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December 17-23, 2014



THAWING OUT

HOW DID THE BWL ICE STORM DEBACLE CHANGE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE BETTER? P. 8

TRAFFIC STOPS

BLACKS AND HISPANICS FACE HIGH ARREST, SEARCH RATES

P. 6

REGIFTING EVE

ARTS COUNCIL PAYS FORWARD THE GIFT OF BOOKS

P. 13

Annie



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MSU Center for Orthopedic Research
msucor@msu.edu
517-975-3301
<http://orthopedicresearch.msu.edu>

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Osteopathic Medicine

PI: Jacek Cholewicki, PhD and Peter Reeves, PhD. Funded by NIH.



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6AM-9AM

WLMI 92.9

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE

FILE NO. 14-661-DE

Estate of Michael John Robbins
Date of birth: 08/09/1949

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michael John Robbins, died 12/13/2013. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Floridama Castillo, personal representative, or both to the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan 48901-7971 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12-17-2014

Frank McAlpine P27430
712 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 333-1811

Floridama Castillo
1530 Melrose Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 974-9845

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL COURT -
FAMILY DIVISION
Eaton COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING

CASE NO. 14-19026-NA

PETITION NO.: 201401

TO: Blake McFarland, dob 1/23/1990

IN THE MATTER OF: Parker McFarland (dob 01/02/2010) and Jamison McFarland (5/24/2011)

A hearing regarding ADJUDICATORY TRIAL will be conducted by the court on 1/28/2015 at 8:30 a.m. in Eaton County Probate Court, 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, Michigan before Hon. Thomas K. Byerly.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Blake McFarland personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.

This hearing may result in ADJUDICATION OF PETITION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING

FILE NO. 14-1427-GA

In the matter of Michael Spears

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:

whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 8, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI before Judge Garcia for the following purpose:

Adult Guardianship hearing.

12/15/2014
DeAnn Moreno
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-9664

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**VOL. 14
ISSUE 18**



PAGE 5

What's killing the Christmas trees?



PAGE 16

Richard Ford promotes newest book, "Let me Be Frank With You."



PAGE 22

He Ate, She Ate: Sultan's Middle Eastern restaurant



COVER ART

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" by NEVIN SPEERBRECKER

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6705
CLASSIFIED AD INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5066
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirten
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

EDITOR • Belinda Thurston
belinda@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Allan I. Ross
allan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Angus McNair
adcop@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

CALENDAR EDITOR • Jonathan Griffith
jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

ADVERTISING • Shelly Olson & Shane Loepke
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705
shane@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Daniel E. Bollman, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Michael Gerstein, Tom Helma, Todd Heywood, Gabrielle Johnson, Terry Link, Andy McGlashen, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Shawn Parker, Stefanie Pohl, Dennis Preston, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Richard Bridenbaker, Dave Fisher, Ryan Kingley, Thomas Scott, Robert Wiche

Interns: Anne Abendroth, Keegan Kane, Beth Waldon, Krista Wilson

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On December 3, 2014, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

November 13, 2014 Special Meeting
November 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#14_312

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Ordinance No. 2014-07

Date passed:
Nature of the ordinance:

December 9, 2014
An ordinance amending Chapter 86, Article 1, Section 86-2; Article IV, Section 86-368(b) and (c), Section 86-403(d), Section 86-404(d); Article VI, Section 86-654(c)(3), (c)(6), and Section 86-654 (f) and Article VIII, Section 86-755 which allows for adult care facilities provided the facility meets all current building, resident, fire and property maintenance codes adopted by the Township Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct. Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#14_314



THIS WEEK

- MIRS editor Kyle Melinn
- Developer Dan Essa
- Turner-Dodge President Michael Beebe
- Pastor Melvin Jones of Union Missionary Baptist Church



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE ADMINISTRATION DID ITS BEST TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY FROM THE UNPLEASANTNESS OF THE TORTURE REPORT.

BUT A 500-PAGE SUMMARY* WAS FINALLY MADE PUBLIC--REMINING AMERICANS OF THINGS THEY HAD CHOSEN TO FORGET.

SOME TRIED TO PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON IT ALL.

SORRY SIR--I TRIED TO STALL THE RELEASE, BUT NO LUCK.

APPARENTLY THE CIA WATERBOARDED DETAINEES--CHAINED THEM IN STRESS POSITIONS--AND DID ALL SORTS OF TERRIBLE THINGS!

DOESN'T OUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE GROTESQUE AND SAVAGE ACTS COMMITTED BY OUR GOVERNMENT IN SECRET TORTURE DUNGEONS--

WHAT PART OF "LOOKING FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD" DO PEOPLE FAIL TO COMPREHEND?

YOU KNOW, THAT DOES SOUND VAGUELY FAMILIAR, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

--PROVE OUR FUNDAMENTAL DECENCY? IT'S AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM FOR THE WIN!

THE FULL 6000-PAGE REPORT REMAINS CLASSIFIED.

TORTURE APOLOGISTS DUSTED OFF THEIR FAVORITE TALKING POINTS-- WE DIDN'T TORTURE ANYONE--

--BUT IF WE DID IT WAS LEGAL-- --AND TOTALLY NECESSARY--

--AND COMPLETELY DEFENSIBLE--

--BUT IF YOU DON'T STOP TALKING ABOUT IT THE TERRORISTS WILL ATTACK AND KILL US ALL--

--AND IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT.

--AND ARGUED THAT THE TORTURERS ACTUALLY DESERVE THANKS FOR THEIR SERVICE.

WELL, TIME TO GO RECTALLY FEED THE PRISONER!

WHILE WE THREATEN TO RAPE HIS MOTHER!

GOD BLESS YOU MEN-- AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

MEANWHILE, LORD OF DARKNESS AND ALL THAT IS VILE DICK CHENEY REALLY DIDN'T SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT.

SO IT SAYS WE USED FALSE INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH TORTURE TO JUSTIFY THE WAR WE WANTED IN IRAQ?

WELL, I THINK THE LESSON IS CLEAR-- HARUMPH.

--TORTURE WORKS.

Rental agreement

Lansing could license landlords next year, while state may loosen regs

Lansing is preparing to tighten rental regulations at the same time the state appears poised to loosen them.

City Council's General Services Committee received the green light from the Lansing city attorney to license landlords.

"Yes. Residential landlord licensing would fall within the City's authority and is not preempted by the state," a memo from City Attorney Janene McIntyre states.

Meanwhile Senate Bill 313, which would eliminate the requirement for municipalities to inspect rental properties, is headed to the House for a vote by Thursday in the lame-duck session.

The bill, which passed overwhelmingly in the House Local Government committee Dec. 4, is expected to pass despite opposition from healthy home and child safety advocates.

General Services Committee Chairwoman Jessica Yorke said there's no danger of eliminating inspections in Lansing.

"I think there's enough concern about safe and healthy housing; it's hard to fathom we wouldn't do rental inspections," she said.

Yorke said the General Services Committee has been researching landlord licensing this year as a way of improving the safety of rental properties for tenants and providing accountability. City officials had thought a state law prohibited cities the size of Lansing from creating licensing of landlords.

Yorke said the committee will present a report at Monday's City Council meeting on what the review and discussions have been this year and the findings and recommendations. She said the committee would look into cost analyses and administration of the program next year.

"We spent time reviewing best practices in our community and other communities," she said. "We also looked at other possible changes; lead clearance compliance is one."

She said the committee also "found some deficiencies" in how the code compliance office tracks its progress in rental inspections.

She said the city tracks by building and not by number of units.

The Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan, which has over 200 members, opposes landlord licensing.

"The purpose of the licensing is to have more control over landlords," said association spokesman Gary Calkins. "I'm not sure what they want to do is necessary or needed."

Calkins said landlords want to maintain their properties and investments.

"I don't know if the majority of council is supportive of that or not," Calkins said. "We'll find out when they look at it next year."

The Senate bill would eliminate the

See Rental, Page 7

A tall order

MSU researcher aims to control fungus killing Christmas trees

You might not notice it on the trees jammed into holiday revelers' living rooms because they're still so young, but many Christmas trees living much past their youth are having a hard go of it these days.

Other diseases mimic the symptoms, but Chrissy McTavish, a graduate student at Michigan State University, is the first to have discovered, in 2013, that a fungus called *Phomopsis* is the real culprit behind tree deaths in both tree nurseries and the natural environment.

Although there are no figures, she said the problem is "widespread," and though they likely haven't lost money because of the fungus, it has those in the tree industry spooked.

"It is a huge concern," said Amy Frankmann, director of the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association.

"People are calling and saying, 'hey I'm losing my trees,'" Frankmann said. "We have a whole team working on it at MSU."

Phomopsis Spruce Decline has been spreading throughout the state since the early 2000s. Though it won't kill a tree in one season, it eats away at the tree for



Michael Gerstein/City Pulse

Chrissy McTavish, who heads the MSU Spruce Decline research, explains some of her research amid a room full of young spruce trees.

years, cutting off nutrients and killing the lower branches before squeezing the life out entirely, in the worst cases.

McTavish, who leads the *Phomopsis* research at the only lab looking into the matter, said she doesn't know how pervasive it is in other states.

"The growers are very challenged," said Marsha Grey, director of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. "People are not planting spruce now."

Grey said it hits landscape farmers the hardest.

"What's weird about this disease is you don't see the cankers (the brown patches) from the outside of the tree," McTavish said. "You have to scrape really lightly, the top bark off of the limb, and then you'll see the cankers."

McTavish and her research assistants

brought thousands of spruce trees inside MSU's sprawling greenhouse labyrinth to infect the trees. She discovered Colorado Blue Spruce were, by far, the most susceptible. Norway Spruce is second most susceptible. Some are resistant, like Myer and Serbian Spruce.

Researchers still haven't determined whether a fungicide might be helpful for farmers.

McTavish received funding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as a university funding pool called Project GREENE.

— By Michael Gerstein



Property: 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
Central United Methodist Church

With Lansing's holiday festivities centered on the lighting of the State Christmas Tree, it may be easy to overlook other downtown attractions that recall the spirit of this festive season. The holiday tree and State Capitol immediately to the south of this imposing Richardsonian Romanesque church can figuratively and literally overshadow it. Impressive as it is, this church is not the best-known work of architect Elijah Myers, who designed the neighboring Capitol building.

Solidly anchored by a buttressed tower at the corner of Capital and Ottawa, the church is dressed in dark Ionia sandstone. The random coursing pattern is expressed in ashlar stone, in which individual blocks are carefully worked to fit tightly against the faces of adjacent masonry. Here, the exposed face remains rough. The corner tower is balanced at the west end of the south elevation by a round tower capped with a conical copper roof. In between, twin stone arches serve the Ottawa Street entrance.

