worth checking out.

B-DAY BASH FOR ALFONSO OF KNOWLYFE

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, 4:30 p.m., \$15, \$10 adv., Friday, Dec. 12

Since 2000, Know Lyfe has been a major force in the Lansing metal scene. Friday at the Loft is the 33rd birthday celebration for the band's lead singer, Alfonso. The festivities include 18 heavy bands performing on four stages. The lengthy lineup is: Know Lyfe, Meridians, Genocya, C.O.R.E., Assume Nothing, Dead Hour Noise, Ground Tracer, Of Virtue, Heed the Assailant, Recorruptor, Croatone, Worst Of, Pralaya, Free Agents, Speedgod, Send the Dawn, Through Eyes of Tomorrow and Deadlight Redemption. It's been 10 years since Know Lyfe released its debut album, “Autumn is the Glorification of Death.” The band is back in the studio working on a new full length LP. Fans of the Deftones or 36 Crazy Fists might want to check out Know Lyfe.



FRI. DEC 12TH

GLAMHAMMER AT THE GREEN DOOR

Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, 21+ , 9 p.m., \$5., Friday, Dec. 12

Glämhammer is a four-member '80s glam-rock/hair-metal tribute band that plays FM metal hits in an over-the-top, arena rock fashion. The flashy local tribute band rips through a long list of monster ballads, including Skid Row's “18 and Life,” Dio's “Holy Diver,” Warrant's “Cherry Pie” and Poison's “Every Rose Has its Thorn.” Aside from obvious musical influences like Mötley Crüe, Guns N' Roses and Bon Jovi, the band's bio also lists Jack Daniel's and Hustler magazine as key stimuli. The band is Daemon Angel (vocals), Bartimus Skeaze (bass/vocals), Django Palmstain (guitar) and J.J. FoxXx. Side note: Skeaze, real name Chris Baratono, fronts the local noisy rock outfit Narc Out the Reds, a Good Time Gang Records band with a few releases under its belt. To keep up to date with Glämhammer, go to glamhammer.com.



FRI. DEC 12TH

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Desmond Jones, 9 p.m.	All Ends Black, 9 p.m.	Tease-a-Gogo, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Blue Hair Bettys, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Small Parks, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	DJ Dazzlin Dena, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 8:30 p.m.	Glamhammer, 9 p.m.	Soulsitce, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic w/Hot Mess, 9 p.m.	Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	After Funk, 9 p.m.	Enemies Among Us, 6:30 p.m.	Alfonso's 33rd Birthday Bash, 4:30 p.m.	
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Fried Egg Nebula, 8 p.m.	MAHD, 7 p.m.	Punks Vs. Pokes, 9 p.m.	Masons Case, 9 p.m.
Marc's Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLaughlin, 8 p.m.		
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band, 9 p.m.	The DeWaynes, 10 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 10 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Pat Zelenka, 8:30 p.m.	Pat Zelenka, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			New Rule, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Rachel & Alex, 8 p.m.	New Rule, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Velocity Shift, 8:30 p.m.	Velocity Shift, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Electronic Dance Party, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 22

FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.
Community Music School Singers. Live performance. 4:45-6 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-2031, meridianmall.com.
Ukulele Jam. Learn how to play ukulele with Anna Zang. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St. Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

Auditions for "Romeo and Juliet." Presented by Mid-Michigan Family Theatre. 6:45 p.m. FREE. Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, mmft.org.

Thursday, December 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessbookstore.net.

Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous. Room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental

Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Current Events. Coffee and conversation. 10:30-11:30 a.m. , FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

HERO: Home Ownership. Call or email to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, bruce@gllhc.org.

EVENTS

Holiday Drop & Shop. Ages 3 and up. Call to register. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.4.

English Country Dancing. No experience needed 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students, MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, ram@albion.edu.

Teen Game Haven. Play a variety of games; board, cards and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East

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

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adults. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N Clinton St. Grand Ledge, (517) 627-1232.

