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December 14-20, 2016

Dealing with diversity

A lifetime of lessons from teacher Joanna Stark, p. 8



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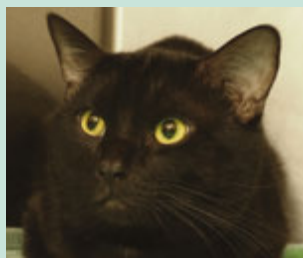
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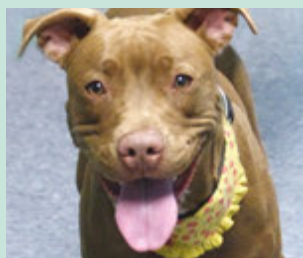
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Abner

Abner is a sweet guy looking for a quieter home. He loves snuggling and has the cutest chunky face that you can't help falling in love with.

In memory of
Rodica's cats



Jezebel

Jezebel is a sweet girl who has been at the shelter for a month. She loves to roll in the leaves and get belly rubs.

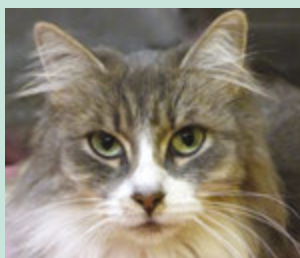
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Snoopy

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Addie

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CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**



**WITH GUEST
JOANNA
STARK**

Recently retired diversity
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Prague Philharmonia
 with Sarah Chang & Andrew von Oeyen

Wednesday, January 18 AT 7:30PM

Violin wonder Sarah Chang joins the celebrated Prague Philharmonia for Dvořák's supercharged Violin Concerto, plus piano sensation Andrew von Oeyen performs Mendelssohn's First Piano Concerto.

\$18 Student & Youth Tickets!



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The first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer, Wudunn is one of *Newsweek's* "150 Women Who Shake the World." She is also co-author of *Half the Sky*, about the oppression of women around the world.

FREE for MSU Students, Faculty and Staff
 (Limit 2 tickets per MSU ID.)

\$20 general admission



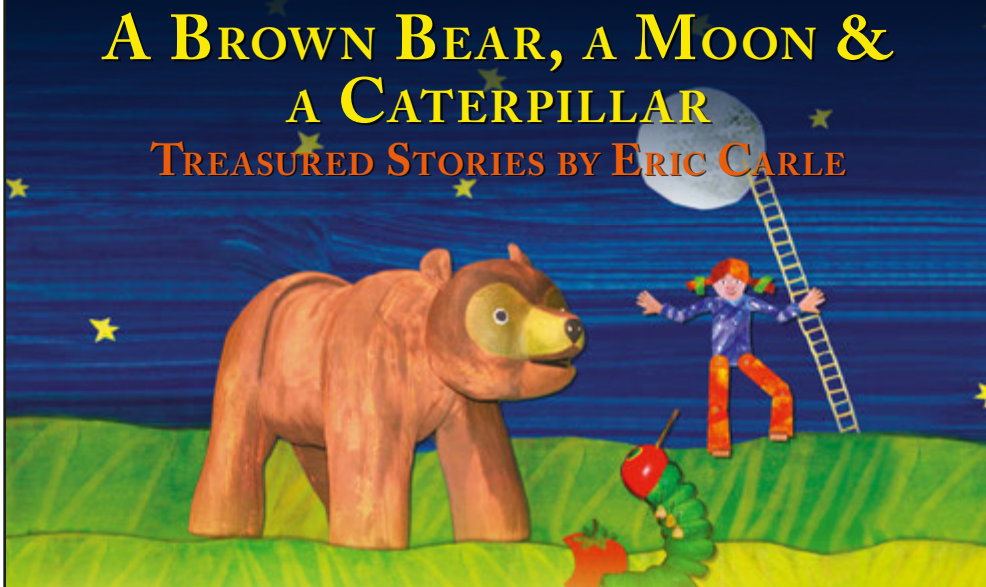
SHERYL WUDUNN

Monday, January 23 AT 7:30PM

The World View Lecture Series is made possible in part by the MSU Office of the President. This presentation is generously supported by the Broad College of Business; College of Communication Arts & Sciences; College of Human Medicine; College of Natural Science; Lyman Briggs College; Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives: Project 60/50; Symposium on Science, Reason, & Modern Democracy (Political Science); and University Outreach and Engagement.

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CityPULSE

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Feedback

More fallout from the election

I am stunned and appalled by this farce we just called a Presidential Election.

Since when does nasty name calling, (low energy Jeb, Lyin' Ted and Crooked Hillary) outright lies, racism and devious, rhetoric have a place in our election process?

Differences of opinions, yes, but the crassness, disrespect and flat out lying displayed by Donald Trump was reprehensible! I cannot believe this coarse, vulgar man is going to be the President of this great nation.

Where is the Democratic Party in all of this? Why are they not demanding and conducting investigations into the shinnanigans that occurred in the last weeks of debacle of an election? Why are FBI Director James Comey and his antics not being investigated and prosecuted? Why is Congress as a whole, not questioning his actions? Granted, many Republicans are giddy with glee at Trumps supposed win, but where are the moderate, decent, intelligent Republicans? Why are THEY not voicing thier concern and outrage at the dishonesty of the Trump campaign.

What FBI Director Cuomy did was a lie and totally unethical and it has brought us crass, unqualified, narcissistic, bigotted ego maniac who will throw this country into chaos . Already the violence against minorities and immigrants, that he encouraged in his supporters has begun. It will only get worse and will tear this country apart.

Regarding the Trump campaign and FBI Directors Cuomys' letters, where is Wikileaks now? Why the silence? Why are they not releasing information about the colusion between the Trump campaign and FBI Director Cuomy? Rudy Guliani was smack in the middle of it. In an interview two days before the release of Cuomy's letter, he was all but rubbing his hands in glee, grinning from ear to ear, telling the interviewer, "We have a few things up our sleeve." Indeed they did and WHAT they did was a lie, and unethical, but that's what you get when you are dealing with the dregs of society. And Trump wants Guliani for Attorney General or some other high cabinet post!?! God help us!

— Shelley Centeno
Lansing

Correction

Due to a reporting error, the Nov. 30 New In Town column incorrectly stated that White Bros Music and the Travelers Club International Restaurant & Tuba Museum were evicted from their Okemos locations to make way for a development project. It was also reported, based on statements from White, that a Hungarian cimbalom recently restored by White Bros Music and purchased by the Royal Shakespeare Co. was played recently at a graveside memorial for William Shakespeare. The instrument was bought approximately 15 years ago by the company and has been used in several productions, but City Pulse was not able to confirm its use at a graveside service.

Improving
your library:



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MARCH 2017
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East Lansing Food Coop's building up for sale

PAGE 7



New mural shows complexities of Malcolm X

PAGE 11



Local authors get in on adult coloring book craze

PAGE 14



Photos by Lawrence Cosentino, design by Allison Hammerly

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

from the files of...
**Conservative Jones,
Internet Detective**

COME IN, MOONBAT! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!

BEEN REDECORATING, I SEE.

I'M HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE D.C. PIZZA PLACE THAT SOME SAY IS THE CENTER OF A PEDOPHILE RING RUN BY HILLARY CLINTON!

OH GOD, NOT THIS.

THE EVIDENCE IS IN THE WIKILEAKS PODESTA EMAILS--IN CODE! FOR INSTANCE, WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "PIZZA"--THEY REALLY MEAN "UNDERAGE SEX SLAVE!"

I'M NOT SURE WHAT "PEPPERONI" INDICATES THOUGH.

A DRY, SEASONED SAUSAGE MADE FROM PORK AND BEEF, WOULD BE MY GUESS.

YOU DO KNOW THAT A NUTJOB WITH AN ASSAULT RIFLE SHOWED UP AT THAT PIZZA PLACE LAST WEEK, RIGHT? MAYBE THIS IS JUST THE NEW NORMAL, BUT THESE LUNATIC CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE GOING TO GET SOMEONE KILLED!

OH MOONBAT! DON'T YOU KNOW A FALSE FLAG WHEN YOU SEE ONE?

HAVE THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA TURNED YOUR ALREADY-FEEBLE MIND COMPLETELY TO MUSH? DO YOU HEAR WORDS WHEN I SPEAK--OR JUST A DELIGHTFUL MELODY YOU CAN'T QUITE PLACE?

CAN YOU EVEN DIMLY PERCEIVE WHAT THIS STORY REALLY MEANS?

UM--THAT THE AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE?

I USED TO HAVE HOPE FOR YOU, MOONBAT--BUT I JUST DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN INTERNET DETECTIVE.

IMAGINE MY BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT.

TOM TOMORROW 12/16

Library shutdown

CADL's wintertime renovations a challenge for many homeless

When Mike Karl entered the downtown branch of the Capital Area District Library, he wasn't thinking about books. Karl had only two things on his mind: to get warm, and to get to sleep.

"I slept in the bathroom, to tell you the truth, because I couldn't get much sleep at night," said Karl, founder of Homeless Angels, a community-funded homeless hotel program. "I'm not the only one that does that. I've found people down there sleeping."

That was over a decade ago, and Karl has long since found housing, but his situation is not unique. Though the bathrooms are now patrolled to ward off people sleeping in them, many homeless people still seek out the library to get shelter — especially in the winter months. However, Starting Dec. 31, the downtown branch, at Kalamazoo and Capitol streets, will close until at least mid-March for a \$600,000-plus renovation. Though this will be an inconvenience for many, for its homeless patrons, it could be a nightmare.

"I'm really disappointed that they're closing for so long, because here I don't have a CATA card, so I can't hop on a bus to go to a new library location to even get a book," said Larry Banner, a man who has been homeless for three months now, noting that the library is his only outlet for the Internet. "Every month is going to be a bother for me because I can't contact any of my people or anything."

It's not difficult to see why the library is such a big draw for the homeless. The downtown branch is centrally located and provides a variety of amenities. The obvious are books and Internet access, but arguably most important, it serves as an informal warming center for many. It is also a safe, publicly accessible space that requires no fee for admission.

Another draw is that library staff won't ask patrons about their housing status. It's why many choose to come,"

Executive Director Maureen Hirten said.

"You can't actually tell who is homeless," Hirten said. "As long as you follow our rules, you can stay as long as you want her within library hours."

Karl said the amount of homeless people at the library are so many, the Homeless Angels program used to send volunteers to walk into the library just to seek individuals out to offer them aid.



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

Even in freezing weather, many line up before the library opens. Often, the individuals who do are homeless.

"When we used to walk in there, it seemed like there were hundreds of people in there, and I want to say 60 percent of them were probably homeless," Karl said. "You can pretend to read a book even if you can't read. What is the library going to do? They can't kick you out."

Often, it is the homeless who stay at the library the longest.