The church was recognized with a 2014 Preservation Lansing Award for its efforts to maintain and restore its stained glass. The collection is particularly impressive when viewed from within the church. Visitors should not miss the spacious red oak interior and its great hammer beam trusses.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-4-2014, 4817 Bristol Street
Special Land Use Permit - Church in the "A" Residential District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-4-2014. This is a request by Elodia Jones for a Special Land Use permit to allow a church (Bethel Seventh-Day Adventists Community, Inc.) at 4817 Bristol Street. Churches are permitted in the "A" Residential district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_309

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-5-2014, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Special Land Use Permit - Church

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-5-2014. This is a request by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing for a Special Land Use permit to establish a church at 5509 S. Pennsylvania Avenue. Churches are permitted in the "H" Light Industrial district, which is the zoning designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_310

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, January 7, 2015**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a variance request from Michael Philip and Elizabeth Martin for the property located at 1521 Cahill Drive, in the R-1, Low Density Single-Family Residential District from the following requirement of Chapter 50 - Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:
 - a. *Article III. Section 50-144(6), to allow a window well to encroach into 37.5% of the required yard setback where a 25% encroachment is allowed.*

The applicant is requesting the variance to install a retaining timber wall around an egress window.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_311

B/15/047A PARKING ENFORCEMENT SCOOTER REISSUED as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the **LBWL/ CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1110 S PENNSYLVANIA, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912** until **3:00 PM local time in effect on DEC. 23, 2014** at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: slr@lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this bid contact Eric Hassett at (517) 483-6640, or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#14_307

Arrests and searches

Blacks and Hispanics caught up in traffic stops

In a recent column on race relations and policing, I recounted statistics on traffic stops by the Lansing Police Department that could have suggested profiling. It's a subject worth exploring in greater detail, and because Lansing keeps detailed statistics on traffic stops, information that includes tracking race, age, outcomes and more.



MICKY HIRTEN

Based on a reports done by independent researchers from Michigan State University, Lansing's policing appears to be relatively color blind, at least when it comes to the initial stop. The percentage of black drivers pulled over by police generally reflects the city's population mix. For whites and Hispanics, the racial data is more confusing, though probably close.

But there is no doubt that after the initial traffic stop, any sense of parity ends. In Lansing, traffic stop-related arrests and searches of blacks and Hispanics, male and female, happen much more frequently than for whites.

It's not a subject that police are comfortable discussing. But the numbers reported by Lansing in its traffic-stop analysis, which is available on the Police Department's website, are consistent. If LPD isn't targeting black or Hispanic drivers — and it seems very serious in ensuring that it doesn't — the higher level of searches and reflects arrests reflect populations with more legal baggage.

According to Lansing Police Chief Michael Yankowski, most searches and arrests are not discretionary. The LPD traffic stop report states: "The majority of all searches (73.4%) were 'searches incident to a lawful arrest.' In such situations, officers are conducting the search pursuant to established criminal procedure." The traffic stops trigger the event — an outstanding warrant, for example, or other police or judicial issues. Searches are basic police procedure, said Yankowski.

"When someone is arrested, we do an inventory. We search the person and vehicle to make sure there is no contraband or valuable if the vehicle is going to be towed."

For the latest reporting period, covering much of 2011, 2012 and two months of 2013, 26.8 percent of LPD's 12,710 traffic stops involved black drivers. In the city, according to U.S. Census data,

blacks represent 23 percent of the population. Whites, who compose 61 percent of Lansing's population, account for just 43.9 percent of all stops.

But for about a fourth of all traffic stop, Lansing police are unable to determine race. They use the term "not apparent." While acknowledging that a good percentage of whites fall into that category, Yankowski said the increase in people claiming mix-race, and the LPD's policy of not asking race-based questions, affects how the data is analyzed. It may be why Hispanics, who represent 12.5 percent of Lansing's population, have just 5.1 percent of traffic stops. As Lansing become more diverse, racial lines are blurring

What happens after a traffic stop — car searches and arrests — is where the results are more racially tilted. While black drivers account for about a quarter (26.8 percent) of all LPD traffic stops, they are involved in about half (48.3 percent) of all car searches. Hispanics with at least 5.1 percent of total stops merit about a tenth (9.4 percent) of searches.

Cars belonging to white drivers — officially 43.9 percent of all stops — are searched just 29.5 percent of the time. The "not apparent" category logs 23 percent of stops and 16 percent of searches.

Regardless of race or ethnicity, one result of searches is common to everyone. Most of the time, police find nothing. Seventy-five percent of searches of cars driven by blacks come up empty. It's 77.9 percent for whites and 80.7 percent for Hispanics. It's about the same for women.

The prior legal or criminal issues that prompted vehicle searches also result in the greater likelihood of arrest for blacks and Hispanics compared with whites.

About 1-in-10 traffic stops of cars driven by Hispanic or black drivers results in an arrest. For Hispanics the rate is 11.2 percent; for blacks, it's 9 percent. For stops with white drivers, the arrest rate is 4.3 percent. The arrest pattern is similar for females: 7.3 Hispanic, 5.3 black and 2.7 white.

There is other data in Lansing traffic stop report that has nothing to do with race. Traffic stops peak during the morning and evening rush hour and during lunch time. For the reporting period, the most traffic stops occurred in December — 24.5 per day — followed by November (24.5), October (24.3) and November (21.1). April accounted for the fewest number of stops with just 11 per day. Altogether police logged 12,710 traffic stops for the period.

Drivers in their 20s account for a whopping 40 percent of all traffic stops. Driver over age 90 had the fewest stops — 0.1 percent.

More men get stopped than women: 59.9 percent versus 40.1 percent. Moving violations account for 67.3 percent of all stops followed by equipment violations (13 percent), registration (12.7 percent) and other (6.7 percent).

Brief ...

\$20 million project planned for old YMCA site

A \$20 million mixed-use project, "Metro Place," will be developed at the site of the long-vacant YMCA building on Townsend Street, adjacent to Reutter Park.

The project is being developed by Lawton Group Development LLC.

"Metro Place will be a terrific addition to downtown Lansing's residential options and add even more vibrancy to our urban core by attracting new residents to live in the heart of the city," said Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

"We are thrilled to finally bring this project to fruition after years of hard work and considerable expense," said Lawton Group representative Dan Essa.

The Lawton Group originally acquired the YMCA site in 2008 and previously planned several redevelopment projects that were stymied by adverse financing conditions during the recession. Funding includes a \$3 million loan from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Principal financing of \$13 million is from Prudential Huntoon Paige, which will be guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority will provide more than \$500,000 for environmental remediation.

Demolition of the old YMCA building is expected this spring, with construction next year. The project is targeted to be complete in spring 2016.

— Belinda Thurston

Protesters demonstrate in mall, Saginaw Highway

Approximately 40 people participated in a "die-in" demonstration at the Lansing Mall and along Saginaw Highway for Friday night.

Die-ins are peaceful demonstrations that have been staged across the country recently as a response to the lack of indictments in the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner in New York.

Friday's protest was organized by Lansing residents Alicia Hicks, 26, Nicole Daniel, 25, Bianca Smith, 26, Dionna Hardin, 26, and

Anisa Kelley, 26.

"We do feel connectedness with the people suffering around the country and solidarity with those who are hurting," said Hardin.

One of the first activists to arrive Friday was Norma Bauer, 69, Lansing.

"I really admire these young activists who are willing to work with local law enforcement in polite ways to bring to the attention of the American public that we have a broken criminal justice system," Bauer said.

The group gathered at the Lansing Mall fountain and "died" for four and a half minutes at 6:15 pm. They later "died" in the middle of Saginaw Highway blocking traffic.

"Michael Brown's body was left in the street for four and a half hours," said Hicks. "We knew we couldn't be out there for that long so we chose four and a half minutes to symbolize that."

— Courtney Morra

...and briefer

During columnist George Will's commencement address at MSU on Saturday, a small group of MSU students stood and turned their backs to protest his claim that rape victims at colleges have "coveted status" on campus. In the audience, some read newspapers during the speech; outside others protested. ... Included in the last-minute budget agreement in Washington was another \$90 million in funding for MSU's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB). ... As of Tuesday, Michigan's Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder still had no agreement on how to fund the state's needed road repairs. ... A Delta Township man was killed and his daughter critically injured in an accident on Wednesday as they refueled their car along I-496. ... On Friday, 1,500 police officers were among the mourners at the funeral of Ingham County Sheriff's Deputy Grant Whitaker, killed during a high speed car chase. A suspect, John Kelsey II of Stockbridge, was arrested on Monday. ... Overriding MSU President Lou Anna Simon's objection, the university's board of trustees raised her salary to \$750,000 and added a \$100,000 retention bonus, a move designed to keep the salary competitive during the next presidential search. ... Citing First Amendment rights, the Michigan State Capitol Commission has approved a satanist holiday display for the grounds.

Rental

from page 5

requirement for local government to maintain a registry of owners and property. It would also allow the period between inspections to be 10 years rather than the six years in current law.

Jason Demmon, a North Sycamore Street resident, is against the Senate bill.

"My issue is that I've been fighting a big monster on our street," he said of suspected drug activity. "I don't really feel the inspections are being carried out thoroughly as it is. I don't feel that getting rid of inspections altogether is a step in the right direction. Taking inspections away from other cities will add to the problems in our cities."

Paul Haan, director of the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, who attended the House committee meeting,

"We thought it would be overlooked for more important matters during this lame-duck session," he said. "We're hoping that the house recognizes the opposition to the bill, the broad-based opposition."

Regarding the state rental inspections, Calkins said inspections would still be allowed "if there's a complaint from an individual tenant," Calkins said.

If the bill passes, the state would be sending the wrong message, Yorke said.


"It's sad that state law could change to the extent that the state law would not longer require a city of our size to have a rental inspection and registration program," she said. "It's sad what it says about Michigan and our commitment to safe and healthy housing."

— Belinda Thurston



CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by Berl Schwartz




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7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS


COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

and now on
my 18 MY18-TV! 10 A.M.
Every Saturday

THIS WEEK: BWL, Medical marijuana



Michael C.H. McDaniel
Chairman, BWL Community Review Team



Robin Schneider
Lansing activist

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Ordinance No. 2014-06

Date passed:	December 2, 2014
Nature of the ordinance:	An ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article 11, Sections 26-26 and 26-27 as well as the addition of Section 26-28 of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian to adopt and incorporate by reference the 2012 International Fire Code with Meridian amendments
Full text available at:	Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct. Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#14_313



LESSONS LEARNED

COMMUNITY TRUST ONE YEAR AFTER THE GEMINI ICE STORM OUTAGE

Photos by Darryl Evans unless otherwise noted

By **BELINDA THURSTON**

In some ways greater Lansing is still thawing from the natural disaster “event” Dec. 21 that left 40,000 residents and businesses cold and dark.