Suzuki Winter Concert. 5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band. Live music. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Friday, December 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

Analyzing the Competition. Determine your market position. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

EVENTS

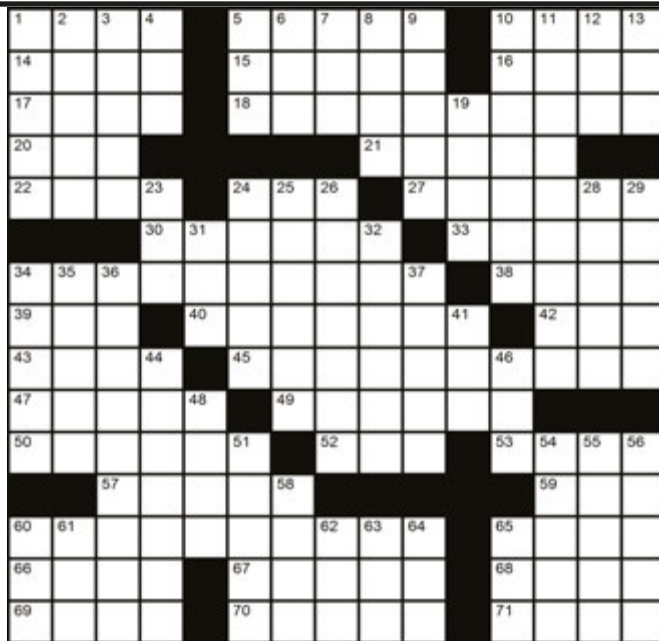
Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. See Facebook for details. 5:45 p.m. , FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Singles Holiday Party. All-singles holiday party. Fun, food and dancing. 7:30 p.m.-midnight, \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Rd. Bath. (517) 281-

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Gimme All Your Lovin'"--hugs and kisses all around. Matt Jones



Across

- 1 Little bites
- 5 Full of snark
- 10 Bill dispensers
- 14 Frigg's husband, in Norse myth
- 15 Be loud, like a radio
- 16 Brush off
- 17 Succumb to gravity
- 18 Spanish guy who joined a Germanic tribe?
- 20 "I just thought of something!"
- 21 "___ my heart open..." (Papa Roach lyric)
- 22 Vegetarian option
- 24 Academic aides, briefly
- 27 Hidden beneath the surface
- 30 Avant-garde composer Glass
- 33 Big house fixture
- 34 Like many actresses on "Baywatch"?
- 38 Modeler's moldable medium
- 39 Devious little devil
- 40 Less complicated
- 42 Eisenhower's WWII command
- 43 "Jadore" perfumier
- 45 Author of "The Watergate Diaries"?
- 47 Actress Pompeo
- 49 Assumes the role of
- 50 Infrequently
- 52 Opening piece?
- 53 Produce
- 57 Bassoons' smaller relatives

- 59 Swing in the ring
- 60 The most one-sided line in US history?
- 65 Money in Milan, before the euro
- 66 Destroy
- 67 Emcee's delivery
- 68 Sandler on guitar
- 69 "Nurse Jackie" star Falco
- 70 Posh neckwear
- 71 Is the author of

Down

- 1 Health food claim
- 2 "Famous Potatoes" state
- 3 Rice side
- 4 "Celebrity Jeopardy" broadcaster, for short
- 5 Network Stephen Colbert is moving to
- 6 Carte or mode pre-ceder
- 7 Levy
- 8 "Star Trek" counselor Deanna
- 9 Streisand movie
- 10 Afro-___ languages
- 11 Song that goes "So whyyyyy don't you use it?"
- 12 Item stating "World's Greatest Dad"
- 13 Nestle's ___-Caps
- 19 It's sealed with a shake
- 23 Code for a scanner
- 24 It's below the femur
- 25 Reunion attendee
- 26 Beer buy
- 28 "Hey, that's cool!"
- 29 Model, like clothes
- 31 Dept. formerly headed by Kathleen Sebelius
- 32 Well-behaved
- 34 ___ one's time (waits)
- 35 "Germinal" author Zola
- 36 Mission that included a moonwalk
- 37 Cluttered up
- 41 Genetic info carrier
- 44 Leon who sang the theme to "Mr. Belvedere"
- 46 School of thought
- 48 Hands-together time
- 51 News outlets
- 54 Tolerate
- 55 Holy book
- 56 Major tests
- 58 Serious sevensome
- 60 Beats by ___
- 61 Diaphragm alternative
- 62 "Senses Working Overtime" band
- 63 "___y Plata" (Montana's motto)
- 64 "Uh-uh!"
- 65 Once around

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See Out on the Town, Page 25

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L A H R
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Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

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transgender people and
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SUDOKU

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

ADVANCED

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

6272, SinglesTGIF.com.