"In winter on a cold day, as soon as the library opens up, or even before the library opens up, there's a line of people waiting to come in," said public service librarian Sara Doherty, who has been at the library for 10 years. "It depends on how cold it is, how windy it is, how snowy it is, whether people feel like braving the street, and what else is open. Frequently we have people who wait until we open and stay until we close."

CADL is aware of the impact its impending closure will have on the homeless community of Lansing. According to Susan Cancro, the executive director at the Advent House Ministries, the Lansing branch library has let Cancro know about the upcoming renovation to attempt to make the period of closure go as smoothly as possible.

"We realize it's going to cause some disruption for people who go there, so we want to make sure they know where they can go during the week or weekend," Cancro said. "They can go to the New Hope Day Center at Volunteers of America on Larch downtown, not too far from the library. It's available all day and there are meals there" on weekdays.

On the weekends, Advent House Shelter can fill in the role of the VOA day shelter while individuals are between overnight stays.

Cancro said that the closure is coming at a bad time because resources have been especially slim recently.

"Our resources are always strained. I can't speak for VOA, but for Advent House we accommodate whoever comes to us," Cancro said. "Over the last few months we've seen an increase of about 17 to 20 percent in use of our day shelter on the weekends."

Karl speculates the homeless may flood the CATA station, nearby restaurants and potentially other libraries when the closure displaces them.

"It's going to be hard, especially if they're doing this in the wintertime," Karl said. "It only takes seven minutes for hypothermia to start."

Still, some homeless individuals say that even with the inconvenience of the closure, the benefits of the renovations will outweigh the costs in the long run.

"If that's what it takes, two months for a brand new one, then so be it," said John Martinez, who has been homeless for two months. "That's going to be awesome. That'd be one thing, a step ahead for Lansing."

— Eve Kucharski



FOR
DESIGN



Property: Lansing

Timothy Bowman of Lansing was the first person to correctly identify the detail in the Nov. 2 Eye for Design as "one of the mill stones in front of the Christman Building (below)," 208 N. Capitol Ave. The numbered series of stones recall the historic use of the old Mutual Building as the headquarters for the insurers of farms and grain mills

The snow-topped detail below can be found in East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify the location of the detail will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to debollman@comcast.net by De. 21.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



Milo fallout

Prosecutor takes on alt-right icon, MSU Police

It's Gretchen Whitmer vs. Milo Yiannopoulos and the MSU Police.

A week after the alt-right icon appeared at Michigan State University, the interim Ingham County prosecutor is asking the MSU Police to investigate if Yiannopoulos may have committed a crime. And she is calling on the police to provide more evidence that five protesters they arrested committed a felony. Two other protesters were arrested on misdemeanor charges. The Prosecutor's Office generally does not handle such criminal cases.

Whitmer is calling on the MSU Police to investigate Yiannopoulos for throwing a poster board protest sign, which read "Milo

dence.

"There was a dearth of background information in those reports," she said. "There was not enough there, factually, to support the allegations and us doing anything."

She said it was "odd" that officials submitted "not one second" of video of the event or arrests, despite officers' wearing body cameras.

Seven people were arrested during protests proceeding Yiannopoulos' appearance on Dec. 7.

Capt. Doug Monette, spokesman for the MSU Police, said officials were working to provide prosecutors with requested information. He declined to release any information about the five people facing felony charges.

"We won't release any of that information until they are arraigned," he said.

Yiannopoulos appeared on campus as part of his "Dangerous Faggot Tour." He's

That's when he threw his sign into the crowd. The sign, one protester told the flamboyant speaker, hit a protester in the face. Yiannopoulos dismissed the concern with the flick of his hand, his own video shows. Protesters closed in on him and he was quickly surrounded by MSU police officers and escorted from the crowd.

He released a video of his antics during his speech. MLive.com ran a photograph of one of Yiannopoulos' crew holding a sign he created in the speaker's hotel room. The news outlet incorrectly identified the man — identified in the Breitbart video as Hayden — as an anti-Yiannopoulos protester. MLive reporter Ryan Kryska declined to comment.

While the video was shown to the capacity crowd at Conrad Hall, MLive and other media reporters couldn't see it because they were barred from attending and covering the event, raising free-speech questions.

Poverty Law Center, and the national YAF ultimately withdrew support for the group.

Spartans for Free Speech was formally recognized as a registered student group on Dec. 1, said Jason Cody, MSU spokesman. He said MSU still had Young Americans for Liberty listed at the event sponsor and denied involvement by the Spartans for Free Speech.

Both groups announced on their Facebook pages, as well as on the event page for the Yiannopoulos appearance, that Spartans for Free Speech was responsible for the event.

Spartans for Free Speech did not respond to messaged questions on Facebook, although the questions were seen.

Initially, Cody identified Ross Emmett as the faculty adviser for the group Young Americans for Liberty. However, Emmett said in an email that he is not the adviser, despite repeated reports that he was.

He said he had served as faculty adviser for one of the groups last year, but not this year. "Opponents of the event continued to broadcast my name as the advisor even though I was not," he said by email, "and even Breitbart cited me as the advisor. I have no idea who the advisor is at this point."

Cody said the Department of Student Life declined to identify the faculty advisers for Young Americans for Liberty and Spartans for Free Speech out of concern for their safety.

Neither group is listed as a registered student organization on the MSU Department of Student Life's official list of such organizations. Cody said student groups have the option to be listed publicly.

Whitmer, a former state legislator from East Lansing who is widely expected to run for governor in 2018 as a Democrat, said she also had concerns about potential First Amendment violations at the event. She said the refusal to allow local media in was troublesome.

"Either we're for free speech and a free press, or we're not," she said.

Registered student groups can rent various locations on campus for \$50 an hour, including Conrad Hall, that are not available to the public. In addition, the groups are eligible to receive up to four uniformed officers assigned to the event at no charge. Monette declined to discuss how many uniformed officers were present at the event.

Cody, said Young Americans for Liberty was charged "about \$650" by MSU for security at the event. Tickets for the event were \$4 each.

Robin Luce-Hermann, a lawyer who represents the Michigan Press Association, said she was uncertain if the move to exclude local press was illegal. Case law has established that even when a group is taxpayer funded or supported it can under certain circumstances refuse to admit the media. But she said this case was "clouded"



A protester holds a sign before the speech by Milo Yiannopoulos at Conrad Hall on the campus of Michigan State University on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. (Samantha Madar | Mlive.com)

On the left a Milo Yiannopoulos supporter, identified as Hayden, in a YouTube video created by the alt-right speaker, creates an anti-Milo protest sign. He along with at least one other person infiltrated the anti-Milo Yiannopoulos protest at Michigan State University Dec. 7. Yiannopoulos also joined in the protest. Despite being a supporter of Yiannopoulos, Hayden was pictured by MLive.com as an anti-Yiannopoulos protester. The speaking event has raised questions about law enforcement and the First Amendment on the campus.

sucks," into a crowd of protesters. He could face disorderly conduct or assault charges.

"I would be curious if the agency is going to look at that," Whitmer said by phone. "They need to."

A video produced by Yiannopoulos and shared on the far-right website Breitbart.com shows the controversial speaker throwing the sign into the crowd. He had been masquerading as a protester. Whitmer said she was unaware of Yiannopoulos' video or actions until City Pulse brought it to her attention.

Whitmer is also taking on the MSU Police Department by demanding more evidence against anti-Yiannopoulos protesters whom the police want to charge with resisting and obstructing the police, a felony. On Friday, Whitmer announced that she had rejected warrant requests for protesters by MSU police and requested additional information to support the charges. She said the requests were accompanied with no evi-

openly gay and lectures on the threat of feminism as well as Islam to the West. He is a tech editor at Breitbart.com, which has been called the go-to news outlet for members of the alt-right, a white supremacy movement in the United States. The movement has made headlines since the November election in large part because President-Elect Donald Trump has appointed Steve Bannon, the former editor of Breitbart, to a key advising role in the White House. Bannon has been accused of fostering the alt-right movement with the content the website has published.

Media reports and amateur video from the event show that about 100 people gathered in front of Conrad Hall to protest Yiannopoulos' appearance on campus with a stated goal of shutting the event down. Yiannopoulos along with at least two others infiltrated the protest masquerading as protesters. He ultimately revealed himself to cheers from supporters.

Breitbart was the only news organization allowed inside.

The State News, The Lansing State Journal and MLive all reported they were barred from entering the event by organizers from Spartans for Free Speech. Leaders of the student group communicate only through anonymous Twitter and Facebook communications and declined to be identified when communicating with The State News. The reason? The student organizers said they feared retribution for hosting Yiannopoulos' appearance on campus.

Young Americans for Liberty, another conservative student group, originally sponsored the event, but it announced on the group's Facebook page in early December that Spartans for Free Speech had taken over the event. Young Americans for Liberty arose from the ashes of the collapse of the student group Young Americans for Freedom. Young Americans for Liberty was listed in 2006 as a hate group by the Southern

MIP reform

Snyder expected to reduce alcohol possession to a ticket

Hundreds of underage area residents have been charged each year for possessing alcohol. But that could change if Gov. Rick Snyder signs legislation passed earlier this month into law.

The new legislation amends Michigan's Minor in Possession law to create a civil infraction for first-time violations. Currently, those under 21 caught with alcohol can face fines and jail time. They also rack up a permanent criminal record, which can hamper job and educational prospects.

The change in the law is good news, said East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows. He and others supported the shift.

"We felt that the use of a noncriminal approach was a better approach," Meadows said.

Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, sponsored the legislation. He said he expects the governor will sign it.

He said it was to address "an extremely unreasonable approach."

"I had parents calling and their son or daughter was caught with a beer but now was facing a criminal charge that was going to stick with them for the rest of their lives," he said.

He stressed that the new legislation does not change criminal charges related to drinking while under the influence. Minors who consume alcohol and drive can still face criminal prosecution. However, under the new legislation, the first time a minor is caught with alcohol, a civil citation, similar to traffic ticket, will be issued.

Under current law, a first offense for minor in possession, referred to as MIP, can result in a fine of \$100, probation, alcohol treatment and the potential of time in jail. Subsequent offenses could lead to a \$200 fine, and up to 30 days in jail, plus probation and alcohol treatment.

The new legislation could see a first-time offender face a \$100 fine and alcohol classes. A second offense could rack up a \$200 fine and alcohol classes. A third charge would result in a criminal charge, still a misdemeanor.

East Lansing reported issuing about 300 MIP charges so far this year.

Jones said there is a disparity among juris-

dictions on how the law is enforced in courts.

He said in some jurisdictions, the accused would serve six months' probation and receive some substance abuse programming. When that was complete, the charge would be removed from their record. But in other jurisdictions, minors were being put in jail for their first offense.