That “event” wasn’t the Gemini winter storm that encased the community in a half inch of ice or the power outages it caused, but the firestorm of anger, distrust, frustration and disbelief that followed as the public utility fumbled executing and communicating the restoration, which took up to 10 days for some. Board of Water & Light General Manager Peter Lark was harshly criticized for leaving for New York City on Dec. 22 at the height of the crisis; for deleting internal emails that documented his communications about the restoration process; and for the utility’s overall lack of communication with the public and perceived lack of empathy.

The storm forever changed not only the BWL but the entire community, how we relate to one another and what our expectations are.

BWL isn’t a conventional commercial utility. It is owned by the people of Lansing, a relationship captured by its motto: “Hometown People. Hometown Power.” BWL is — or was — a big family business, different from profit-making energy giants like Consumers Energy or DTE. The dismal performance a year ago was a betrayal, an infidelity of sorts, fraying the warm blanket of trust the city expected of its power company.

The larger Lansing family is still dealing with the breakdown. There are lots of patches — many of them skillfully tailored. But with winter approaching the uncertainty

remains. Too little time has passed.

“From a utility process we’re improved,” said BWL Commissioner Cynthia Ward, the only board member to vote not to reappoint Lark as manager. “In emergency preparedness, there’s improvement. In my own household preparedness, there’s improvements. It forced a lot of people to think about things. ... We have to be a better community for it even if everyone is individually better prepared.”

The BWL has adopted a long list of changes suggested by the independent Community Review Team and the

Michigan Public Service Commission. There’s an emergency operations manager, a new mobile app, new text message service. There’s a social media manager and representation on the board of commissioners from surrounding communities will begin in July.

The utility promises better communication in the future.

Retired General Michael McDaniel, who headed the review team and a homeland security expert, said the utility has made good on a lot of changes, but more is left to

See Lessons, Page 9

‘I WAS PRETTY ANGRY WITH BWL’

Clemens Avenue Neighborhood Watch coordinator Jana Nicol stayed at her house for two and a half days after the ice storm. “And it was rough,” she wrote in a message to City Pulse. “Finally I decided to go to my mom’s on Dec 24. I was supposed to have everyone at my house for Christmas and the house was almost all decorated when the power went out. So I drove to Charlotte to stay with her, when I got on the freeway and saw the widespread damage I knew it was worse than I had thought.”

Nicol said her neighbors looked out for each other, even before the storm.

Her mother, who is 83, didn’t want her to leave when her power was restored by Dec. 26. She was enjoying the company. She also had a neighbor whose condo was without power staying with her.

“I was pretty angry with BWL, but I am impressed with the lessons they have learned and the steps they have made to better their communication with the community,” Nicol wrote. “I have a BWL app on my phone now. My favorite was the fake BWL Twitter account, I LMAO at that pioneer award, OMG it was the bright light in the middle of a fiasco.”

“As far as the community, I think many would have liked to see Peter “offed” from BWL. And I still feel that way. But I think everyone learned a lot about preparedness.”

— Belinda Thurston

BWL AND CITY OF LANSING MUST DEVELOP COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

We are approaching the anniversary of the 22 December 2013 ice storm which precipitated a lengthy electrical power outage in our region and the resultant assessment of the response by our communities and the Board of Water & Light. As the leader of the Community Review Team, which issued a lengthy report on our assessment, I am often asked whether any of our recommendations have not been implemented.

One of those recommendations has been overlooked. The BWL and city have accepted all recommendations aimed at them, and are in some stage of implementation on all of them, but the recommendation to develop community resilience has been overlooked, probably because it requires the concerted action of the entire regional community, not just one agency, municipality or discipline.

The focus of this recommendation is on community resilience, NOT on regional emergency planning. Our state and local emergency management community does a superb job in planning and preparing for disasters. But community resilience requires a broad-based effort, beginning with local neighbor associations and community groups.

The need for community resilience is plain and obvious:

Opinion

Retired General Michael McDaniel

Michael C.H. McDaniel, who served as U.S. deputy assistant secretary for homeland defense strategy, prevention and mission assurance, headed the committee that reviewed BWL's post-ice storm performance.

(1) Disasters will occur again, whether natural or human-induced, in our community, and climate change makes us more vulnerable;

(2) Our population will continue to grow, age, and expand beyond current municipal boundaries;

(3) Public infrastructure nationwide is aging beyond acceptable design limits;

(4) Public safety, schools and public health agencies are essential to community health but face daunting budget concerns, particularly as our population ages and expands;

(5) Our critical infrastructure systems and our municipalities are interdependent and vulnerable should a key node in any of those systems be disrupted by natural or human-induced disaster;

(6) All of our systems of critical infrastructure are dependent on three key systems: electricity, water and information technology.

(7) The BWL is the steward for two of the three most important systems.

(8) The BWL has the capacity to provide all of our electrical energy, without depending on the grid.

Natural disasters inflict a heavy toll on affected communities and, collectively, on the entire nation. In 2011, economic damages from natural disasters in the United States exceeded \$55 billion.

Community resilience is a measure of the



MCDANIEL

sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.

Achieving resilient performance at a community level takes time and planning. It also requires informed decision-making that prioritizes investments and actions across several key dimensions, including social needs, infrastructure, buildings and critical services.

"We need to stop lurching from crisis to crisis," said Judith Rodin, author of *The Resilience Dividend: Being Strong in a World Where Things Go Wrong*. She cited five principles of resilient cities:

1. They are aware of their vulnerabilities and assets;

2. They have diverse and redundant systems to cope with disaster;

3. Agencies are integrated and share information;

4. They are self-regulating: if one system fails, they can cut it off without allowing it to cascade into catastrophic failure; and

5. They are adaptive and flexible.

The CRT, during its three public hearings, and in review of the transcripts of the public hearings held by the BWL, repeatedly heard instances of neighbor helping neighbor. This communal engagement and assistance needs to be harnessed, energized and organized prior to disasters. Despite the overuse of the term, there is synergy in partnering disparate public and private resources into a communal plan for response to events. The many benefits include ownership and engagement and the release of governmental resources for other emergency response tasks. Some examples of community agencies actively assisting during the ice storm include the Red Cross deploying warming facilities and

shelters, coordinated through the City emergency operations center, the Capital Area United Way involvement with 211 is a valuable link with support organizations. The Tri County Office on the Aging was active as well: they identified the locations of their clients in Lansing and East Lansing, which were mapped on a CAD map which was then used by police and fire for health and welfare checks. The city of Lansing also deployed its Community Emergency Response Team on the first two days of the outage, both for damage assessment and for health and welfare checks.

Similarly, the two cities and many of the townships are endowed with well-organized neighborhood associations. For example, Lansing has the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and the Coordinator of Lansing Neighborhood Council, each of whom have communications links to 187 and 36 leaders of organized neighborhood watches and neighborhood associations, respectively.

The city/LPD/Emergency Management and the Power of WE (which already operates both an AmeriCorps and a VISTA program) could collaborate in the organization of a regional community resilience program. These organizers could assist in pulling together residents to create block plans, e.g., helping to organize initial block meetings, creating block level parcel maps with pertinent information (household names, children, pets, resources such as generators, shut-ins, etc.), helping blocks to identify neighbors responsible for critical functions (communications, well-checks on vulnerable neighbors, basic needs), and more.

A well-planned and coordinated response, with engagement at every level: households to blocks to municipalities to the region, will go a long way toward reducing the confusion and helplessness that characterized the December 2013 outage.

LESSONS

from page 8

be done.

"The one area of criticism is that there needs to be even more community engagement," McDaniel said. "BWL is going to roll their eyes and say, 'McDaniel we're doing community engagement.' They're absolutely right, but they need even more of it."

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

In a phone interview, Lark highlighted the changes that have been made in the past year, including the Outage Center phone number, "the mobile app, Nixle alerts, emergency operations manager, social media specialist ... more line crews ... tree trimming crews ... in short we are ready."

The storm created a record outage of 40,000 — double its prior largest single outage, according to the BWL's storm outage

GET OVER IT. LET'S MOVE FORWARD

Nancy Mahlow, president of the Eastside Neighborhood Association, said her group is gathering a list of resources in their neighborhood — who has generators, who needs snow shoveling — to be able to help neighbors in need in the next crisis. The effort was born of last year's storm and aftermath.

"We want to make sure people are safe and are being taken care," she said. "That they're not sitting there freezing to death, or their sidewalks aren't getting shoveled."

"If you dwell on the negative you're not going to get anywhere," Mahlow said. "There's positive in everything. It may not feel it at the time. Look back. This brought us together. This built the communication link, we were able to make changes."

"I think the ice storm, it was terrible to go through. Trust me, I was here with an 86-year-old mother with no heat, no lights, no nothing. ... Was it a pain? Yes."

Mahlow said it doesn't make sense to stay angry at the BWL for the debacle.

"Get over it people, a mistake was made, we all survived, nobody died," she said. "Thank God nobody died and nobody was seriously injured. Let's move forward."

— Belinda Thurston

report. It was unable to handle the volume of calls. Email queues hit their limit. The utility acknowledged not having a crisis communication plan.

The immediate aftermath was a collision with community, rather than collaboration. Lark gave optimistic restoration times rather than realistic ones, McDaniel said.

"Every time you make a promise you've got to either keep that promise or you've got to get back up there and say why you didn't keep that promise," McDaniel said. "You have to stand up every day and say this is where we are."

Long nights, angry public meetings and charged statements framed the dark January and February days that followed as the com-



munity worked to understand the problems that led to the prolonged outage and how to prevent one like it in the future.

"If this storm has revealed one thing to the public is that there is a cultural problem in the upper management levels of BWL," said Ryan

THE STORM &

DEC. 22

BWL deploys 20 line and tree crews and 18 spotter crews

DEC. 24

24,000 reported outages

DEC. 25

13,600 reported outages

JAN. 1

200 reported outages

JAN. 15 - 17

BWL holds community forums in Delta Township, East Lansing and Lansing

DEC. 21 - 22

Ice storm hits mid-Michigan, 1/2 inch of ice with wind gusts up to 40 mph
40,000 reported outages; 37 Circuit Breakers out

DEC. 23

Peter Lark travels to New York for family holiday vacation
34,800 reported outages; 31 Circuit Breakers
Calls to other utility companies for assistance.