StoryTime. Ages 3-6 years enjoy stories, songs and crafts. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Tech Time. Teens have access to a cluster of

Saturday, December 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13 >> THE LANGE CHORAL ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Those getting impatient waiting for carolers to come around and are in need of a holiday music fix can lay their frustrations to rest with the Lange Choral Ensemble's Christmas concert, "Making Mary." The performance, which is accompanied by an instrumental ensemble and live organ, will feature Mendelssohn's "Magnificat" along with shorter works from Bob Chilcott, Morten Lauridsen and Hans Leo Lasser. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 children and seniors. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-9454.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13-14 >> 'CELTIC HOLIDAY' AT RIVERWALK THEATRE

Riverwalk Theatre is thinking fewer Santa hats and more ghillies when observing the holidays this year with its "Celtic Holiday" event. The special two-day engagement features Irish dance and music by the Irish Dance Co, of Lansing. The troupe, which formed in 1993 and is made up of children, promotes cultural awareness and gives its members a creative way to stay in touch with their Irish heritage. The Irish Dance Co. has performed in a wealth of events all over Michigan. 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13 >> COMEDIAN BRIAN REGAN AT WHARTON

Standup comedian Brian Regan might not be as familiar a name as Jerry Seinfeld or Patton Oswalt, but that doesn't stop his more famous peers from using words like "best" or "favorite" when they describe him. Regan pays a visit to Wharton Center on Saturday. The comedian, better known for his frequent appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman," has visited over 100 cities annually since 2005, frequently selling out giant theaters. Saturday's show is an all-ages performance, so feel free to bring the kids. 8 p.m. \$39.75. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane., East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

laptops. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Mason Orchestras Concert. Music from famous operas and holiday pieces. 7:30 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 256-9151, masonorchestras.org.

Dewaynes. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Gospel Concert. Featuring the Mighty Clouds of Joy and more. 7 p.m. \$25/\$15 Adv. Galilee Baptist Church, 2511 Reo Road, Lansing. (517) 618-1781.

THEATER

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" Based on award winning book by Barbara Robinson. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 ages 12 and under. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, ow.ly/FqMhH.

Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Film Directors Panel. Directors help you perfect your monologue. 2-6 p.m. \$35. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 803-6572, mirasustudio.com.

Theater Directors Panel. Directors will help you perfect your monologue. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$35. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 803-6572, mirasustudio.com.

EVENTS

Jingle Belle Women's 5K. Run/walk for women. 10 a.m. \$35 thru 12-12/\$40 thru 12-14. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 . dtdl.org.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

From Taichi to Djembe. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Rd., East Lansing. (517) 897-0714, lotusvoice48823.com.

Second Saturday Supper. Baked chicken dinner. Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8/\$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount

STILETTOS AND STEEL/CHINA FLAVOR



Photo by Allan Ross/City Pulse

Candice Tess is the owner of Stilettoes & Steel, which has classes in pole dancing, burlesque and belly dancing.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

While yoga, spinning and boot camp classes will soon be filled to capacity by New Year's resolution makers, local women have a new option that is bound to be a conversation starter: Pole dancing. Welcome to **Stilettoes & Steel Fitness** on Lansing's west side.

"This isn't training for the strip club," said owner/instructor Candice Tess.

"Pole builds confidence and strength. A lot of women come thinking this would be fun, but say they're really impressed how hard of a workout it is."

Tess, who has a background in kinesiology, is the only certified pole instructor in mid-Michigan and one of the only in Michigan (you don't have to be certified to teach it). She opened Stilettoes & Steel in September after training in some other pole studios. She only teaches women right now, as demand hasn't been high enough to start a men's

class, but she thinks men could handle it.

"It's fantastic cross training," she said. "One trick utilizes every muscle in your body. I have muscles I've never had before."

A typical class lasts about an hour and half, including warm up, strength training and stretching. Skills taught include spins, tricks and different turns.

"And we teach how to put different moves together to (create a) free style dance," Tess said. "It makes women feel sexy."

Stilettoes & Steel has gift certificates, if you're looking to get something different for that daring young fitness enthusiast on your list. The space also offers bachelorette and birthday parties.