In addition to reducing the severity of the penalty for a first-time infraction, the legislation specifically allows a minor to decline a Breathalyzer test. Some minors have been arrested after such a test because the machine detected alcohol in their system, a violation of the law. Others have been arrested for refusing a Breathalyzer test, Jones said.

The Republican lawmaker said the change was part of a broader movement by Michigan's elected officials to reduce criminal prosecution for nonviolent criminal offense.

"We don't want to lock everybody up for everything," he said.

Meadows praised the change, which he had advocated when he served in the Michigan House of Representatives.

"I never liked that we were writing misdemeanor tickets at the outset," Meadows said. He noted the City Council just approved an ordinance decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana. Under the ordinance, adopted by City Council in October, an individual 21 and older can possess up to an ounce of marijuana and smoke it on private property. Those under 21 caught with pot would face a civil infraction with a \$25 fine and a requirement they attend a substance abuse class.

Both moves, he said, rectify a poor public policy move.

"Law enforcement has a tendency to go after the low-hanging fruit," he said. "Like the high school sophomore with a couple of joints. I'm not sure that's good public policy."

For his part, Jones, who opposed decriminalization of marijuana but does support medical marijuana, said he would favor a move to change possession of marijuana in small amounts to a civil infraction.

"It was common when I was a police officer, that if you caught someone with a baggie of pot, and they were polite, you'd wave it in the wind, dumping out the contents," he said. "Then you'd say, don't let me catch you doing it again."

— Todd Heywood



What's next?

Troubled Food Co-op puts building up for sale

The East Lansing Food Co-op, which has been troubled financially for several years as competition has increased in the healthy food market, has placed its building on the block.

"We're concerned about being able to pay our bills," said Anne Woiwode, speaking for the board of directors. She added that the co-op has been able to hold on longer than many expected.

The board voted last week to recommend the sale to the co-op's owners, who will receive a letter in January. Meanwhile, the board has listed the property, at 4960 Northwind Drive, with Realtor James Vlahakis for \$675,000. The property is listed as 8,044 square feet, of which about half is occupied by the food co-op's retail store, which is open to the public. The rest is leased.

Woiwode said that in addition to cash flow concerns, the co-op wants to preserve its equity, which she valued at \$100,000 to \$200,000.

She discounted a report that foreclosure was imminent, but she said the mortgage holder, Lake Trust Credit Union, is "concerned about our finances and wants us to be realistic."

The food co-op is located a few blocks from two major healthy food competitors, Whole Foods, which opened last spring,

and Foods for Living. Meijer and Kroger are nearby in Meridian Township.

"We're at a location that is extremely well populated with grocers," Woiwode said.

She said that if the owners decide to sell, the co-op would not necessarily relocate, at least immediately, even though several communities have expressed an interest in having it.

"We've been batting around some ideas," she said, such as forming a buyers' club, participating in farmers markets, selling through special orders and serving vegans, "who don't have a whole lot of options."

"This is the beginning of the discussion."

Woiwode said the co-op is in some ways a victim of its own success.

"Ironically, we were at the cutting edge" in the Lansing area of introducing organic products that are much easier to find now, not just at grocery stores but at farmers markets and elsewhere, Woiwode said.

But she said the co-op's mission isn't just about the groceries it provides but the "value of having a community-owned store."

She said it is more committed to its workers than large corporations. It is also more involved in the community through volunteer efforts by members, as well as by providing financial support.

"Cooperatives are not the most efficient corporate structure," she said, "but they are the most democratic. And that, for us who are the owners, is what really matters."

— Berl Schwartz



Yiannopoulos

from page 6

because one media outlet was given access.

Under the law, she said, because the group was renting the facility they have "tenant rights," which means they can pick and choose who gets into an event.

"Free speech is all about the idea of the exchange of ideas and viewpoints, and when you try to limit who participates then that undermines that very aspect of the First Amendment," she said.

Rana Elmir, deputy director of the ACLU of Michigan, said her group is also reviewing the event for possible First Amendment issues.

"A student has approached us about the situation, and we're looking into it," she said. "However, issues related to the First Amendment are rarely black and white — facts and context matter and therefore it would be irresponsible to comment before we do our investigation."

— Todd Heywood



PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On December 7, 2016, 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 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#16-275

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER PROJECT WEST SIDE WATER SUPPLY, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, WEST SIDE WATER DISTRICT:
West Side Water will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 27th at 6:00pm at the Lansing Township Office Board Room, 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI.

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide an opportunity for comment on the upcoming proposed water main upgrade projects at various locations within the West Side Water District boundary. A map of the locations for water main replacements will be available at the meeting. This project is expected to be financed through a loan from the Rural Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At the public hearing all citizens, taxpayers and property owners of the West Side Water District shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the proposed project.

CP#16-276

Opening up to the 'other'

Veteran diversity trainer Joanna Stark ponders — and fights — human nature

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Joanna Stark has an odd way of staying inspired, even for a teacher. The following slip of student feedback is taped to her kitchen wall:

"On the first day of class, I saw this little old lady coming down the hall, and I said to myself — or was it God? — 'please don't let that be her.'"

The more they dread Stark, the better she likes it. At 86, she is Exhibit A in her own long-running class on dealing with workplace diversity.

"They come in thinking I'm going to be an old fuddy-duddy," Stark said.

Flipping prejudice into respect is her stock in trade. About 10,000 students have taken Stark's Lansing Community College's class in diversity in the workplace during her time there. (Other instructors have also taught alongside her.)

Last week, she led her last class at LCC. She is retiring this year after 40 years of teaching.

Martha Bibbs, the first African-American and first female director of personnel service for the state of Michigan, has known and worked with Stark for most of those years.

"She has been consistent in her dedication to issues of diversity," Bibbs said. "She's lived it, and she teaches it."

That dedication even extends to Stark's TV habits.

"I never watch 'Mad Men,' because I don't want to go back to those days," she said.

Moved to tears

The first time Cindy Jackson sat in on one of Joanna Stark's classes, she was moved to tears.

"A lot of people were," Jackson said. "Her class opened me up on a much deeper level."

The heart of Stark's approach is to bring guest panelists to her class to talk about their lives as women, African-Americans, people with disabilities, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians, LGBTQ people or members of any group that is marginalized or stereotyped.

Jackson's husband is J.J. Jackson, a former MSU faculty member and advocate for people with disabilities. He has appeared on Stark's panels for 20 years, both as a blind person and as an African-American man.

Cindy Jackson often joined her husband on Stark's panels to talk frankly

about love, logistics and married life when one spouse is blind and the other is not. She once told Stark's students about her first encounter with J.J. Jackson, when she was in her stressful third week as a driver for Spec-Tran, CATA's extended service for people with disabilities.

"I was very overwhelmed and had a van full of people, and I asked how to get to Grand River," she said. "The only guy who answered was this blind guy in the back of the van."

She eventually fell in love with "the blind guy" and married him.

The stories told in Stark's classes resonate beyond the categories in the syllabus. One of Stark's students approached Cindy Jackson after the class and told her that although she had no disability, their story had opened her up to the possibility that she, too, could be happy in love and life.

"That just blew me away," Jackson said.

Stark's disability panels include people with hearing impairments, cerebral palsy and, perhaps most revealingly, people with "hidden disabilities."

Among the latter is another LCC teacher, Sylvia Wood, who, at 17, was one of the first people in Michigan to get a pacemaker. Wood looked able-bodied at a casual glance, but her story turned a light on for Cindy Jackson.

"Sylvia talked about fainting, passing out, being weak and not being able to do things," Jackson said. "People told her she was just trying to get attention. It made me think deeply about what people with disabilities go through."

In Stark's class, J.J. Jackson has fielded all kinds of questions about dating, how he handles his home, how he matches up his clothing, what it's like to be a father as a blind person. He tells them about his high-level job as a human resource manager at Amoco Oil in Chicago and explains how he manages interviewing job applicants, arranges travel and handles other work demands.

"They're afraid of the unknown, of our disability, and it's up to us to eliminate those barriers of fear and remind them that we're just like they are," Jackson said. "We have the same hopes, the same desires and pains. We're all connected in this big universe."

Martha Bibbs said some students



Courtesy Photo

See Stark, Page 9

Joanna Stark already looked formidable at age 8, on a farm near Bowling Green, Ohio.

Stark

from page 16

come into the class “very skeptical,” and Stark doesn’t discourage them from saying so. Bibbs served on Stark’s panels several times with her husband, former MSU track and field coach Jim Bibbs. She didn’t mind when a white student asked her why African-Americans “stick together” in cities and don’t move to the country. Far from being offended, she welcomed the chance for dialogue in the safe space Stark had created.

“We answer them honestly,” Bibbs said. “It’s not a situation where they feel they are being blamed. We have just got to get to know each other.”

Bowling Green and beyond

Joanna Stark wasn’t too fond of milking cows, cleaning chicken coops and “slopping hogs” on a farm near Bowling Green, Ohio, where she grew up.

But she excelled at business classes, typing and shorthand at Bowling Green State University, all the while suppressing a deeper desire to become a doctor.

“Girls weren’t encouraged to go in that direction,” she said.

She parlayed her business skills into part-time jobs almost immediately, but what she enjoyed most at BGSU was

singing in choir. The experience had an impact on her life that went beyond music.

The choir director took the group to the East Coast and into the South, a new experience for Stark and the other members.

On one tour, just inside the Mississippi state line, the choir bus stopped and the director let everyone off for a daily one-mile walk. Stark and a few other women wandered into a nearby field to prod the spindly, fluffy cotton plants, which they had never seen before. A man on horseback gallantly approached them and asked what they were doing.

They told him they were on their way to Tougaloo College, a historically black college near Jackson, to perform a concert.

He ordered them off his property.

“All this Southern charm, then boom — when he found out we were going to a black college, he kicked us out,” Stark said. “It was a defining moment for me. I had really no idea of discrimination, other than against girls.”

The choir went on to Tougaloo College, sang the concert, stayed in a dorm with black students and had a great time.

About 40 schools around Bowling Green were interested in hiring Stark, but she wanted to go to a big city and opted for Cincinnati. She taught typing in an inner-city neighborhood and had only one white student in her class.

In 1961, Joanna moved to East Lansing with her husband, Stanley Stark. A professor at the University of Illinois at the time, Stanley had just been hired at MSU, where he would teach for 31 years.

As a business management professor at MSU, Stanley Stark introduced courses on women and minorities in the workplace.

“They didn’t even know how to spell ‘diversity’ back then,” Joanna Stark said.

She spent much of their early years together at home, raising three kids, stirring a pot with her left hand and holding a book with her right. She was overjoyed to live in East Lansing’s ethnically diverse Flower Pot Neighbor-



Courtesy Photo

Stark read the newspaper over the radio to visually impaired people for 20 years.

hood, west of Harrison Road and south of Kalamazoo Street, where she still lives. She gladly sent her kids to the multi-hued Red Cedar Elementary.