DEC. 26

5,700 reported outages

DEC. 27

3,000 reported outages, 43 line and tree crews, 23 spotter crews

JAN. 9

Mayor Virg Bernero asks retired General Michael C. H. McDaniel to lead a Community Review Time to review the BWL's response to the storm.

FEB. 18

BWL issues its Ice Storm Outage report acknowledging equipment and communication failures



THE AFTERMATH

MARCH 25

BWL announces it tripled its tree trimming crews

JUNE

BWL launches emergency mast repair and payment program to help customers make affordable storm-related repairs.

Residents in East Lansing upset over tree-trimming, which they felt was excessive

BWL releases first mobile app that allows customers to report outages, check on power status and restoration times

AUGUST

NOVEMBER

Voters approve charter amendments that expand non-voting board representation to surrounding communities and gives the mayor of Lansing emergency authority over BWL in times of crisis

MAY

Community Review Team releases report criticizes BWL response. Recommends 54 actions for improvement.

Michigan Public Service Commission issues report on BWL outage with recommendations for changes in operations, equipment and procedure.

JULY 22

Peter Lark reappointed as general manager. Between his \$258,502 salary and deferred compensation, his pay for 2014 totals more than \$300,000.

NOVEMBER

BWL names Lansing Assistant Fire Chief Trent Atkins the new emergency operations manager.

BWL starts Smart Meter pilot with 140 homes in East Lansing

DECEMBER

BWL initiates regional emergency management meetings
BWL rolls out text messaging service



Photo by Belinda Thurston



Photo by Belinda Thurston

November 28 - December 28, 2014

Miracle on South Division Street
By Tom Dudzick



“... refreshingly original.”
~ City Pulse

“ - a holiday treat to warm your heart.”
~ Lansing State Journal.

“... a nice little comedic gem,”
~ New Monitor

“Roznowski finds the heart of this story...”
~ EncoreMichigan.com

“... a heartwarming tale overflowing with laughter, tears and dynamics showcasing the significance of family.”
~williamstontoday.com

Directed by Rob Roznowski
Featuring: Ruth Crawford,
Wendy Hedstrom, Tony Sump
and Emily Sutton-Smith

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



Blue Christmas
A service of
Hope and Healing



Christmas is a joyful time of year for most folks – a time for love, laughter, and family. But there are those who do not find this such a joyful time. For many it is a time of loneliness – a time when they are unable to celebrate because the ones they love are far away, or perhaps, are no longer with us in this world. To honor the struggle many have in this season, we invite all in our community to gather for a dinner and worship service.

Tuesday, December 23, 2014
6 pm - Dinner • 7 pm - Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, Michigan 48910
517-482-9454 • www.stpaulslansing.org

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TREE KEEPER

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

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

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LESSONS

from page 9

Sebolt at a committee of the whole meeting Feb. 18. "It's a culture of superiority and arrogance."

The public created a crowd-sourced Google map of outages and restorations to provide information they felt wasn't being supplied by the utility.

A mock BWL Twitter account took jabs at the utility, making fun of its missteps.

The BWL is still a favorite punching bag in barstool conversation.

Many called for Lark's ouster, but he was reappointed as general manager in June. He earns a \$258,502 salary and deferred compensation, giving him a total annual pay of more than \$300,000.

"I don't believe the BWL behaved arrogantly," Lark said when asked if Sebolt's comment in the February meeting was accurate or fair.

"We are a completely different BWL than we were in the past," Lark said. "We are aggressively going out to see our customers."

And when asked if the community has forgiven BWL today he replied: "I don't know about forgiveness or that we are looking for forgiveness, but community acceptance of the BWL."

The trust will be earned in a real-life test,

McDaniel said.

"How does the Board of Water & Light build back the trust? There's going to be another event. ... It's going to be based on their ability to respond to that event."

Mayor Virg Bernero said he applauds the BWL for the changes that have been put in place and "an exercise in being self critical."

"I think for most people they simply would like to know that it won't happen again," Bernero said. "That would be the greatest apology they could get. I wish we could provide that guarantee. But with the reality of weather patterns and the uncertainty of the grid I doubt anyone could give that guarantee."

REGIONALISM

The response to the storm, not only by the utility but the municipalities, spotlighted a need to collaborate, Bernero said.

"This was a very potent reminder to us that weather-related emergencies are spread widely through the region," he said. "They're not compartmentalized to one municipality. We should be looking to pool our resources."

Last month the BWL named Trent Atkins to be the new emergency operations manager for the utility. He was formerly assistant fire chief in the Lansing Fire Department.

"With Trent moving to the Board of Water & Light, he can help all of the region to take a more cohesive approach to emergency

THE ARK THAT PREUSS BUILT

The Preusses were braced for last-minute holiday shopping by pet lovers three days before Christmas last year.

Instead of a shopping rush, Preuss Pets in Old Town served as an emergency operations center for fish, bird and small mammal owners caught in the ice storm without electricity to keep their animals alive.

"We grabbed any tank we could and filled it with water," said Kirby Preuss, store manager.

Preuss served as a warming center/shelter of sorts for 80 customers with fish, reptiles and birds.

"It was like a triage unit," said Rick Preuss, store owner.

They offered battery-powered air pumps and styrofoam to insulate tanks from losing heat. They eventually allowed owners to bring their pets to the store for shelter — guppies, piranha, discus, geckos and even birds.

Some never started their tanks back up even after the power was restored, selling their fish and letting the hobby go.

"There's sadness affiliated with it," said Rick Preuss.

And although the store's Christmas sales suffered, Rick Preuss said, "We'd definitely do it again. We are now part of the infrastructure of successful pet keeping."

Kirby Preuss agree.

"It set a good example about where our values lie," said Kirby Preuss. "Going through that, was about compassion and giving."

— Belinda Thurston



Photo provided

response."

Atkins led the first regional emergency response meeting at the beginning of the month. The goal is to have surrounding communities share their emergency response plans, find duplication, opportunities to share. That means sharing their playbook so to speak.

Can they do it?

"I hope so. It's up to them to do it," McDaniel said.

"There's no question we need closer regional collaboration," McDaniel said. "The debate is going to be on how we achieve that. There's clearly resistance to the idea of having a regional emergency operations center because everybody wants to have their own.

That's fine as long as they are so well connected that they are like nodes on a single network. They have to be. Or else we will see inconsistencies in response across the region."

Planning is one thing, McDaniel said. Putting a plan into action under stress, like a once-in-a-lifetime storm, is another.

"An event like that truly did stress staff and plan to the breaking point," McDaniel said. "One of the things we don't know yet has changed, but we assume has, is that there was no true documentation. Nobody was keeping records."

McDaniel said he wrote a note to himself on his CRT report: "No documentation means no lessons, no lessons learned equals no learning."

BLESSINGS IN THE STORM

Christmas 2013 should have been a sad affair for the Evans family, but instead it was a celebration of blessings.

Darryl Evans, owner of Pure Enchantment Photography, spent all of his and his wife's savings to buy new cameras and computer equipment to keep the business going.

They had lost everything besides the clothes on their back in an Oct. 22 house fire.

"I'm in nothing but a robe out on the street, a 3-month-old in one arm, the hand of my 7-year-old in the other hand, trying to flag a car down to call 911 for me," said Evans of the day the fire broke out. His wife had left for work and his dog was still inside.

His dog was rescued but everything — his house and his studio — was a loss.

Then the incredible happened. Calls poured in offering everything from underwear to toys to furniture to a house.

One friend's mother's house was vacant. Evans was allowed to move in with his family.

Then someone offered a car.

"I thought it would be a 1973 Pontiac or whatever, and the guy sends me a picture it's a 2000 ES Lexus. What do you say to that?"

Entering Christmas the Evans were focused on rebuilding. The fire "set us back. We had to start all over."

Then "the ice storm hits and we're good. We're in this house on the north side, we've got power, heat, food. ... Our street was a mess, wires down, big branches. God was like you had the fire. We had no issues at all. It was a blessing."

— Belinda Thurston

Fight Hunger by Recycling Your Old Fridge!

Now through December 30th, BWL residential electric customers who recycle a qualifying appliance can choose to donate their \$25- \$50 rebate to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Call 800-573-3503 to schedule your FREE pickup today!



GREATER LANSING
foodbank



ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

LEFT:

Third-place winner "Black & White & Read All Over," created by Paul Shore for City Pulse



CENTER:

Second-place winner "Tree of Knowledge," created by Michelle Reurink



RIGHT:

First place winner Melinda Doyle with her tree, "All Bronzed Up"



TURNER-DODGE GRAND RE-OPENING GALA

After being closed for nearly a year due to water damage, the Turner-Dodge House was filled with celebration once again as Friends of Turner-Dodge and the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department kicked off the third annual Festival of Trees with a Friday night gala event. "This is like a grand re-opening for us," said Friends of Turner-Dodge President Michael Beebe. The Festival of Trees showcases Christmas trees decorated or created by Lansing businesses or individuals. This year is the biggest festival yet, with 37 trees sponsored by Lansing businesses and community members placed throughout all three floors of the historic estate. The gala included a contest for the best tree, with prizes awarded to Melinda Doyle (first place), Michelle Reurink (second place), and Paul Shore and City Pulse (third place). The trees will be on display until Jan. 4, with public walk-in hours on Fridays, 5-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-8 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

~ Ty Forquer/City Pulse

LEFT:

"REO'ly Nice Cars" decorated by Lori Emmons



RIGHT:

(From left) Friends of Turner-Dodge President Michael Beebe and guest judges Evan Pinnsonault (WLNS morning co-anchor), Bob Hoffman (Wharton Center spokesman) and Chivon Klepfer (WLNS morning co-anchor)

Homemade Food Gifts!

How hard do you want to work on this gift?

a. you only see the recipient at weddings
Easy gifts
 Put hot chocolate in a bag into a mug
 Include all the dry ingredients and attach a recipe
 Quick-pickled veggies
 Cucumbers are classic, but green beans, radishes and peppers are exciting!
 Infused olive oil
 Vinegar or liquor
 Try fresh herbs or citrus peels!

b. The recipient likes AND shares all your FB posts
Medium gifts
 Chocolate or peppermint bark
 Try mixing in candy canes for crunch!
 A bag of granola or roasted Mixed Nuts
 Lots of opportunity for variety: Sweet/salty/spicy/wacky!
 Chocolate-covered pretzels
 Combine sweet & salty and be super festive via sprinkles!

c. The recipient cosigned on your student loans
HARD gifts
 A classic tin of cookies takes effort, but is reliably loved. Switch up styles: try biscuits, no bakes or bars.
 Homemade Caramel corn takes a lot of work, but the effort is worth it. Drizzle it with chocolate for extra decadence!
 Jam may seem like a smaller gift, but it'll last longer than other goodies. Try funky flavors like cranberry, vanilla or strawberry!