"Women love that they can get the strength workout but with the girly feel," Tess said. "You can hang out with girlfriends, but still get serious about fitness. And you don't flip truck tires here — you flip your body."

A new Flavor

Lansing's East Town

neighborhood is starting to look like Far East Town. Last year, **Asian Gourmet** opened on the 2000 block of Michigan Avenue. And for the last few weeks, interior work has been going on at the corner of that block, the former Lamai's Thai Kitchen. This week a sign went up with the name of the new restaurant: **China Flavor**. I popped my head in and the owner, who declined to give his name, told me an open date isn't set yet as he's still assembling the space, which included the installation of new floors, new lights and a new bar. Stay tuned for more information.

New in Town will be taking a break for the holidays. If you have any business news to share, please send it to allan@lansingcitypulse.com.

Stilettoes & Steel Fitness

6400 W. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing
Class times vary (see website for schedule)
(517) 802-8265,
stilettoesandsteelfitness.com

Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

Subtrate: Panel Discussion. Discussion about the rise of indie publishing in the Rust Belt, 2 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832, scenemetrospace.com.

Live Nativity. Reenactment of scripture readings. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Memorial Lutheran Church, 1022 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2294, memorialwilliamston.org.

Not So Silent Night. Silent auction event. Local art, food, music and fun. 7-9:30 p.m. \$25/\$20 adv. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 999-3643, ow.ly/FqQ7p.

MUSIC

MSU's A Jazzy Little Christmas. MSU Federal Credit Union Showcase Series, 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU

Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/FqQwt.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Full House Band. Classic rock. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 S. US Highway 27, Lansing. (517) 484-4808.

CMS All School Recital. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Holiday Sing-a-long. All ages welcome. family sing-a-long. 10 a.m. \$3-5 donation. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 974-3751, tenpoundfiddle.org/fiddlescouts.

Out on the town

from page 25

THEATER

Drag Show. Benefiting the LCC Gay Straight Alliance. 8 p.m. \$10. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 231-4872, lccgsa.org.

A Celtic Holiday. Irish music, singing and dance. 8 p.m. \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, Irishdancelansing.org.

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" (For details, see Dec. 12.) 3 p.m. \$7/\$5 ages 12 and under. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, ow.ly/FqMhH.

Sunday, December 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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.

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

Lansing Symphony Holiday Pops. An afternoon of holiday favorites. 3 p.m. \$20-47. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001.



The Lange Choral Ensemble
presents
Making Mary Music

With works by Mendelssohn (*Magnificat with instrumental accompaniment*), Chilcott, Lauridsen, Howells, Gjeilo, Hogan, and others)

Saturday, December 13, 2014
7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 West Ottawa
Lansing, Michigan
(directly north of the Capitol)
Tickets \$10.00 - Adults
\$8.00 - Seniors and students
For more information, call
482-9454
Handicapped accessible

lansingsymphony.org.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson/students FREE. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

MUSIC

Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam. Singing, jamming, and performance. 2-6 p.m. \$4/\$2 Seniors, children FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382.

New Horizons Band Concert. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" (For details, see Dec. 12.) 3 p.m. \$7/\$5 ages 12 and under. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, ow.ly/FqMhH.

A Celtic Holiday. Irish music, singing and dance. 2 p.m. \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, December 15

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.g.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

Cooking Class: Casseroles. Learn skills and make vegetarian friendly meals. 5-7 p.m. \$10. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.

EVENTS

Social Bridge. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50.



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Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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.

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Saints, Sinners & Cynics. Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

Monday Movie Matinee. Movies intended for an adult audience. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.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.

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.