As a haven of diversity, the neighborhood fell short in one respect. The Starks were one of only two Jewish families who lived there in the early 1980s. (Stark converted to Judaism, her husband’s faith.)

“I remember a third-grader at Red Cedar saying, ‘Do you live in a tent?’” Stark said. “I thought to myself, ‘They’ve been reading too many Christian Bible stories.’”

Power and pushback

Joanna Stark admitted that her husband, a Jew from the Bronx, was more “sophisticated about differences” than she was at first, but she caught up fast. After many of Stanley Stark’s classes, his panelists and students gathered at the house to eat and socialize.

As her kids grew older, Stark found part-time work at Michigan’s Civil Service Commission and got involved in a variety of causes and activities. For 20 years, she read newspapers for the blind on the radio.

In the 1970s, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, then the chairwoman of Ingham County Board of Commissioners, appointed Joanna Stark to lead the Ingham County Women’s Commission to investigate employment rights, domestic violence and other issues relating to the status of women in the county. The commission set up shelters and counseling centers in Ingham County and at MSU.

A few male county commissioners pushed back, insisting that domestic violence was not a problem in Ingham

County — and they weren’t the only opponents.

“A guy who used to run a gun shop would drive by (the shelter) and check how many lights were on,” Stark recalled.

The Women’s Commission also set up a task force on sexual assault, which was also opposed by some of the male commissioners.

Stark taught management training at nearly every state prison in the 1980s, when women began to be hired as corrections officers.

“They were the toughest,” she said. “They didn’t want to hear about women.”

Male resistance to gender equality never comes as a surprise to Stark.

“Who wants to give up power? Nobody,” she said.

Stark found that the best way to win men over, whether she was dealing with a corrections officer or a county commissioner, was to ask how they’d feel if their own wives or daughters had been unfairly treated.

“Men with daughters are converts,” she said with a trace of irony. “It’s funny. You’d think they would (be) with wives, but there are so many men who feel they can tell (their wives) what to do, how to vote. That happened a lot last November.”

When Stanley Stark retired in 1991, he had little trouble making the case that his wife was qualified to take over his MSU workplace diversity class.

Before long, LCC asked her to teach a variant of her MSU diversity lessons. The syllabus the Starks developed has been adopted by criminal justice and police



Courtesy Photo

In 1979, Stark headed the Ingham County Women’s Commission and fought male county commissioners to establish a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.



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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Last week, Stark taught her last workplace diversity classes after 40 years at LCC.

Stark

from page 9

academies and nursing schools around the state.

'I won't be quiet'

In one of Stark's most enlightening exercises, she announces to her students that she is a magician who can change their sex and asks them how they expect their lives to change the next morning.

"That stymies men," she said. "They don't get beyond saying, 'I wake up in the morning and play with my boobs.' Seriously, I have gotten that."

After the election of Donald Trump, Stark is less sanguine than ever about the country's progress where racism and sexism are concerned.

"I fear right now that our differences have been enhanced by the political situation," Stark said. "I'm feeling very unsettled about it; I didn't think we'd end up here."

On the other hand, she has been heartened by recent progress in rights for LG-BTQ people. She recalled a class 10 years ago where a student started to cry after a gay panelist spoke.

"He seems like such a nice man, but he's going to Hell," the student sobbed.

"I don't have that anymore," Stark said. "I hope it continues, but I don't know. I still see some hate."

After decades of pondering human nature — and often fighting it — Stark said she has learned as much as she has taught.

"I do think men and women are wired differently," she said. "I have finally ac-

cepted that men will not stop looking at women. I don't care if all they do is look. But they don't give women enough respect in what they can do."

With her last class at LCC under her belt, Stark hasn't decided what she'll do next.

"I won't be quiet, I know that," she said.

She will be spending more time at home, helping her husband with his mounting health problems. They have been married for 62 years.

She is still troubled by gender disparities in education, a problem she relates to personally. When she was growing up, her mother limited her to one Saturday trip to the library and two books a week, which she usually had read by Sunday. Almost 70 years after leaving the farm, her early thoughts of becoming a doctor still nag at her.

"I might want to work with the push for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education for girls in the schools," she said.

In the meantime, it's no small comfort to know she has planted seeds of tolerance in thousands of hearts and minds.

She keeps her glowing student evaluations like rare meteorites. One of them is the cringing student evaluation cited at the beginning of this tale, which goes on a bit further.

"The joke was on me," wrote the student who dreaded the approach of the "little old lady" on the first day of class. "There is such a wealth of information to be shared that it is a shame 16 weeks are almost over. I will certainly be more open to any teacher or manager that I have after this."

Stark smiled as she watched me read it.

"Stanley put that one up," she said. "You can't ask for much more than that."



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RE-EXAMINING MALCOLM X

Mosaic project honors civil rights activist

By **TY FORQUER**

Other than a few street signs and a historical marker, this is little evidence of the nearly 15 years Malcolm X spent in Lansing. But a new community art project is hoping to offer a new perspective on the controversial civil rights leader and former Lansing resident.

Last week, REACH Studio Art Center and Lansing Community College unveiled a life-size, freestanding mosaic mural of Malcolm X. The project is a collaboration between REACH Studio Art Center's Teen Open Studio and Lansing Community College sociology students. The Teen Open Studio is dedicated to creating community art pieces with a social message. The LCC students visited the teen artists four times over a two-month period to lead discussions on race relations and civil rights.

"Service learning helps students apply what they learn in the classroom to real life," said LCC sociology and anthropology professor Aliza Robison. "In this case, we talked to Lansing area high schoolers about Malcolm X and gave them a better idea of who he was, what the social movement was about and how social inequality relates to them."

"Our goal is to create space for dialogue that is often difficult," added Franchesca Cifuentes, coordinator of LCC's Center for Engaged Inclusion, which helped coordinate the project. "I was so proud to see how our students dove into it."

The mural is comprised of small ceramic tiles designed by the 10 teen artists and 15 LCC students. Each tile contains a mes-

sage or a symbol that ties into Malcolm X's life, including handcuffs to represent his time in prison and a pair of two right feet to represent limited social mobility. Other tiles, like one that reads "black lives matter," connect Malcolm X's message to contemporary social issues.

The mural will remain in the atrium of the LCC Library, in the college's Technology and Learning Center Building, through February, which is Black History Month. After that, the piece will move to a permanent home at Lansing's El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz Public School Academy, located at 1028 Barnes Avenue, just off of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The school, named after Malcolm X, uses the Arabic name that he adopted later in life.

Malcolm X's time in Lansing was marked by racial violence and tragedy. Born in Omaha as Malcolm Little in 1925, Malcolm X came to Lansing with his family in 1928. In 1929, the family's northwest Lansing home burned in a suspected arson, likely by the Ku Klux Klan or a similar group. In 1931, Malcolm X's father, Earl Little, was killed by a streetcar. His death was ruled an accident, but rumors suggested he was killed by the Black Legion, another white supremacist group. In 1939, Malcolm X's mother had a nervous breakdown and was committed to the Kalamazoo State Hospital. Malcolm X and his siblings were split up, and he was placed in a foster home in Mason, where he attended high school. From there, he bounced between Boston, New York and Lansing, including stints in Lansing working at Shaw



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

A new mural unveiled last week depicts civil rights leader Malcolm X, who lived in Lansing as a child. The project is a collaboration between REACH Studio Art Center and Lansing Community College.

Jewelers and working as a busboy at either the Mayfair Bar or Coral Gables.

Malcolm X's turbulent time in Lansing set him up for a life in crime and drugs, which is where most history books pick up his story. Malcolm X was arrested in Boston for burglary and sent to prison, where he converted to Islam and eventually emerged as a fiery civil rights activist.

Until his assassination in 1965, Malcolm X returned to the Lansing area several times to visit family and friends. He married his wife, Betty Shabazz, nee Sanders, in Lansing in 1958, and he spoke at Michigan State University in 1963.

Several of the teens involved in the project said that school civil rights lessons mostly focus on Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of peace, barely mentioning Malcolm X. The complex leader's black nationalist views and militant stances make Malcolm X a delicate subject for teachers.

One of the teen artists, 16-year-old Everett High School student Jasper Baldwin, said Malcolm X's flaws made him relatable, as opposed to King, who is often treated with saint-like reverence.

"He was just like any of us," Baldwin said. "But he managed to change the world."

The project looked at the entire life of Malcolm X, including his childhood in Lansing, attempting to give context to the

leader's controversial views.

"He was always portrayed as a violent activist, but he really wasn't," said LCC student Muhamed Musa. "He encouraged people to defend themselves, not to be the aggressor."

The project includes one element that represents the change in Malcolm X's life. His glasses, the students explained, feature one regular lens and one mirrored lens, representing two periods of his life. The mirrored lens also allows viewers to symbolically see themselves in Malcolm X.

The mosaic also features a smiling Malcolm X, a purposeful contrast to the militant image often seen in news clippings and history books. This was not lost on Deborah Jones, a niece of Malcolm X who traveled from Grand Rapids for the unveiling.

"When I saw this piece, it was truly emotional," she said. "I always remember uncle Malcolm smiling. It's heartwarming that these students learned so much about him and about each other. This is truly amazing."

Teen Open Studio participant Kinzer Kofoed, a 16-year old student at Okemos' Nexus Academy, was inspired by the way Malcolm X turned his life around.

"It started as a sad story of an oppressed young man," said Kinzer Kofoed. "It was a great learning experience, seeing how he changed throughout his life."

Ty Forquer/City Pulse
REACH Studio Art Center student Emily Tschirhart, 16 (right), discusses her contribution to the Malcolm X mosaic with LCC fine and performing arts coordinator Melissa Kaplan.





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Artistic ovation

Arts Council of Greater Lansing recognizes local artists, art supporters

By TY FORQUER

Last week, over 200 local artists, art supporters, business leaders and community members gathered at MSU's University Club to celebrate the local arts scene.

The Dec. 6 Holiday Glitter event, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing's annual fundraiser, included the group's Applause Awards, as well as a silent auction that featured pieces of art from City Pulse's first ever Summer of Art.

The 17 art pieces up for auction were featured on the cover of City Pulse throughout the summer and on several fall covers promoting the Art Council's monthly Arts Night Out event. The silent auction raised over \$2,200, with over \$660 going to the artists and the rest benefitting the Arts Council. Six pieces didn't sell at the auction, and Deborah Mikula, executive director of the Arts Council, is hoping to set up an online auction to sell the remaining pieces early next year.