Illustrated by: Stephanie Onderchanin

Holiday Cheapskate

In the season of giving, it's hard to determine: Will you forgive me or think that I'm vermin

If I don't buy you a present this year? So I'll spend the month in perpetual fear.

Please don't feel sore if I skip you, my friend. It's just that my budget has reached a dead end.

I had to buy gifts for my sisters and brother, My dad, niece and uncles, three aunts and my mother,

Uncle Kevin in Tampa, Cousin Jane in Atlanta, And at work we each had to play Secret Santa.

The heat bill's arrived. The snow blower needs work. And the boss didn't give me a bonus, that jerk.

All right, never mind, I don't want to atone — I'll refinance the house! I'll take out a loan!

Whatever it takes, I don't want to look cheap And just to be safe, I'll include a gift receipt.

Here you go, hope you like it. And now I'm guilt-free! Hey, what do you mean you have nothing for me?

-Salzator Lansing

Christmas Service Directory

A guide to Christmas services in Greater Lansing

Call today about our **Easter Service Directory** coming April 1
 999-5061 or publisher@lansingcitypulse.com

St. Katherine's Episcopal Church
 Williamston, Michigan
 Rev. Ronald C. Byrd, Sr., Rector
 (517) 349-4120 • www.stkatherines.org
 Welcomes you this Christmas season...

December 24, 2014
 5:00 p.m. Family Service with Holy Eucharist
 10:30 p.m. Solemn High Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Incense and Bells)

December 25, 2014
 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day with Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 5PM & 7PM

Limited childcare available during first service
 Infant - 2 years old only

South Church 5250 Cornerstone Dr
 Lansing 48917
 southlife.org

University
 United Methodist Church • Wesley Campus Community
 1120 S. Harrison Rd. East Lansing • UniversityChurchHome.org


Join us!

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5 PM Family Service
 An interactive retelling of the Christmas story with Scripture and song

8 PM A Service of Lessons and Carols
 with Holy Communion and candlelight

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 Lansing, Michigan



ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES
 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI
 www.stpaulslansing.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21
 10:00 am – Lessons and Carols

Blue Christmas Dinner & Service, December 23
 6:00 pm – Dinner
 7:00 pm – Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve, December 24:
 4:00 pm – Children's & Family Eucharist
 10:30 pm - Pre-Service Music
 11:00 pm – Festal Choral Eucharist with Brass Quartet

Christmas Day, December 25:
 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

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For more information visit
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CHRISTMAS EVE
 5:00 PM FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE
 8:00 PM CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY
 10:00 AM SERVICE

unity of Greater Lansing

Candlelight Christmas Eve service
 December 24, 7:30 p.m.
 – handicap accessible –

15851 US Highway 27 Building 20
 Lansing, MI 48906

Book drop

Arts Council pays forward donation of mini-library from former MSU prof

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Festivus isn't the only December holiday "Seinfeld" gave us. In the 1995 episode "The Label Maker," the all-too-common practice of giving someone a present that someone else had recently

It's a Holiday Booking!

3-6 p.m. today
Arts Council of Greater Lansing
1208 Turner St., Lansing
FREE
(517) 372-4636, lansingarts.org

given you got a name: Regifting. The term caught on, and 13 years later, Dec. 18 was declared National Regifting Day by the State of Colorado.

Tonight (Regifting Eve?), the Arts Council of Greater Lansing gets in the spirit with "It's a Holiday Booking," a special one-time event at its Old Town headquarters. Members of the council are invited for champagne and light refreshments and to take home up to five art books.

"We were trying to find a way to thank our members, and then this donation (came in)," said Arts Council spokeswoman Dawn Gorman.



Nelson

"So we created this event around it."

Last month, local artist Linda Nelson, a retired Michigan State University professor, donated her collection of over 500 art books to the Arts Council. The collection is heavy on art history and instructional books, it includes tomes dedicated to subjects as disparate as North American landscapes and Chinese woodblock printing.

"I wanted to give (my books) to someone who could get some use out of them," Nelson said. "I've already read them all, and I just don't have room for them anymore."

In September, Nelson, 85, suffered an artery inflammation in her right eye, permanently cutting off the sight to that eye. She had been occupying two East Lansing apartments, living in one and using the other as her art studio. But after her vision became impaired, she decided to move into a retirement home. The move eased the challenge she found in some of her everyday tasks, such as cooking.

"When you have one eye, you're a disaster in the kitchen," Nelson said. "It's hard to

see what you're pouring into what."

Nelson taught human development and family studies at MSU, "mostly qualitative research." She had dabbled in painting during her career, but when she retired in 1994, she dedicated her life to art.

"I like experimenting in things that move," she said. "I started doing sketches at concerts. I've done quite a number of cello players. I like the cello — it's big, and you can see it from the audience. I got bored drawing pianos. You can't see the keys."

Nelson isn't one of the Arts Council's 230 members, but Gorman said the non-profit would probably make her an honorary member. And if you're not a member, Gorman says no problem — there will be membership forms ready to go.

"It only takes a couple of minutes (to fill out the form) and a \$40 membership fee, and after that, you're all set," Gorman said. "If you're an artist or an arts organization in Greater Lansing, we offer a lot of benefits."

The council hosts grant workshops, educational conferences and networking events. Gorman said the key is to get creative types to transform their art into viable careers. Members include the gypsy folk music group Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, the Wharton Center and Impression 5 Science Center.

"We help artists grow the business side of their art ventures," Gorman said. "We have a lot of visual artists who are members, but we're really reaching out to other areas."

Nelson said she's proud to be a contrib-



Courtesy photo

Local artist Linda Nelson donated over 500 art books to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, which in turn is donating them to its members.

utor to the Greater Lansing creative collective, but she hasn't picked up a paintbrush since the inflammation.

"I don't see the same way," she said. "I still have tons of art supplies, though, and I plan to use them. I'm not giving them away."

And if you're looking to close the Seinfeld-ian holiday loop, remember, there are only six shopping days left until Festivus. Happy regifting.



Courtesy photo

Michigan native Gilgamesh Taggett as Daddy Warbucks in the touring production of "Annie," at the Wharton Center this week.

CURTAIN CALL

History lesson

Wharton welcomes 'Annie' back for trip down memory lane

By PAUL WOZNIAK

"Annie" is back, and it's more than just overplayed hits. Part musical fantasy time capsule, part political commentary, the 37-year-old show feels strangely relevant in a post-recession world. More importantly, the freshly revived touring production is a polished machine designed to entertain.

Based on Harold Gray's Depression-era comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," "Annie" tells the rags-to-riches tale of a gold-hearted 11-year-old orphan named Annie who warms the heart of a billionaire and, subsequently, the nation. The plot ranges from uplifting to ludicrous, such as Annie serving as the inspiration for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, but the heart of the show is the songs and dancing. Choreographer Lisa Gennaro's (daughter of original choreographer, Peter Gennaro) steps

pop to Charles Strouse's Cole Porter-inspired musical score. And original director Martin Charnin returns after nearly four decades to invest new life into the show.

As the title character, understudy Adia Dant did a remarkably serviceable job opening night. Dant understandably relied on her costars — including the adorable rescue dog Sunny as her pup, Sandy — to do the emotional heavy lifting, but she nailed every note and never missed a step.

Michigan native Gilgamesh Taggett played Annie's guardian Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks with the perfect blend of fatherly love that never crossed into creepy. But Lynn Andrews gave the evening's standout performance as Annie's foil, orphanage caretaker Miss Hannigan. As a bitter woman on the brink of a mental breakdown, Andrews brings rich darkness to the song "Little Girls" along with fluid kick to the showstopper "Easy Street." Other strong performances come from the chorus of orphans who infuse "It's the Hard Knock Life" with electric energy.

Somehow "Annie's" 1933 setting serves as a reminder of how cyclical history can be. Warbucks' plea to FDR to intervene in the economy eerily echoed the General Motors bailout. But "Annie" is an escapist musical at heart, and this production makes time disappear.

Review

"Annie"
7:30 p.m. today & 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

Choreographer Lisa Gennaro's (daughter of original choreographer, Peter Gennaro) steps

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Ford focus

Pulitzer Prize-winning MSU grad back with new novella

By BILL CASTANIER

Author Richard Ford is on the road again promoting his newest book, "Let Me Be Frank With You." Along for the ride is Frank Bascombe, the peripatetic protagonist in the book's four novellas, as well as three of Ford's other novels.

In a phone conversation last week from a hotel in Oxford, Miss., Ford, 70, said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the book's popularity; a recent lecture in Pittsburgh attracted 1,000 readers. A commonly held belief by critics and reviewers that novelists sometimes turn to novellas or short story collections to fulfill contracts, but Ford bristles at that suggestion: "It's not a knockoff by any means." Ford said he didn't take on a nov-

el because he "didn't have the chops for it." Nevertheless, the collection reads like a novel, with Ford reprising his successful approach in the three Bascombe novels of condensing action around a single holiday — in this case Christmas.

His Pulitzer Prize-winning "Independence Day" takes place on the Fourth of July. "Lay of the Land" is set at Thanksgiving, and his first Bascombe novel, "The Sportswriter," happens at Easter. Ford has taken Bascombe from a young sportswriter to a middle-aged real estate agent who has gone through a divorce and the death of a young son. "Frank" finds him at 68, retired, remarried and lending his time to charitable activities in his fictional New Jersey town of Haddam.

Ford said he was finished writing about Bascombe after 2004's "Lay of the Land," so this collection is seen as coming out of the blue. But he said its existence was inspired by Hurricane Sandy, which hit Bascombe's stomping grounds of New Jersey in 2012. While driving through the devastation, Ford said he started thinking of Bascombe again.

Ford is at home here with some of his favorite themes like the tenuousness of our existence. And although Bascombe is commonly described with the literary trope "Everyman" (think John Updyke's Rabbit or Philip Roth's Zuckerman), Ford dismisses that description.

"Bascombe is just another man," Ford said. "I tried to write about him as a singular person. I think he's just inherited that term."



Courtesy photo

Richard Ford, a graduate of MSU, returns to his longtime character Frank Bascombe in his book of novellas.

In one story, Bascombe drives to the Jersey Shore to provide comfort to hurricane victims. Another covers a visit to Bascombe's ex-wife in an extended care facility. In one, a friend, dying of cancer, makes a deathbed confession to Bascombe. Some may find Bascombe in his last quarter of his life depressing, but Ford disagrees.