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership & presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13 >> REACH STUDIO ART CENTER BENEFIT

REO Town's REACH Studio Art Center has big plans for increasing its facilities. The local nonprofit offers free and low-cost art programs to kids in the Greater Lansing area. But like a public radio station, REACH needs to ask for everyone's generosity from time to time — and what better time for that than the season for giving. REACH hosts the "A Not So Silent Night" benefit and silent auction at Impression 5 Museum. The evening will include a silent auction of works produced by local artists, live music by Mighty Medicine, food from local restaurants and unique gifts for sale produced by the studio. 7-9:30 p.m. \$25/\$20 adv. 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14 >> LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

For fans of holiday music who have no interest in "deep tracks," the Lansing Symphony Orchestra presents its annual Holiday Pops concert. Timothy Muffitt conducts Lansing's premiere orchestra alongside Michigan State University's Youth Chorale, filling Wharton's Cobb Great Hall with a sound so full of Christmas cheer it would make the Grinch's heart explode. The performance feature guest vocals by baritone Jonathan Beyer. 3 p.m. Tickets starting at \$35. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane., East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

French Club. Practice listening to and speaking French. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Open Mic. Mike Daniels open mic night. All ages welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

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

Hearing Screenings. No appointment needed. 11-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Reflexology. Stress treatment. Call for an appointment. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Jug & Mug Ski Club Meeting. Singles activity club. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-9955, jugandmug.org.

Banners of Burlap Workshop. Create festive, burlap

See Out on the Town, Page 27

Tuesday, December 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

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Out on the town

from page 26

banners. Ages 12 and up. 6-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

HERO: Building Better Credit. Call or email to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, bruce@glhc.org

Winter Crafts. Sun catchers, paper snowflakes. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture in everyday settings. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Night. Live music. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

THEATER

"Annie." The Tony-Award winning musical. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$34. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com.

Wednesday, December 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fegl.org.

Gingerbread Architecture. Gingerbread houses and buildings. 6-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MICafe Counseling. Medical expense assistance. Call for an appointment. 9:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Kwanzaa Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim

Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

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.

FAFSA Workshop. Learn the ins and outs of the FAFSA from MCRC. 6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Crafternoon: Cookies. Holiday Cookie Decorating. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

City Pulse Classifieds

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

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CCF Delivery Driver (Okemos) Cherry Capital Foods needs a FULLTIME Truck Drivers for local food pick-up and delivery OUT OF ITS LANSING (Okemos) HUB LOCATION. This is a FT position. CDL required, however this is NOT an over-the-road position. You will NOT be driving any overnights. You will be doing a minimal amount of warehouse and merchandising work as well. Ability to lift up to 75# repeatedly and climb in and out of a truck. On board with our mission (www.cherrycapitalfoods.com) a must. Good computer and customer service skills a must. Food-related history a plus. Starting pay is \$13 per hour, plus benefits.

Submit a cover letter, resume with three references and emails to jeff@cherrycapitalfoods.com.