The Arts Council's Applause Awards recognize the contributions of artists, arts organizations and art patrons in the region. This year's winners are the East Lansing Arts Commission, the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. artistic director Chad Badgero, the Allen Neighborhood Center, Keys to Creativity and artist/art educator Laura Weber-Gajewski. Julie Pingston, senior vice president and COO of the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, received the Ted Sondag Individual Leadership Award.

"We are so proud to honor these individuals and businesses who are making a difference in their communities through the arts," Mikula said. "Their dedication and

passion help put creativity at the forefront in strengthening and growing our cities and communities, and we are so fortunate to have them in our region."

The East Lansing Arts Commission, an advisory board to the City Council, was recognized for its contributions to public art in East Lansing, including the city's Percent for Art ordinance. The policy, which went into effect nearly two years ago, requires new developments to set aside 1 percent of their total budget to fund permanent public art projects.

"It's a tremendous honor," said Arts Commission chairwoman Sarah Triplett. "This shows the power of a group working with the government to accomplish goals."

Keys to Creativity, a relatively new nonprofit art space in the Lansing Mall, was recognized for its dedication to education and collaborative projects. Larry Grudt, executive director of the nonprofit, was surprised to learn that such a young project would be honored with an Applause Award.

"I was blown away," he said. "There are a lot of really solid groups in the area that have been doing great work for a long time."

Since launching in October 2015, the gallery has expanded from one storefront to two. Its Community Art Gallery offers a variety of local art for sale, as well as classroom space, while its Events Gallery hosts individual exhibitions, music events and community meetings. Keys to Creativity also curates a space in the Allen Neighborhood Center. Grudt is also thinking beyond the walls of the gallery, trying to find ways to engage artists in what he calls the "arts outer ring" in communities like Charlotte, Williamston and St. Johns. He's also looking at opportunities to partner with local theater groups and planning a summer-long, region-wide art project.

"It's not just art exhibitions," Grudt said. "We're inviting dance, music, theater — as much creative stuff as we can get into."



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Triplett, chairwoman of the East Lansing Arts Commission, accepts an Applause Award on behalf of the group at last week's Holiday Glitter event.

CURTAIN CALL

Murder by (musical) numbers

Dark comedy dominates in Wharton Center's latest show
By PAUL WOZNIAK

It's nothing personal, just business — family business, that is. For the high body count in the show, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder" is relatively tame. But if you like a little black humor with your musical, this show is a fun night out.

Written by Robert L. Freedman (book and lyrics) and Steven Lutvak (music and lyrics), "A Gentleman's Guide to Love &

Murder" is a gleefully naughty story with evocative but ultimately unmemorable songs. The show won four Tony Awards in 2014 including best musical, but it was fortunate to not compete with the likes of "Book of Mormon" or "Hamilton." That said, the cast is incredible, with voices to match. Add to that exquisite costumes and a striking set, and this show turns Edwardian murder into comic spectacle.

Set in 1909 London, a poor Monty Navarro (Kevin Massey) finds out that he is a distant heir of the wealthy D'Ysquith (pronounced "DIE-squith") family. Through family friend Miss Shingle (Jennifer Smith), Navarro learns that mother was disinherited from the D'Ysquith family for marrying a musician. In order to win the heart of his vain girlfriend Sibella

Hallward (Kristen Beth Williams), who swears the man she marries will have "wealth and property," Navarro must obtain earldom by eliminating the eight family members before him in the line of succession (all played by John Rapson).

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder"

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Thursday, Dec. 15; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17; 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18
Tickets start at \$41/\$28 students
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000,
whartoncenter.com

Staged like a play within a play, the show features Navarro narrating his unlikely journey from the bottom as he coordinates the "accidental" deaths of almost all of his relatives. But don't worry, they're all pompous twits anyway.

Like an Alfred Hitchcock film with music by Gilbert and Sullivan, "A Gentleman's

Guide to Love & Murder" is morbid but never gory. Rapson is the true star, switching genders and accents and costumes with every scene, somehow making all of his deaths seem justifiable. He's especially adept nailing double-entendre phrases like, "May I warm my hands in your muff?" But his best scenes are opposite Massey as Navarro leads each D'Ysquith family member to their unwitting demise.

Aided by an incredibly ornate set designed by Alexander Dodge, complete with red velvet curtains and digital projections designed by Aaron Rhyne that jump locales and continents, the show moves along briskly with minimal set changes.

The best songs, such as "I Don't Understand the Poor," lightly skewer the bubble of British aristocracy. But the real joy is watching Rapson strut around with a new voice and sneer before comically biting it — over and over again.



Photo by Joan Marcus

Monty Navarro (Kevin Massey, right) sets out to claim an earldom by killing off the D'Ysquith heirs (all played by John Rapson, left) in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," which opened at the Wharton Center Tuesday.



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Outside the lines

Local authors jump into adult coloring book craze

By BILL CASTANIER

“Stay within the lines” was a common admonition heard by young baby boomers as they worked on their coloring books. (Those stubby crayons were no help.)

Today, those same baby boomers, joined by millions of others, are driving an adult coloring craze. The trend took off in 2013 with the publication of “Secret Garden: an Inky Treasure Hunt and Colouring Book” by Scottish author Johanna Basford. The author has hit bestseller lists again this season with her new holiday coloring book “Johanna’s Christmas.”

While there are risqué coloring books on the market, the “adult” in “adult coloring books” usually refers more to the intended audience than to the books’ content. Local bookstores like Schuler Books & Music and Barnes & Noble carry racks of popular adult coloring books, with topics ranging from intricate mandalas to exotic travel sites. There are also a number of Donald Trump coloring books which, to no one’s surprise, trend toward the crude.

Locally, artist and caricaturist Dennis Preston has jumped into the market with two of his own adult coloring books, both released this year.

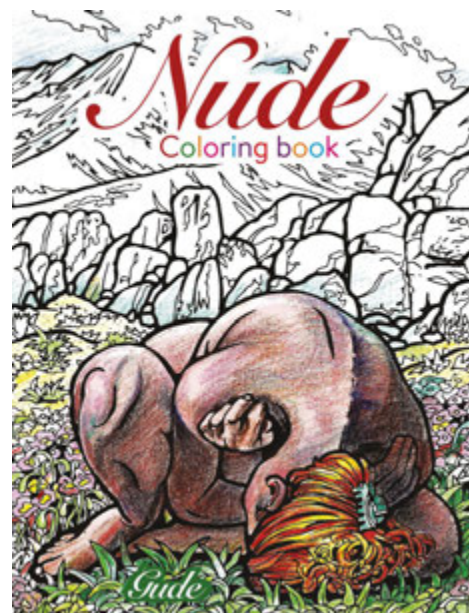
“Adults are like little kids in adult bodies,” Preston said. “They can put on the music they like and create their own books.”

Preston released his first book, “Creatures, Critters and Cuties,” at the urging of his spouse and a local promoter. It is filled with bizarre animals of Preston’s own imagination. His second book, “Preston Potpourri Volume One,” contains black and white versions of designs Preston made for local events, such as the downtown Lansing’s defunct Brown Bag Concert Series. Many of the designs draw on the psychedelic art of the ‘60s and ‘70s.

“You can take a trip on paper and you don’t get flashbacks,” he said.

Both books are available on Lulu.com and at the Old Town General Store. The coloring books are \$12 each and contain 39 works of art for coloring.

“For those who can’t draw, a coloring book gives them something to do that is



Courtesy Photo

“Nude Coloring Book,” by MSU Professor Karl Gude, is a collection of tasteful black and white nude figures. The book is marketed to adult coloring enthusiasts.

creative,” Preston said.

Adult coloring books are also marketed as stress reducers. Also helping to reduce that stress are the sophisticated — albeit more expensive — drawing instruments that have replaced clunky crayons. Preston said novice colorists often make the mistake of using the common hard lead colored pencils.

“It ends up tearing the page,” Preston said.

Preston recommends higher quality tools, including fine point markers and

pens made by Sharpie, Tombow or Prismacolor.

“Because they are soft, you can meld the colors together,” he said. “The coloring book lines are too fine to use traditional crayons.”

Preston is already planning his third coloring book, which will include even more of his older work, as well as simple drawing lessons and exercises. One thing Preston likes about coloring is that you get to pick your own colors, unlike the 1950s Paint by Numbers kits he grew up with.

“I used to buy Paint by Numbers, but I just used the oil colors,” Preston said. “I was painting werewolves.”

The trend also offers a fresh revenue stream for huge franchises like “Star Wars,” “Harry Potter” and “The Lord of the Rings,” which all have popular coloring books featuring the critters and characters of the books and movies.

“The nice thing about coloring books is you don’t have to be afraid you will ruin them,” Preston said. “Some customers buy one to look at and one to color.”

MSU Professor Karl Gude made his own foray into the world of adult coloring books last year with “Nude Coloring Book,” a collection of tasteful male and female nude figures posing against intricate backdrops. Gude, a former director of information graphics for Newsweek magazine, teaches courses in journalism and directs the Media Sandbox for MSU College of Communication Arts. His book comes in two sizes, the full size 8.5 by 11 inch version (\$9.95) and the more discreet “Pocket Nude” (\$8.95), which is just 5 by 8 inches.

“You can take it into Starbucks and color,” he said.

Gude also created hashtags for the art, so colorists can share their finished product on social media. He also believes that coloring is meditative and relieves stress.

“We live in a neurotic world, and coloring shuts the brain down and allows us to focus on something that is mindless,” Gude said. “It’s also just fun and brings back that kid feeling.”

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

North Pole Ninjas Story Time

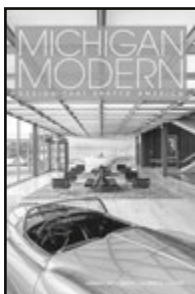
Sat., Dec. 17 @ 10:30 am
Meridian Mall location

Join us for a special story-time event on the third Saturday of every month! This month we’ll be reading The North Pole Ninjas and other fun holiday stories! Each child who comes will receive a special gift from the North Pole!

Book signing:

Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America

Sun., Dec. 18 from 2-4pm
Eastwood Towne Center location



This fantastic gift book is an impressive collection of important essays touching on all aspects of Michigan’s architecture and design heritage. Brian D. Conway, Michigan’s State

Historic Preservation Officer, and Amy L. Arnold, project manager for Michigan Modern, have curated nearly thirty essays and interviews from a number of prominent architects, academics, architectural historians, journalists, and designers, describing Michigan’s contributions to Modern design in architecture, automobiles, furniture and education.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, December 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic. Talk and demos on contemporary shamanism. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5-\$10 donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

MUSIC

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

EVENTS

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol130304VE.

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

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

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

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

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations

Holiday spectacle



Courtesy Photo

The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, an old time music-inspired performance art group, performs at the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies at the Grand Rapids Public Arts Museum in September. The group presents its annual holiday show this weekend.