"I find him bracing," Ford said. "There must be something in my human genome that makes me write these stories the way I do." As always, Ford's writing is characterized by lush, detailed descriptions of the landscapes and characters, especially noticeable when he writes about real estate. Reviews for "Frank" have been over-the-top complimentary, but Ford wouldn't know — he doesn't read reviews.

"It keeps me from the upsy-downsy emotional involvement," he said. "I can stay in the

bubble of immunity." (The New York Times claimed that he once spit on a critic who had written an unfavorable review.)

Ford said he always keeps index cards handy, and he records quotes and references he comes across. He's been doing this more than 25 years and periodically goes through them to refresh his memory.

"If I see something that strikes my fancy I write it down," he said. "There is constant-ness in things I write down with best ideas circling around the same types of subjects. The cards serve me by reminding me of literature's higher purpose."

Some of the quotes he records are on subjects like religion and the tenuousness of existence, which are frequently used as themes in his books.

Ford's writing career is approaching four decades. He published his first novel, "A Piece of My Heart," in 1976. Common themes like the accommodations we make in life to things we can't control are found throughout all of Ford's books. One of the stories is particularly timely. In the story "Everything Could Be Worse," Bascombe awkwardly engages a black woman in conversation. Ford, who was raised in Mississippi, is particularly astute in writing about the discomfort of how we deal with race.

"Bascombe is trying to do the right thing, carefully choosing his words, but he makes a complete fool of himself," Ford said. After high school, Ford pursued his education at Michigan State University to escape the racial prejudices of his home state of Mississippi. As a student at MSU, he saw Malcolm X in 1963 and Martin Luther King in 1965. He recalls that he was more skeptical of King's message than he was of the ideas espoused by Malcolm X, but he was inherently changed by both experiences.

"(After) I heard them, I wasn't a Southern cracker by any means," he said.

Ford said he would not rule out another Bascombe book, but having written a short memoir about his mother, he said he is going to pull out the 25 years worth of notes he's been collecting to write a second memoir about his father. He's also got his eyes on a novel based in Sault Ste. Marie, which he visited last year.

"Something about it that struck me," he said. Well, he hasn't written a book set at Labor Day yet.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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 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, fcgl.org.

Gingerbread Architecture. Gingerbread houses and buildings. 6-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. 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.

Retail Therapy. Women create wish lists, men know what to buy. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Retail Therapy, 5100 Marsh Road, Suite B, Okemos. (517) 574-4427, iloveretailtherapy.com.

Nicole Minty: Fire Hooping. Part of the Senior Discovery Group. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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.

See Out on the Town, Page 19



Gimme some truth

• • • Thursday, Dec. 18 • • •

While we do our best to make our lives seem merry and bright during the holiday season, there is always another side. Behind every beautifully lit-up house there is a determined father who nearly fell off the roof again this year. Behind every delectable holiday spread there is a frazzled cook frantically looking up recipes on Pinterest. Behind every perfectly wrapped present, there is a parent who bravely battled Black Friday crowds to get the newest video game console. The Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. will take a lighthearted look at the “other” side of the holidays Thursday in its musical cabaret fundraiser “The Truth About the Holidays.”

This night of musical entertainment will take a tongue-in-cheek approach to celebrating the holidays. “Of

course, we will have classic Christmas tunes, but we will also have some ‘alternative’ takes on the holidays,” explains artistic director Chad Badgero, “Our singers have picked songs which poke fun at the craziness, the busyness, and the more frustrating parts of the holiday season.”

Peppermint Creek’s commitment to highlighting the greater Lansing community is evident in the evening’s cast of entertainers. Singers Adam Woolsey (pictured top left,) Tigi Habtemariam, Megan Eldred (bottom left,) Amanda Harvey and Matt Eldred (center) will lead a line-up of musicians pulled from local communities. “We really wanted to focus on local talent,” explains Badgero. Regular Peppermint Creek audience

members will see some familiar faces on stage; all six featured singers have also been cast members in Peppermint Creek productions over the past two seasons.

This is the third year that Peppermint Creek has put on a holiday show, and Badgero loves how events like these allow the audience to see a different side of

the actors. “Our regular shows are very structured, this event is a great way for the audience to connect with the performers in a less structured way,” says Badgero, “This is a chance to

grab a drink, have some food, and relax together this holiday season.”

This cabaret performance is a fundraiser for the theater company, helping to defray the costs of Peppermint Creek’s ambitious production schedule. While this event falls at the end of the calendar year, the theater company’s season has not even reached the halfway point with three productions scheduled for early 2015. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company’s website invites you to “cozy up with us as we toast to a fantastic 2014, and look forward to the rest of our theatrical season!”

“The Truth About the Holidays”

presented by the Peppermint Creek Theatre Company
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18
\$30/\$150 VIP table (seats 4)
Miller Performing Arts Center
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
(517) 927-3016
www.peppermintcreek.org



—TY FORQUER

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



SUN. DEC
21ST

PSYCHOPATHIC RECORDS' AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages. \$20/\$18 adv. 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21

The Family Fun Time Tour, hosted by Psychopathic Records and NativeWorld Inc., stops Sunday at the Loft. The eccentric hip hop bill features Anybody Killa, Boondox, Big Hoodoo, Smokehouse Junkiez, Bobby Knuckles, Insane Asylum, MC Knowledge, Lady Dice and SOP. Anybody Killa (real name James Lowery) achieved an ardent "juggalo" fan base after the Insane Clown Posse signed the painted-face solo rapper to its label over 10 years ago. Boondox, a Georgia native known for his scarecrow-themed stage attire, was the first Southern-based hip-hop artist on the Psychopathic Records roster. Boondox was signed to Psychopathic after he released a series of buzzworthy underground mixtapes. He debuted in 2006 with "The Harvest" LP; in June he dropped his fifth proper disc, "Abaddon," a follow up to 2010's "South of Hell."

APPLESEED COLLECTIVE AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$7, \$5 adv., 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19

The Appleseed Collective, a ragtime-inspired American outfit, returns to Lansing for a headlining show at The Loft. Openers are The Accidentals and Westrin & Mowry. The Appleseed Collective is a self-proclaimed "progressive string swing" band based out of Ann Arbor. The rustic troupe has spent a better part of 2014 on the road supporting its two studio albums, 2012's "Baby to Beast" and 2014's "Young Love." The Earthwork Music-signed band is Andrew Brown (guitar/vocals), Brandon Worder (violin/mandolin), Vince Russo (wash-board/percussion) and Ben Rolston (upright bass). The group, which formed in 2010, released its first live disc this month, "Live at the Ark." Recorded at the famed music venue, in the band member's hometown, the album combines new and old original songs as well as some fan-favorite cover tunes.



FRI. DEC
19TH

KNOCKOUT KID AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages. FREE. 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21

A night of punk rock heads into the Avenue Café with performances from Knockout Kid, Farthest From the Truth, A Brighter Life, the Angst and Hannah Weir. Attendees are suggested to rock ugly Christmas sweaters at the free holiday-themed show. Knockout Kid, a Chicago-based band, plays a self-described brand of "passive-aggressive pop punk." The band formed in 2010 and swiftly developed a crossbreed of catchy/poppy punk mixed with metal-core riffs. In the summer of 2012, ex-A Face for Radio vocalist Wade Hunt joined the band. Since then the group has toured the country multiple times and released two punchy EPs, including 2013's "The Callback." In 2013, the band released its first full-length record, "It Comes with the Job Description."



SUN. DEC
21ST

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.		Mark Lavengood, 8 p.m.	Tease-a-Gogo, 9 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darlin Larner, 7 p.m.	Scott Seth, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Rachel & Alex, 8:30 p.m.	Tola Lewis, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Unlimited, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			Cheap Dates, 10 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 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.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 8:30 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.	Jive Dharma, 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.			The Appleseed Collective, 7 p.m.	Oldschool Christmas Jam, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Money Hayes, 7 p.m.		Mike Mains & the Branches, 7 p.m.	Less Is More, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Stella, 9 p.m.	Second Nature, 9 p.m.	Electrocats, 9 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.				Life Support, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			Full Circle, 7 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Kathy Ford, 7 p.m.	Steve Elgas, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			The Tenants, 8 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 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.	Hippy Stu, 8:30 p.m.	Hippy Stu, 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.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS! What to do: 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 17

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

Down Maggie. Live alternative rock. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349, midtownbrewingco.com.
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.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Signing with Tom Daldin. With his book "Under the Radar Michigan: The First 50." 6 p.m. FREE. Barnes & Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Thursday, December 18

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.

Genealogy Club. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Mind Benders. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Last Minute Holiday Crafts. Make simple holiday crafts for decorating or gifts, 6-8 p.m.

FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

EVENTS

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.

SoupGrant Lansing. Supporting community projects one meal at a time. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing@gmail.com.

"The Truth About the Holidays." Third annual holiday musical event. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$30, \$150/four. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

MSU Creative Writing Group. All types of writers are encouraged to attend. 7:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Game Haven. Board, card and video games. 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. Keller Williams Career Luncheon. Noon, FREE. Greater Lansing Area, Lansing. FREE. (517) 853-1200, lansingkellerwilliams.com.

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.

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

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time. Nature stories, games and crafts for preschoolers. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Friday, December 19

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.

EVENTS

Holiday Classics Storytime. Stories and crafts. 7 p.m. FREE. Barnes & Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Teen Tech Time. Teens have access to a cluster of laptops. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

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

Singles TGIF Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 7:30 p.m.-midnight, \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road,

Bath. (517) 281-6272, singlestgif.com.