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 10-16

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lord Byron (1788-1824) was an English poet who loved animals. In the course of his life, he not only had dogs and cats as pets, but also monkeys, horses, peacocks, geese, a crocodile, a falcon, a crane, and a parrot. When he enrolled in Trinity College at age 17, he was upset that the school's rules forbade students from having pet dogs, which meant he couldn't bring his adored Newfoundland dog Boatswain. There was no regulation, however, against having a tame bear as a pet. So Byron got one and named it Bruin. I think it's time for you to find a workaround like that, Aries. Be cunning. Try a gambit or two. Find a loophole.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Whenever I lost one of my baby teeth as a kid, I put it under my pillow before I went to sleep. During the night, the Tooth Fairy sneaked into my room to snatch the tooth, and in its place left me 25 cents. The same crazy thing happened to every kid I knew, although for unknown reasons my friend John always got five dollars for each of his teeth -- far more than the rest of us. I see a metaphorically comparable development in your life, Taurus. It probably won't involve teeth or a visit from the Tooth Fairy. Rather, you will finally be compensated for a loss or deprivation or disappearance that you experienced in the past. I expect the restitution will be generous, too -- more like John's than mine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Through the scientific magic of grafting, a single tree can be altered to grow several different kinds of fruit at the same time. One type of "fruit salad tree" produces apricots, nectarines, plums, and peaches, while another bears grapefruits, lemons, oranges, limes, and tangelos. I'm thinking this might be an apt and inspiring symbol for you in the coming months, Gemini. What multiple blooms will you create on your own metaphorical version of a fruit salad tree?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): No other structure on the planet is longer than the Great Wall of China, which stretches 3,945 miles. It's not actually one unbroken span, though. Some sections aren't connected, and there are redundant branches that are roughly parallel to the main structure. It reminds me of your own personal Great Wall, which is monumental yet permeable, strong in some ways but weak in others, daunting to the casual observer but less so to those who take the time to study it. Now is an excellent time to take inventory of that wall of yours. Is it serving you well? Is it keeping out the influences you don't want but allowing in the influences you do want? Could it use some renovation? Are you willing to reimagine what its purpose is and how you want it to work for you in the future?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The Arctic Monkeys are British rockers who have produced five studio albums, which together have sold almost five million copies. *Rolling Stone* magazine called their first album, released in 2003, the 30th greatest debut of all time. Yet when they first formed in 2002, none of them could play a musical instrument. I see the current era of your life, Leo, as having a similar potential. How might you start from scratch to create something great?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Alan Turing (1912-1954) was a British mathematician and pioneering computer scientist. After World War II broke out, he got worried that the German army might invade and occupy England, as it had done to France. To protect his financial assets, he converted everything he owned into bars of silver, then buried them underground in the countryside north of London. When the war ended, he decided it was safe to dig up his fortune. Unfortunately, he couldn't recall where he had put it, and never did find it. Let's draw a lesson from his experience, Virgo. It's fine if you want to stash a treasure or protect a secret or safeguard a resource. That's probably a sensible thing to do right now. But make sure you remember every detail about why and how you're doing it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Even if you are not formally enrolled in a course of study or a training program, you are nevertheless being schooled. Maybe you're not fully conscious of what you have been learning. Maybe your teachers are disguised or unwitting. But I assure you that the universe has been dropping some intense new knowledge on you. The coming week will be an excellent time to become more conscious of the lessons you have been absorbing. If you have intuitions about where this educational drama should go next, be proactive about making that happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You now have a special ability to detect transformations that are happening below the threshold of everyone else's awareness. Anything that has been hidden or unknown will reveal itself to your gentle probes. You will also be skilled at communicating your discoveries to people who are important to you. Take full advantage of these superpowers. Don't underestimate how pivotal a role you can play as a teacher, guide, and catalyst. The future success of your collaborative efforts depends on your next moves.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Harper Lee was born and raised in Alabama. At the age of 23, she relocated to New York City with hopes of becoming a writer. It was a struggle. To support herself, she worked as a ticket agent for airline companies. Finding the time to develop her craft was difficult. Seven years went by. Then one Christmas, two friends gave her a remarkable gift: enough money to quit her job and work on her writing for a year. During that grace period, Lee created the basics for a book that won her a Pulitzer Prize: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I don't foresee anything quite as dramatic for you in the coming months, Sagittarius. But I do suspect you will receive unexpected help that provides you with the slack and spaciousness you need to lay the foundations for a future creation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the ancient Greek epic poem the *Odyssey*, Odysseus's wife Penelope describes two kinds of dreams. "Those that that pass through the gate of ivory," she says, are deceptive. But dreams that "come forth through the gate of polished horn" tell the truth. Another ancient text echoes these ideas. In his poem the *Aeneid*, Virgil says that "true visions" arrive here from the land of dreams through the gate of horn, whereas "deluding lies" cross over through the gate of ivory. Judging from the current astrological omens, Capricorn, I expect you will have interesting and intense dreams flowing through both the gate of ivory and the gate of horn. Will you be able to tell the difference? Trust love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your chances of going viral are better than usual. It's a perfect moment to upload a Youtube video of yourself wearing a crown of black roses and a *V* for *Vendetta* mask as you ride a unicycle inside a church and sing an uptempo parody version of "O Come All Ye Faithful." It's also a favorable time for you to create a buzz for you and your pet causes through less spectacular measures. Promote yourself imaginatively.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): At age 80, author Joan Didion has published five novels, ten works of non-fiction, and five screenplays. When she was 27, she wrote, "I have already lost touch with a couple of people I used to be." That wasn't a good thing, she added: "We are well-advised to keep on nodding terms with the people we used to be, whether we find them attractive company or not. Otherwise they turn up unannounced and surprise us, come hammering on the mind's door and demand to know who deserted them, who betrayed them, who is going to make amends." I recommend her counsel to you in the coming months, Pisces. Get reacquainted with the old selves you have outgrown and abandoned.

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TREE KEEPER

Tis the close of another magnificent year working with many wonderful clients and friends.

May winter be kind and restful, may the springbring us together anew in the pursuit of appreciating Nature's beauty.
Thank You

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