December 16-18

Some holiday enthusiasts start unpacking the Christmas ornaments and breaking out their holiday records as soon as Thanksgiving's leftovers are in the fridge. The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, however, starting planning for the season when temperatures were still in the 80s.

"The holiday show is its own enterprise," said manager and performer Lindsay Gluf Magar. "We start working on it in September. It takes months to put together."

Founded in 2011 by Dylan Rogers, the musical group specializes in vaudeville-style performance with elements drawn from what Rogers describes as "fringe performance art." The group's shows feature everything from strong man acts to standup comedy to puppetry. This year is the group's fourth annual holiday show.

"The holiday show is a little different from what we do throughout the rest of the year," Rogers said. While the holiday show includes many of the band's usual antics — and a few familiar characters from past years — the group hopes to step up its game in a few key areas.

"We have a great puppeteer who has built and designed a large-scale puppet that's going to help us

narrate our show," said Rogers.

"Dylan wrote an original tune that will be debuting during this show," added Gluf Magar. "We're upping our sketch comedy game this time around. Dr. Dan will be returning with his crazy experiments that never quite go right."

And of course, there's holiday music. The group presents its own vaudevillian take on classic tunes, with swinging arrangements that draw influence from Americana, blues and gypsy jazz.

This year's concert also features a new element, which was constructed by Rogers and his wife, Jeana-Dee Allen. The duo put together a cantastoria, which is a storytelling tradition that features a singer narrating a story, accompanied by illustrations rolling by on a long banner wrapped around two crank shafts. The practice, which would typically take place on public streets, dates back centuries.

"It's a really fun micro-theatrical thing," Rogers said. "We like to incorporate elements of street performance in our shows."

Rogers and Allen are also owners and operators of the Robin Theatre, where the holiday show is being held. "It's exciting for us to have the

chance to perform at our home venue," said Rogers. "We really designed the theater from a performance art background. The beautiful theater curtain, the blacked out stage, the decorative elements — I think all of that makes a perfect environment for the show."

With months of preparations and the ideal venue, Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle is hoping to pack the theater all weekend. The Friday night show sold out two weeks ago, and the Saturday evening show is also sold out. A Sunday matinee was added to accommodate interest.

"We're excited that it's now part of people's holiday traditions," Gluf Magar said. "It's a charming, magical, hour-and-a-half journey with twists and turns, and we hope that we somehow add some joy to your holidays."

— ALLISON HAMMERLY

Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle's fourth annual Holiday Show

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16;
2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17; 2:30
p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18
\$12

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington
Ave., Lansing
517luvs.com

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICHTUPICA



FRI. DEC. 16TH

Wally Pleasant

WALLY PLEASANT AT THE LOFT

Friday, Dec. 16 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15/\$13 adv., 7 p.m.

East Lansing anti-folk songsmith Wally Pleasant became a fixture in the local music scene back in the '90s thanks to his sharp, humorous songbook. While adult life has slowed his output in recent years, Pleasant — now living in Charlotte with his family — has a new album in the works and still performs periodically. He takes the stage Friday for a rare show at the Loft. In his early days, Pleasant played weekly shows at Cuppa Java and was a fixture at Castellani's Market, Hobie's, WhereHouse Records and open-mic nights at the Riv. Since his debut some 25 years ago, Pleasant has penned a string of stripped-down underground classics like "Denny's at 4 a.m.," "Small Time Drug Dealer," "Stupid Day Job," "The Day Ted Nugent Killed All the Animals," and "Dead Rock 'n' Roll Stars," to name a few.

JACKPINE SNAG AT THE AVENUE CAFE

Friday, Dec. 16 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$5, 8 p.m.

The Avenue Café hosts a heavy bill Friday, featuring local bands DeverauX (melodic metal), the Jackpine Snag (heavy-blues power trio), Past Tense (thrash metal) and Tempest, a hard-rock quartet from Williamston. The Jackpine Snag, known for its noisy, blues-influenced sound, has been a fixture at rock clubs in Lansing and beyond since its formation in 2011. The band, which has released a string of 7-inch singles via the Silver Maple Kill Records imprint, comprises guitarist/vocalist Joe Hart, drummer Todd Karinen and bassist Jason Roedel. The trio's latest release, "The Fire Tower" EP, was released digitally in June 2014, and a limited edition vinyl version followed a few months later. To sample some of the Jackpine Snag's ear-splitting sounds, visit: thejackpinesnag.bandcamp.com.



FRI. DEC. 16TH

Jackpine Snag

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AT MAC'S BAR

Monday, Dec. 19 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10/\$8 adv., 5 p.m.

Rookie of the Year frontman Ryan Dunson performed a solo acoustic show over the summer at Mac's Bar; Monday he returns with the full band. Opening the all-ages show are Fireworks For Buddah, City Under Siege and Carolina Wray. Rookie of the Year, led by indie-pop songwriter Dunson, is on a Midwest/East Coast tour through December. The North Carolina-based outfit has seen many lineup changes since its formation in 2005, but Dunson has been a constant. Over the years, the emo-tinged outfit has released a string of albums via One Eleven Records, along with some self-released efforts. The hard work has led to some Billboard charts action and several tours, including spots on Van's Warped Tour.



MON. DEC. 19TH

Rookie of the Year

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

| | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. | Service Industry Night, 3 p.m. | All Star Open Mic, 8 p.m. | Past Tense, 8 p.m. | Holiday Tease a GoGo, 9 p.m. |
| Black Cat, 115 Albert Ave. | | | John Persico, 9 p.m. | |
| Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave | | | Lee Groove, 9 p.m. | |
| Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27 | | Lee Groove, 7 p.m. | | |
| Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St. | | | Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m. | Jammin' DJ, 8 p.m. |
| Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd. | DJ Trivia, 8 p.m. | | Homespun, 9 p.m. | Homespun, 9 p.m. |
| Colonial Bar, 3425 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd | | Open Mic, 9 p.m. | Karaoke, 9 p.m. | Karaoke, 9 p.m. |
| Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave. | | Karaoke, 9 p.m. | | |
| EagleMonk Brewery, 4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy | Craig Hendershott, 7 p.m. | | | |
| Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St. | | Steve Cowles, 6 p.m. | Darrin Larner, 6 p.m. | Karaoke, 10 p.m. |
| Esquire, 1250 Turner St. | Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m. | | DJ Fudgie, 9 p.m. | Karaoke, 10 p.m. |
| The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave. | Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m. | Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m. | Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m. | Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m. |
| Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St. | | Open Mic, 7 p.m. | | |
| Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave. | | | Karaoke, 7:30 p.m. | |
| Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave. | "Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m. | | | |
| Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave., | | Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m. | | |
| The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave. | | | Alistair, 5:30 p.m. | I Prevail, 6:30 p.m. |
| Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. | Secret Space/Heart Attack Man, 7 p.m. | Shapes & Colors/Stories Untold, 7 p.m. | Cheap Girls & Wally Pleasant, 7 p.m. | Flash Photography, 7 p.m. |
| Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. | Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m. | Jennifer Lewis & the Professionals, 9 p.m. | Speak Easy, 8 p.m. | Spoonful, 9 p.m. |
| Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road | | | Freddie Cunningham Blues Band, 9 p.m. | Alistair, 8 p.m. |
| Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27 | | | The New Rule, 8 p.m. | The New Rule, 8 p.m. |
| Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy. | | | Life Support, 8 p.m. | Rush Clement, 8 p.m. |
| Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St. | | | | |
| Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square | Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m. | | | |
| Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy. | | ONE - Only Tribute to Metallica, 8:15 p.m. | | LOCASH, 8:15 p.m. |
| Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave. | | Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m. | Live Music, 9 p.m. | Live Music, 9 p.m. |
| Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd. | Trevor Compton, 7 p.m. | | Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m. | Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m. |
| Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr. | Mike Skory Blues, 6 p.m. | Oxymorons, 8 p.m. | | |

Out on the town

from page 15

welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.
Arm Knitting. For ages 6 and up. 1-2 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6 build early literacy skills. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

Preschool Holiday Storytime. Preschoolers enjoy holiday stories and craft. 9:30-10 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Senior Discovery Group. Joan Nelson speaks on recent travels to Micronesia. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Toddler Holiday Storytime. Toddlers enjoy holiday stories and crafts. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder.

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

Thursday, December 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time: Earl the Squirrel.

Storytime and nature activities. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

MUSIC

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

EVENTS

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

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

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 15 >> LADYLIKE GALA AT PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE COMPANY

For its 2016-17 season, Peppermint Creek Theatre Company is highlighting the roles of women in society with a series of female-focused plays. It's annual holiday gala further explores these themes through discussion and performance. The evening features musical performances by local female singers, as well as visits from special guests like WLNS broadcaster Jane Aldrich and Suban Nur Cooley of Capital Gains Media. Proceeds from the gala help fund the company's season. 7-9 p.m. \$30. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

CADL Senior Reminiscing Series. Join us for fun and nostalgia. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Williamston Senior Center, 201 School St., Williamston.

Coloring for Adults. Supplies and hot beverages provided. Call to register. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

Decorate a Gingerbread House. Ages 8-12 make mini gingerbread house. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

Drop-in LEGO Club. Ages 4 and up use imagination skills. 3:15-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

Drum Circle. Meditative drumming session. 7-9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lightiam.org.

Family 3D Print It. Use simple software to design personalized gift. Call to register. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

(517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Film Movement Series. Short Film Festival featuring award-winning, foreign or independent film. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Holiday Gift Wrapping Party. Wrap your gifts with some supplies provided. 5:30-7:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156, ow.ly/bsO4306Vdly.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiessilverblades.com.

Mason Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

Rock Your Mocs | 21st Century Michigan Through Native Eyes. Panel discussion on native governance, traditions, environmental sustainability and more. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852, ow.ly/5D7B305wEyF.

Winter Wonderland Storytime. Holiday music, stories, and hot cocoa. Call to register. 5-6 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 18

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Out on the town

from page 17

FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder.

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

Friday, December 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Mud & Mug. Pottery course. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

MUSIC

LCC Rock Band. Directed by Chris Rollins. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave.

Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Sistrum Bright and Gay Cabaret. Concert by women's choir. 7 p.m. \$15. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. sistrum.org.

Mason Orchestral Society Holiday Concert. Featuring 'Carol of the Bells,' 'White Christmas' and others. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road East Lansing. (517) 351-7215, masonorchestras.org.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints. Musical/spoken word showcase 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. madmimi.com/s/05f514.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder.