Saturday, December 20

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

Cookie Decorating. Let your creativity show through edible designs. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

EVENTS

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic

See Out on the Town, Page 20

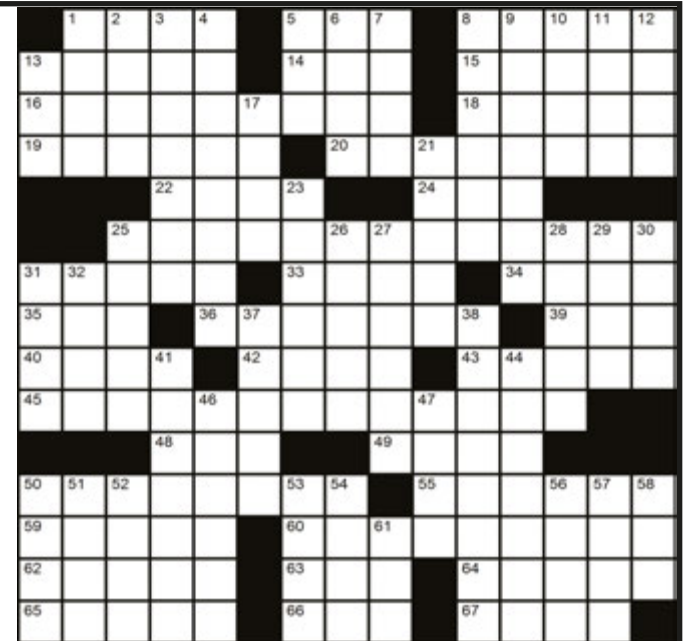
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Smooth Move"--
about to be pulled
on you.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Nicholas II of Russia, say
- 5 Close male friend
- 8 Curse word that's "dropped," for short
- 13 Yellowstone grazer
- 14 50 Cent piece⁹
- 15 Parts partner
- 16 Christmas present often regifted
- 18 Love to pieces
- 19 Drywall mineral
- 20 Google employee, often
- 22 Get your ducks in



- 24 Island, in French
- 25 James Joyce novel with its own unique vocabulary
- 31 Hard-to-find book character
- 33 Performing ____
- 34 Social-climbing type
- 35 Ex-"Saturday Night Live" player Gasteyer
- 36 Sports maneuver (and alternate title for this puzzle)
- 39 "All ____ day's work"
- 40 "So what if ____?"
- 42 "I ____ little silhouette of a man..."
- 43 Vox piece
- 45 It's gripping
- 48 Assist
- 49 Hatcher who played Lois Lane
- 50 Epitome of dead-ness

- 55 Comprehend
- 59 "I Can't Make You Love Me" singer Bonnie
- 60 Way to stop a bike
- 62 "Sesame Street" star
- 63 Title for a monk
- 64 Spitting nails
- 65 "No questions ____"
- 66 Despite everything
- 67 Dueling weapon

- 8 Thrashes about
- 9 "You didn't get the job," for example
- 10 Clarinet's relative
- 11 "Encore!"
- 12 "Song of the South" title for Rabbit or Fox
- 13 Industrial activity, for short
- 17 "Let's go!"
- 21 Infomercial knife brand
- 23 Undermine
- 25 Distinctive style
- 26 Avarice
- 27 "To the newlyweds!" opener
- 28 Ouzo ingredient
- 29 Hawaiian coffee region
- 30 StubHub's parent company
- 31 Dickensian child, often

- 32 One on the "nay" side
- 37 Carne ____
- 38 Like coupons and notebook paper
- 41 Wise guy
- 44 Vacation where you buy lift passes
- 46 Dropped clues
- 47 Weight
- 50 De Matteo of "Sons of Anarchy"
- 51 Rowboat accessories
- 52 "Old MacDonald" noise
- 53 Doubtful
- 54 Accumulated traditions
- 56 Eat, as a meal
- 57 "Grapes of Wrath" migrant
- 58 Pre-____ student
- 61 Grain in granola

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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

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 20



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Thurs.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

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Out on the town

from page 19

Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

USA Dance Chapter 2037 Dance. Annual potluck dinner dance, 7 p.m. \$15/\$10 members. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 712-6674, usadance2037.org.

Cats Need Home for the Holiday.

Discounted cat/kitten adoption rates. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Adoption rates apply. PetSmart (West Lansing), 305 Marketplace Boulevard, Lansing, midmichigancatrescue.org/index.php.

Old School Christmas Jam. With DJ Butcher and DJ Don Black. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103, ow.ly/FNy00

Holiday All-Nighter. Adoption fees dropping throughout the night. 4 p.m. \$15-\$45. Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.

MUSIC

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

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

Sunday, December 21

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.

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.
Nokomis Annual Membership Meeting.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

SATURDAY, DEC. 20 >> TEASE-A-GOGO'S 'NAUGHTY LIST CHRISTMAS'

Lansing's premiere drag/burlesque/variety event is serving up a little something other than coal for those who are not in Santa's favor with its "Naughty List Christmas" holiday event. The performance will include retro style risqué fun featuring drag queens, "boylesque" performances, fire acts and some all-lady roughhousing. Those whose aren't all bad can bring a canned good donation and knock a dollar off admission. The performance is for ages 18 and over only, so the kids will be better off with their umpteenth viewing of "Jingle All the Way." 9 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/teaseagoGo.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20 >> INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER HOLIDAY ALL-NIGHTER

There are plenty of furry friends looking for forever homes at the Ingham County Animal Shelter. As if those adorable faces weren't enough, the shelter is holding a "Holiday All-Nighter" to lend an extra incentive to give its residents a place to hang their stockings for many holidays to come. Adoption fees will start at \$45 and drop every four hours, reaching as low as \$15 from midnight-4 a.m. 4 p.m.-4 a.m. \$15-\$45. Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23 >> BLUE CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me," crooned Elvis in the classic "Blue Christmas." While the holidays are meant to be joyous time, this season can be tough for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, a broken family relationship or the loss of a job. St. Paul's Episcopal Church seeks to provide a safe place to be honest about struggles and sadness with its Blue Christmas service. "We want to create a safe space to honestly work through these emotions through music, prayer, and scripture reading," explains the Rev. Karen Lewis, "This is an opportunity to gather with others who are dealing with the same things." This service is open to all in the community who are experiencing sadness, grief, or stress this holiday season. For those who would like some comfort food along with their spiritual comfort, a free dinner will be offered prior to the service. 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. service. FREE. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-9454, stpaulslansing.org



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

T	S	A	R	B	R	O	F	B	O	M	B		
M	O	O	S	E	R	A	P	L	A	B	O	R	
F	R	U	I	T	C	A	K	E	A	D	O	R	E
G	Y	P	S	U	M	E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R
A	R	O	W	I	L	E							
F	I	N	N	E	G	A	N	S	W	A	K	E	
W	A	L	D	O	A	R	T	S	S	N	O	B	
A	N	A	F	A	K	E	O	U	T	I	N	A	
I	T	I	S	S	E	E	A	E	S	S	A	Y	
F	I	R	M	H	A	N	D	S	H	A	K	E	
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E	R	N	I	E	F	R	A	L	I	V	I	D	
A	S	K	E	D	Y	E	T	E	P	E	E		

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

Out on the town

from page 20

Meeting and election of board members. 10 a.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777, ow.ly/FNB5t

MUSIC

A Very EZ Avenue Christmas. Live music and ugly Christmas sweaters. 7 p.m. \$5 D.O.S. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550, facebook.com/events/1500968690161871.

Monday, December 22

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.

EVENTS

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

Tuesday, December 23

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.

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.

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.

EVENTS

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.

Wednesday, December 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

EVENTS

Christmas Eve Service. Family-Friendly Worship. Carols and candles. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220, okemoscommunitychurch.org.

Christmas Eve Services. Communion, carols and more. 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. FREE. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 372-5830, gracelutheranlansing.org.

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

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Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

Dec. 17-23

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Too much happiness can make you unhappy," reported journalist Marta Zaraska in the *Washington Post*. Citing research by psychologists, she concluded that being super-extra cheerful can make you selfish, gullible, and more prone to stereotyped thinking. On the other hand, she said, maintaining merely moderate levels of happiness is pretty damn good for your mental and physical health. So here's the takeaway, Aries: The astrological omens suggest you're due for a surge of joy and pleasure. Just be careful it doesn't spill over into rash, delirious excess. Here's your watchword: well-grounded delight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the 19th century, the Grimm brothers gathered over 200 old fairy tales from a variety of sources and published them in an unprecedented collection. Many of their stories are still popular, including "Cinderella," "Snow White," "Hansel and Gretel," and "Rapunzel." Around the same time they did their work, a storyteller named Franz Xaver von Schönwerth assembled his own compendium of fantastic myths, fables, and folklore. Unlike the Grimm brothers' book, his work faded into obscurity. But it was rediscovered in 2011, and 500 lost fairy tales are now finding their way into newly published books. I foresee a comparable phenomenon happening for you in 2015, Taurus. Forgotten stories will return. Raw material from the depths will resurface. Interesting news from the past will come flowing into the present.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your first task is to ascertain the half-truth, the whole half-truth, and nothing but the whole half-truth. Only then will you be able to find the other half of the truth. I realize it may be frustrating to use this approach. You'd probably prefer to avoid wrangling with the deceptions and misdirections. But I think it's the only way to jostle loose the hidden or missing information. For best results, be a cunning and unsentimental detective who's eager to solve the mystery. Don't focus on finding fault or assigning blame.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): One of the ingredients that makes yoga mats so soft and springy is the chemical azodicarbonamide. The same stuff is added to the soles of shoes. There's a third place where it's used, too: in the burger buns sold by McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, and other fast food joints. I'm not suggesting that you order a big supply of azodicarbonamide and ingest it. But I do hope you will consider the metaphorical equivalent: doing whatever's necessary to make yourself bouncy and fluffy and pliable and supple and resilient.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "There are two kinds of light," said author James Thurber, "the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures." Lately you have been an abundant source of that first kind of light, Leo. The fire in your heart and the gleam in your eyes have not only brightened the mood wherever you've gone. They have also clarified confusing situations, warmed chilly attitudes, and healed dispirited allies. Thank you! In the coming weeks, I'd love to see you continue on your hot streak. To help ensure that you do, keep your ego under control. Don't let it pretend that it owns the light you're emitting. With a little introspection, you will continue to generate illumination, not glare.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Studies suggest that 57 percent of all people with access to the Internet have engaged in the practice known as ego-surfing. This modern art form consists of searching Google for mentions of one's own name. This is a suspiciously low figure unless we factor in the data uncovered by my own research -- which is that a disproportionately small amount of Virgos go ego-surfing: only 21 percent. If you are one of the 79 percent of your tribe who does not indulge, I invite you to remedy the situation. It's an excellent time to risk exploring the potential benefits of increased self-interest and self-regard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When I started writing horoscopes many years ago, I was a good astrologer but an unexceptional writer. Eventually, the practice of composing 12 packets of pithy prose every week allowed me to improve my authorial skills. The stuff I composed in the early years wasn't bad, but I wouldn't want to present it as my work any more. So should I feel guilty that I got paid and appreciated for those old efforts even though I was less than perfect? Did I get away with something I shouldn't have gotten away with? I don't think so. I was doing the best I could at the time. And even my unpolished astrological musings were helpful to many people. Now, Libra, I invite you to apply these meditations to your own unfolding destiny.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may already know what I'm about to tell you. It's a core principle at the root of your Scorpio heritage. But I want to focus your attention on it. In the coming months, you'll be wise to keep it at the forefront of your conscious awareness. Here it is, courtesy of philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche: "You have it in your power to invest everything you have lived through -- your experiments, false starts, errors, delusions, passions, your love and your hope -- into your goal, with nothing left over."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "A savage desire for strong emotions and sensations burns inside me: a rage against this soft-tinted, shallow, standardized and sterilized life." So says Harry Haller, the protagonist of Herman Hesse's novel *Steppenwolf*. His declaration could serve as an interesting point of reference for you in the coming months, Sagittarius -- not as a mood for everyday use, but as a poetic inspiration that you periodically call on to invigorate your lust for life. My invitation has a caveat, however: I advise you *not* to adopt the rest of Harry Haller's rant, in which he says that he also has "a mad craving to smash something up, a department store, or a cathedral, or myself."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I have lived near an open space preserve for five years. Up until the last two months, it has been a peaceful, quite place. But then the coyotes moved in. Just after dusk every evening, a pack of them start yipping and yowling in the distance. At first I found the racket to be eerie and unsettling. It activated some primal unease in me. And yet the coyotes have never actually been a problem. They don't roam into my neighborhood and try to bite people or prey on pets. So now I've come to relish the situation: The wild things are close and exciting, but not dangerous. I'm guessing this has a metaphorical resemblance to what your life will be like in the next six months, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stanstead, Quebec and Derby Line, Vermont are really a single town that straddles the border between the U.S. and Canada. Many of the people who live there have dual citizenship, but they're still supposed to carry their passports with them at all times. I suspect you may experience a metaphorical version of this split in the coming months, Aquarius. You will be in a situation that has a split down the middle or a seemingly unnatural division. Whether it turns out to be a problem or an opportunity will depend on your adaptability and flexibility.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When a dead tree topples over in the woods, its withered branches may get entangled with the branches of a living tree that's standing nearby. As years go by, the living tree must grow the best it can with the decaying wood trapped in its midst. Has something like that ever happened to you? Are you still carrying the rot that other people have burdened you with? If so, the coming months will be an excellent time to get disentangled. A tree isn't capable of freeing itself from the dead weight of the past, but you are -- especially in the first half of 2015.