Broadway musical comedy about an heir to a family

fortune. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Happendance & MSU Orchestral Society. Holiday Dance Celebration. 8-10 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

Subtext. 1st Semester Theatre Studio Play. 8 p.m. FREE. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

EVENTS

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

Back to the Moon for Good. Show on space exploration. 8-9 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755

See Out on the Town, Page 19

SATURDAY, DEC. 17 >> COCOA AND CLASSICS AT THE BROAD ART MUSEUM

The Broad Art Museum invites students and families to get cozy in its education wing with some hot cocoa and holiday tunes. Local singers Twyla Birdsong, Benjamin Hall and Julianna Wilson and keyboardist Corey Kendrick perform seasonal tunes, and visitors can work on winter-inspired art activities. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

DEC. 16-17 SISTRUM'S BRIGHT AND GAY CABARET

Lansing women's chorus Sistrum presents its annual cabaret-style holiday concert, this year under the guidance of its new artistic director, DeWitt Public Schools choral conductor Meghan Eldred. The concert features music celebrating several religious traditions, including new and classic tunes, as well as works inspired by the poetry of Robert Frost and Sara Teasdale. Audience members are invited to join on several numbers, and American Sign Language interpretation is provided for both concerts. \$15 /\$100 for table of eight. 7 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m. Saturday. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. sistrum.org.

DEC. 16-18 >> HOLIDAY DANCE CELEBRATION AT RIVERWALK THEATRE

Holiday music comes alive at Riverwalk Theatre this weekend as two local dance groups team up for a special holiday show. Happendance, one of the longest running modern dance companies in Michigan, and MSU Orchestral Society, a student dance organization, come together to perform a seasonal concert on Riverwalk's intimate stage. Dancers are set to perform several short pieces, ranging from classical ballet to contemporary dance and hip hop. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$10 seniors, students and military. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Make It Work"—a freestyle puzzle full of style.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Divisions of "The Hunger Games" series
- 10 One-named R&B singer with the hit "1, 2 Step"
- 15 Unaware
- 16 Historic account
- 17 1990 Warrant hit that was overplayed on MTV, but banned by Canada's Much-Music
- 18 Urban Dictionary fodder
- 19 Need to unwind
- 20 So last week
- 21 Strong quality
- 22 Home to part of Lake Tahoe, for short
- 23 Essence from rose petals
- 24 "Guarding ____" (1994 Nicolas Cage movie)
- 26 Nearby
- 28 Put the ____ on (squelch)
- 31 Bezos or Buffett, e.g.
- 32 Enjoy Mt. Hood, say
- 33 Eerie sign
- 34 Phone setting
- 36 Accessories often gifted in June
- 37 Bait shop purchase
- 38 1958-61 polit. alliance
- 39 "Nature ____ a vacuum"
- 41 Put under a spell
- 44 "Star Trek: TNG" counselor Deanna
- 45 South African playwright Fugard
- 46 Potential Snapchat debut of 2017
- 48 Track on a compilation album, maybe
- 52 "____ More" (Backstreet Boys song)
- 53 Broadcast
- 55 Chronicler of Don Juan
- 56 Exploiting, in England
- 57 Orange Free State colonizers
- 58 Cheaper
- 59 Chimichanga ingredient
- 60 Protectors of the orbs?
- 61 Fermentation tanks
- 62 Like some cranes
- 63 Bumps an R down to a PG-13, perhaps
- 64 Peaceful poem
- 65 Barnyard fowls
- 66 Troika
- 67 More questionable, maybe
- 68 1980s defense secretary Weinberger
- 69 Tardy
- 70 Phish lead vocalist Trey
- 71 Rifle-man?
- 72 Suspected Soviet spy of the McCarthy era
- 73 Title sheep in a wordless Aardman movie
- 74 Fenway star Garcia
- 75 Bulgogi or galbi, e.g.
- 76 "Can't fool me!"
- 77 Source for wood used in Budweiser

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| 69 | | | | | | 70 | | | | | 71 | |

Out on the town

from page 18

Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672. ow.ly/SOuP304fb2G.

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk. Dogs on non-retractable leashes welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

Jingle Bell Storytime. Merry tales and sing-a-long songs for ages 2-6. Call to register. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

Minecraft Game Night Using a Library Computer. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

Saturday, December 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

C Division Advanced Speakers Toastmasters. Theme of "Reflection." 9:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Dart Bank, 1020 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 896-4091, 5799.toastmastersclubs.org.

French Club for Kids. Activity group for ages 6-12 encouraging French language use. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com.

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

MUSIC

Sistrum Bright and Gay Cabaret. Concert by women's choir. 3 p.m. \$15. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. sistrum.org.

Breath of Heaven. Choir and string quartet, with dessert reception. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. okemoscommunitychurch.org.

Grand Ledge Holiday Wishes. Christmas music and holiday cheer for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. 7 p.m. \$8/\$10 at door. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge.

MSUFCU Showcase Series: A Jazzy Little Christmas. With the MSU Professors of Jazz. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students and kids. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder. Broadway musical comedy about an heir to a family fortune. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Freakshow Film Festival. Screening of "Silent

Night, Deadly Night." 9 p.m. FREE. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte. facebook.com/FreakshowFilmFest.

Subtext. 1st Semester Theatre Studio Play. 8 p.m. FREE. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

EVENTS

Drop-in Wycinanki Craft. Make a wintry paper cutting craft while supplies last. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

Drop-in Ornament Making. All ages can make holiday ornament with provided supplies. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Family Tree Talk. Bring family photos and flash drive to search ancestry.com Library Edition. 2-5 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Free Milk & Cookies for Pets. Dog- and human-friendly treats. 11-3 a.m. FREE. All Soldan's locations, see web for addresses. soldanpet.com.


Free Public Tours. Meet at Visitor Services just before tour. 1 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

Holiday Storytime. Stories, activities and refreshments for ages 3 and up. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

ICACS Holiday All Nighter. Animal shelter offers reduced adoption rates. 11 a.m.-4 a.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.


See Out on the Town, Page 20

CRIMINAL DEFENSE



Drunk Driving
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Drugs
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Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

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Ingham County Treasurer

P.O. Box 215 Mason MI 48854

517-676-7220

eschertzing@ingham.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 17 >> A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS WITH MSU PROFESSORS OF JAZZ

MSU's jazz faculty supergroup presents an evening of swingin' seasonal hits Saturday. "My colleagues and I really enjoy getting to play our holiday favorites to finish off the semester and ring in the holiday season," said Rodney Whitaker, artistic director for the group and director of jazz studies at the College of Music. In addition to Whitaker on bass, the group features trumpeter Etienne Charles, drummer Randy Gelispie, tenor saxophonist Diego Rivera, pianist Xavier Davis, guitarist Randy Napoleon and trombonist Michael Dease. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353- 5340, music.msu.edu.

Out on the town

from page 19

Tease A Gogo Christmas Circus. Burlesque variety show. 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. \$10 in advance/\$12 at door. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

Sunday, December 18 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Kendo Martial Art Class. Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

EVENTS

Holiday Peace Party and Pop-Up Market. Live music and local goods sold for local causes. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/Q1Mf30738y0.

Free Public Tours. Meet at Visitor Services just before tour. 1 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

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

One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure. Big Bird and Elmo take imaginary trip to the

moon. 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672, ow.ly/2VGI304fahD.

ARTS

LCC Dance Open House. LCC's jazz, tap, ballet, and modern dance classes. 4 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

MUSIC

Grand Ledge Holiday Wishes. Christmas music and holiday cheer for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. 2 p.m. \$8/\$10 at door. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge.

THEATER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder.

Broadway musical comedy about an heir to a family fortune. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$41. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Monday, December 19 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Figure Drawing. No drawing experience needed. 6 to 9 p.m. \$15 or less if more people turn out. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lightiam.org.

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

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

See Out on the Town, Page 21

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Dec. 14-20

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how," said dancer Agnes De Mille. "We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark." As true as her words might be for most of us much of the time, I suspect they don't apply to you right now. This is one of those rare moments when feeling total certainty is justified. Your vision is extra clear and farseeing. Your good humor and expansive spirit will ensure that you stay humble. As you take leap after leap, you'll be surrounded by light.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "We are torn between nostalgia for the familiar and an urge for the foreign and strange," wrote author Carson McCullers. Are you ready to give that adage a twist, Taurus? In the coming weeks, I think you should search for foreign and strange qualities in your familiar world. Such a quest may initially feel odd, but will ultimately be healthy and interesting. It will also be good preparation for the next chapter of your life, when you will saunter out into unknown territory and find ways to feel at home there.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "If you don't use your own imagination, somebody else is going to use it for you," said writer Ronald Sukenick. That's always true, but it will be especially important for you to keep in mind in 2017. You Geminis will have an unparalleled power to enlarge, refine, and tap into your imagination. You'll be blessed with the motivation and ingenuity to make it work for you in new ways, which could enable you to accomplish marvelous feats of creativity and self-transformation. Now here's a warning: If you DON'T use your willower to take advantage of these potentials, your imagination will be subject to atrophy and colonization.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Why are Australian sand wasps so skilled at finding their way back home after being out all day? Here's their trick: When they first leave the nest each morning, they fly backwards, imprinting on their memory banks the sights they will look for when they return later. Furthermore, their exiting flight path is a slow and systematic zigzag pattern that orients them from multiple directions. I recommend that you draw inspiration from the sand wasps in 2017, Cancerian. One of your important tasks will be to keep finding your way back to your spiritual home, over and over again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Vault 21, a restaurant in Dunedin, New Zealand, serves sautéed locusts. For \$5, patrons receive a plate of five. The menu refers to the dish not as "Oily Sizzling Grasshoppers," but rather as "Sky Prawns." Satisfied customers know exactly what they're eating, and some say the taste does indeed resemble prawns. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because it illustrates a talent you will have in abundance during 2017: re-branding. You'll know how to maximize the attractiveness and desirability of things by presenting them in the best possible light.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The literal translation of the German word Kammerspeck is "grief bacon." It refers to the weight gained by people who, while wallowing in self-pity, eat an excess of comfort food. I know more than a few Virgos who have been flirting with this development lately, although the trigger seems to be self-doubt as much as self-pity. In any case, here's the good news: The trend is about to flip. A flow of agreeable adventures is due to begin soon. You'll be prodded by fun challenges and provocative stimuli that will boost your confidence and discourage Kammerspeck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Since you are like no other being ever created since the beginning of time, you are incomparable," wrote journalist Brenda Ueland. Pause for a moment and fully take in that fact, Libra. It's breathtaking and daunting. What a huge responsibility it is to be absolutely unique. In fact, it's so monumental that you may still be shy about living up to it. But how about if you make 2017 the year you finally come into your own as the awesomely unprecedented creature