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



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Sultan's delivers authentic Middle Eastern dining experience

Tongue tried

By **MARK NIXON**

It's safe to say you can't fully appreciate a culture until you can appreciate its cuisine. My appreciation of Middle Eastern cuisine is a work in progress.

I've had some amazing Middle Eastern food. There were other times when my eyes grew wide as I mumbled, "What the hell IS this?"

On the bell curve of Middle Eastern cuisine, I'd put Sultan's somewhere in the middle, tipping favorably toward the region of "trying hard."

Sultan's has thrived for nearly 20 years, anchoring the Hannah Shopping Plaza east of Michigan State University. Service seems dependable, the setting is spacious and the service portions are generous.

When I asked a couple of people if they had eaten there, their first words were almost identical: "The bread."

Indeed, the fresh pita — which looks nothing like the kind in the stores — hit the table almost immediately. These are warm, fresh, hockey puck-sized mounds with airy pockets inside to scoop up whatever is on your plate. Some online comments noted that Sultan's regularly runs out of these fresh-baked goodies, and that was the case during one of our two dining visits.

The bread comes free with the meal, by the way.

The single tastiest thing I tried on either visit was the tabbouli, which came as part of my wife's traditional combo meal (\$12.90). This salad sparkles and shines on the palate.

See He Ate, Page 23

Let the angels sing

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

Every time I sit down to a meal, I give my plate a onceover with a discerning eye. Is there enough color? Is my food too monochromatic? If it is, I'll find the nearest green vegetable and load up. This resulted in some interesting solo dinners while the boyfriend was at deer camp — think entire bags of spinach topped with an egg or a pound of roasted Brussels sprouts. Go green!

For this reason, and for other reasons of deliciousness, Sultan's is at the top of my list. There are two locations — Sultan's Express in downtown Lansing and Sultan's in the East Lansing Hannah Plaza, although all of the visits detailed here happened at the East Lansing location. The food at the downtown location is just as delicious, but the menu is limited and you'd better get there early because they tend to run out and you'll have to go back to your office with a bag of Hot Cheetos or something equally awful.

My boyfriend and I went for dinner and chose the Sultan's Combo for Two (\$29.90) because we wanted to try absolutely everything on the menu. The massive platter didn't disappoint, and I'll explain what was on it piece by piece. Shish Kafta, which looks like sausage, is ground lamb mixed with parsley, onions and spices; beef and chicken kabobs are juicy morsels of grilled meat (more on this soon); chicken shawarma (an easy place to start, for new Middle Eastern eaters) is marinated, slow-cooked chicken, thinly sliced and generally serve atop white rice threaded with chopped vermicelli noodles. The rice is buttery but not too strongly flavored, and is intended to be a counter to the rich meats and flavorful sauces.

We were also given two fried kibbes — croquettes of ground lamb mixed with cracked wheat and minced onions — and two falafels, fried, palm-sized discs of ground chickpeas. Finally, around the edges of the masterpiece were two stuffed grape leaves. Against my wishes, my boyfriend chose rice over vegetables as the base of our platter — I would never choose anything over my beloved vegetables — but I was thrilled to see that the waiter must have read my mind, because he also brought us grilled zucchini, red and green bell peppers and onions.

The chicken kabob — let the angels sing. The chicken kabob is the juiciest chicken I've ever had in my life. When you read on the menu "charbroiled to

See She Ate, Page 23

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He Ate

from page 22

You can taste parsley and fresh lemon, and feel the crunch of cracked wheat and raw, minced vegetables. Though the menu didn't say it, I swear I tasted fresh mint. Fantastic.

Less fantastic was the lentil and rice soup, which was without form or substance, i.e., pureed and virtually without taste. Spice was needed, or a stronger dose of concentrated soup stock. To be fair, my brother and sister-in-law declared the soup to be very good.

The so-so soup foreshadowed much of my dining experience at Sultan's. The stuffed grape leaves appetizer (\$8.50 for eight) was competently prepared. I love grape leaves stuffed with lamb, rice and spices. I've eaten them dead cold and very

warm. On two occasions, Sultan's delivered them lukewarm. To me, someone in the kitchen should make up his hot-or-cold mind.

The fried kibbie on my combo platter (\$17.90) was over-fried, and the mixture of meat and grain inside the fried shell was dry and bland. Several meat selections on my platter were also overdone. Counter-balancing my complaint, our friend said his lamb was juicy and pink inside, as he ordered.

For my money, I'd order the hummus baba (\$6.75) again, a bountiful platter of hummus and baba ghanouge encircling a small lagoon of good, extra-virgin olive oil. Dive in with the fresh pita in hand and you practically have a meal right there.

On the downside of the ledger, the spinach pie appetizer (\$2.25) was boring, a far cry from the outstanding Greek version of spanikopita. The fried cauliflower (\$3) was equally bland.

with garlic and tahini sauce. My combo came with hummus, a few vegetables and a heaping side of tabbouli, another of my favorites — and extremely healthy to boot. It's a salad made of chopped parsley, tomatoes, onion and cracked wheat served in a bracing lemon juice dressing. Between the mujadara, tabbouli and lentil soup, I think my quotas for both vegetables and whole grains were met for the remainder of the year.

When we went back for one more lunch, I know I should have ordered something different — the lamb shank, the salmon or even the stewed okra — but I couldn't help myself. I went running back to the chicken kabob. It was just as heavenly as the first time.

We did mix it up a bit and ordered the Fool Modammas as an appetizer. My last goal for 2014 was accomplished and I ate something I've never had before. Fava beans were mixed with tomatoes, onions, parsley and spices including smoked paprika. We treated it as a kind of dip, scooping it up with pita bread and wondering if it wasn't these little beans that Hannibal Lecter liked so

But in this season of Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men (with the exception of ISIS and Vladimir Putin), let me say my taste of the whole deboned chicken (\$26.90, for two) was marinated meat perfection.

What meal would be complete without Judy, my wife of 26 years, ordering, as Monty Python would say, something completely different? I think this is a latent form of culinary exhibitionism. She would counter that this is totally about being open to the possibilities of the infinite culinary universe. Translation: If there's something weird on the menu, she will order that.

And so it came to pass that Judy ordered lamb tongue (\$10.90). Now, I cannot tell you what a lamb tongue still attached to the lamb looks like. What arrived on her plate were a whole bunch of pieces that could have been individual tongues, or one tongue carved into arrowhead-shaped pieces.

much.

We liked them too, and we will head back to Sultan's frequently for the best Middle Eastern food in town.

I immediately began making bad jokes about "The Silence of the Lambs." Judy scowled. She took a bite and uttered a pleasant "mmmm." OK, purely in the name of groundbreaking investigative journalism, I took a bite.

It was soft, subtle, mildly marinated and unbelievably tender. "Mmm," I said. "Mmm-mmm!"

So there you have it. I am still a work in progress when it comes to exploring foods from around the world. I need to extend myself; be more adventurous when dining out. That will be my New Year's resolution. More lamb tongues! Served with fava beans and a nice chianti, of course.

She Ate

from page 22

perfection," it's easy to think "Right. Just like Burger King's Whoppers are charbroiled to perfection." In this case, however, the description is warranted. You think this can't be possible, it's just grilled chicken! Eaters, I know. I was there too. But the chicken kabob at Sultan's made a believer out of me.

Our two cups of lentil soup were also delicious; hot, comforting, and creamy enough to prompt me to ask the waiter if it was made of pureed potatoes. No, he said, just lentils, rice, onion, and spices.

I started with a cup of lentil soup when I returned for lunch the next day. I generally try to limit my red meat intake, so I chose the Mujadara Combo (\$7.70.) Mujadara is one of those Middle Eastern dishes that really made me feel like a worldly grownup lady. This couldn't be more ridiculous, because mujadara is a remarkably earthy, traditional dish. It is lentils, onions and cracked wheat served



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Meet Bruna.

Bruna is a student, part-time model and world language enthusiast from Amsterdam. She speaks Lebanese, English, Dutch and French. When she was younger she wanted to be a plastic surgeon; now she books for a modeling agency. She loves cooking (her favorite food is avocado but her nickname is "Brownie"), and when she isn't up all night studying she's usually watching horror movies in bed. After graduating university in 2014 she hopes to visit Japan, become fluent in Spanish and pursue a career in fashion. She is pictured here wearing the Cotton Spandex Jersey Long Sleeve Turtleneck, the Ponte Mid-Length Pencil Skirt and the Lightweight Crop Sweater.

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