that you are? I dare you to more fully acknowledge and express your singular destiny. Start today!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "To dream . . . to dream has been the business of my life," wrote author Edgar Allan Poe. I don't expect you to match his devotion to dreams in 2017, Scorpio, but I do hope you will become more deeply engaged with your waking fantasies and the stories that unfold as you lie sleeping. Why? Because your usual approaches to gathering useful information won't be sufficient. To be successful, both in the spiritual and worldly senses, you'll need extra access to perspectives that come from beyond your rational mind. Here's a good motto for you in 2017: "I am a lavish and practical dreamer."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Physicist Stephen Hawking is skeptical of the hypothesis that humans may someday be able to travel through time. To jokingly dramatize his belief, he threw a party for time travelers from the future. Sadly, not a single chrononaut showed up to enjoy the champagne and hors d'oeuvres Hawking had prepared. Despite this discouraging evidence, I guarantee that you will have the potential to meet with Future Versions of You on a regular basis during the next nine months. These encounters are likely to be metaphorical or dreamlike rather than literal, but they will provide valuable information as you make decisions that affect your destiny for years to come. The first of these heart-to-hearts should come very soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During these last few weeks, you may have sometimes felt like smashing holes in the wall with your head, or dragging precious keepsakes into the middle of the street and setting them on fire, or delivering boxes full of garbage to people who don't appreciate you as much as they should. I hope you abstained from doing things like that. Now here are some prescriptions to help you graduate from unproductive impulses: Make or find a symbol of one of your mental blocks, and bash it to pieces with a hammer; clean and polish precious keepsakes, and perform rituals to reinvigorate your love for them; take as many trips to the dump as necessary to remove the congestion, dross, and rot from your environment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Singer-songwriter Tom Waits has a distinctive voice. One fan described it this way: "Like how you'd sound if you drank a quart of bourbon, smoked a pack of cigarettes and swallowed a pack of razor blades. Late at night. After not sleeping for three days." Luckily, Waits doesn't have to actually do any of those self-destructive things to achieve his unique tone. In fact, he's wealthy from selling his music, and has three kids with a woman to whom he's been married for 36 years. I foresee a similar potential for you in the coming weeks and months. You may be able to capitalize on your harmless weirdness . . . to earn rewards by expressing your charming eccentricities . . . to be both strange and popular.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Was punk rock born on June 4, 1976? A fledgling band known as the Sex Pistols played that night for a crowd of 40 people at a small venue in Manchester, England. Among the audience members was Morrissey, who got so inspired that he started his own band, The Smiths. Also in attendance was a rowdy guy who would soon launch the band Joy Division, despite the fact that he had never played an instrument. The men who would later form the Buzzcocks also saw the performance by Johnny Rotten and his crew. According to music critic David Nolan, these future pioneers came away from the June 4 show with the conclusion, "You don't have to be a virtuoso or a musical genius to be in a band; anyone can do it." I see parallels between this seminal event and your life in the coming weeks.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny'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.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17 >> MILK AND COOKIES FOR PETS AT SOLDAN'S PET SUPPLIES

Santa doesn't get to hog all the milk and cookies this year. Dogs and their owners can drop by any Soldan's Pet Supplies locations Saturday for some free treats. Locally-baked snacks from Riker's Dog Treats and Answers goat milk are on the menu for dogs, while humans can enjoy eggnog and cookies. Non-canine pets are welcome to enjoy Riker's cookie crumble topping. Holiday attire is encouraged but not required; limit of one serving per pet. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All Soldan's locations, see web for addresses. soldanpet.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17 >> TEASE A GOGO CHRISTMAS CIRCUS

If you think being on Santa's nice list is overrated, burlesque variety show Tease A Gogo offers a naughty evening of burlesque, drag, circus-style sideshows and more. Hosted by Naughty Autie, the evening features performers like Vivacious Miss Audacious, Kitty Hawk, Ed Venture and more. Holiday and/or circus attire is encouraged, and attendees can immortalize their festive getups in a free photo booth provided by Kendall D. Lartigue Photography. 9 p.m. \$12/\$10 adv. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17 >> ICACS HOLIDAY ALL-NIGHTER

The holidays are a time for hope and goodwill, and this extends to our animal companions as well. To help every animal in its shelter find a home for the season, the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter is pulling an all-nighter, extending its hours in hopes of luring potential pet owners. Reduced adoption rates are available during the event. To see some of the animals currently available at the shelter, see the Pet Page ad on page 2 of this issue. 11 a.m. Saturday-4 a.m. Sunday. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.

Out on the town

from page 20

EVENTS

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

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

Write for Rights Annual Peace Community Gathering. Signing letters in support of prisoners of conscience. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 336-5921.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. Open forum discussing how to handle Trump presidency. 5 p.m. \$1.75 plus food bill. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 914-2278, atheists.meetup.com/453.

Cards Against Humanity Tournament. Earn discounts for winning black cards. 7-10 p.m. FREE. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, ow.ly/10wp30116Sf.

Christmas Jingo. Drop in to play Jingo and celebrate the holidays with Miss Joye. 3:15-4:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

Mad Science Mondays. Ages 5 and up enjoy science-based activities. 3-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

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

Tuesday, December 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, 639.toastmastersclubs.org.

Course in Miracles. Very relaxed, kind and happy group. 7 p.m. FREE. Call for location, (517) 482-1908.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road,

East Lansing.

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

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

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

Simple Stress Relief Clinic. Q&A on handling emotions using flower essences. 6:30-8 p.m. \$5-\$10 donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

MUSIC

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

EVENTS

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

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

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

Minecraft Game Night. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 6-7:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

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

Winter Break Cinema. The Secret Life of Pets (PG). 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

Wednesday, December 21

EVENTS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3

members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6 enjoy stories, songs and activities. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

Jenga Tournament. Ages 8 and up win small prizes. Call to register. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

Minecraft Game Night. Ages 8-15 game together. Call to register. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

Rock 'n Read Storytime. Ages 3-6 enjoy books, music and movement. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Senior Discovery Group Meeting. Talk on CEI Community Mental Health services and senior mental health. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Winter Family Storytime. Seasonal stories and a handcrafted gift to wrap up for mom. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

Allen Market Place — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol130304VE.

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

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

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

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

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

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

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

Bon appétit!

TOP 4 PIZZA

- #1 DELUCA'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA**
Family-owned Italian restaurant famous for its pizza
2006 W. Willow St., Lansing
(517) 487-6087
delucaspizza.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; closed Sunday
- #2 COSMOS**
Old Town pizzeria known for its adventurous pizzas and duck fat fries
611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 897-3563
thecosmoslansing.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 PIZZA HOUSE
Restaurant specializing in deep dish pizzas, with other Italian fare as well
4790 S Hagadorn Road, Suites 114-116, East Lansing
(517) 336-0033
pizzahouse.com
10:30 a.m.-4 a.m. daily

#4 CUGINOS
Grand Ledge eatery known for its classic Italian cuisine and generous portions
306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
(517) 627-4048
cuginosmenu.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday



SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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RUCKUS RAMEN / LOTSA PIZZA / FAMOUS DAVE'S / CRAFTY PALATE

Alan I. Ross/City Pulse

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

By ALLAN I. ROSS

The **Avenue Café** is swapping American fast food for Japanese fast food. In mid-January, local DJ/aspiring restaurateur Steve "DJ Ruckus" Swart will transform his recent pop-up restaurant experiment, Ruckus Ramen, into a full-time gig, operating out of the Avenue's kitchen.

"This is something I've wanted to do for years," Swart said. "One of the great things about living in Lansing is the willingness of (business owners) to collaborate and take chances with new ideas. You don't see that in bigger cities."

Swart is planning a Tuesday through Saturday dinner hour schedule for **Ruckus Ramen** when it opens next month at the Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing's Eastside Neighborhood. He hosted two sold-out ramen dinner pop-ups there — one in November and another last week — giving him confidence that Lansing will be receptive to the cuisine. Swart worked with local chefs to hone the menu, which offers traditional Japanese soup dishes, salads and dumplings, all sourced with

local ingredients and tweaked to appeal to American palates. Ruckus Ramen will be the second ramen restaurant in Metro Lansing, following the opening of **Sapporo Ramen and Noodle Bar** in East Lansing earlier this year.

"We're doing things a little different from (Sapporo)," Swart said. "I think they're more traditional, and we're a little more experimental with what we're doing. But there's plenty of room for good ramen in Lansing."

Last year, Avenue Café owner Colleen Kelly made the novel decision to turn her kitchen into a business incubator. Rather than have her own kitchen manager, she decided to contract local entrepreneurs to use her facility, giving them a chance to experiment with their own menus and build a following. For Kelly, it was a win-win.

"I was never able to get my kitchen where I wanted it to be for my customers, and (turning it into an incubator) solved that problem," Kelly said. "It also created an opportunity for someone creative to try something that they might not otherwise have the resources for. I liked the flexibility

it offered."

Her first taker was Rick Sauer, who launched his gourmet burgers-and-poutine concept, **Nomad Kitchen**, out of the Avenue in September 2015. What started as a six-month lease was extended through January 2017, but last month Sauer was offered an assistant general manager position at the Creole in Old Town. Both Sauer and Kelly said the departure was amicable, although it does leave the Avenue without food service for about a month. Still, Kelly was in high spirits earlier this week.

"Steve is going to be a great addition to the east side," she said. "His pop-ups were very popular, and he brings a great energy with him. And I'm really looking forward to eating ramen every day."

Fired up

Lotsa Stone Fired Pizza, a new fast-casual pizza chain, will take over the former home of American Apparel in East Lansing early next year. Construction crews are currently renovating the space at 115 E. Grand River Ave. to transform the former retail store into Lotsa's sixth national location.

"It's an assembly-line style restaurant, like Chipotle or Subway," said spokeswoman Jenna Martino. "We pride ourselves on being fast and using the freshest ingredients. And the stone-firing gives the pizza crust a great combination of chewy and crunchy."

Although the other locations offer beer and wine, the East Lansing restaurant will not have a liquor license. The first Lotsa opened in West Virginia in October 2015, with additional restaurants opening in college towns in Maryland, Wisconsin and Indiana since then.

"Fast-casual and pizza both do well near college campuses, so it's a good fit," Martino said. "We're really looking forward to being in East Lansing."

Famous no more

After a three-year run, the **Famous Dave's** barbecue restaurant in Holt abruptly closed on Monday due to "low sales volume." Operating partner Jerrid Heidel said staff was notified on Sunday night.

"We were trying to stay open until after (the holidays), but a business transaction forced our hand," Heidel said. "It's been rough. We've been losing \$5,000 a week. We're selling well below what the minimum projection was for this location."

Famous Dave's is the latest high-profile

Metro Lansing restaurant to be shuttered within the last month, following the unexpected closures of Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza and Max & Erma's in the Eastwood Towne Center and the Beer Grotto in downtown Lansing. Heidel said despite the location's loss, which he puts at over \$200,000 this year alone, he and his partners would still be interested in opening another Metro Lansing store.

"We really like this area and the community, but we just need a higher volume location," Heidel said. "The flow of traffic and the economics on this side of town just didn't work. We make everything from scratch, and that equates to (a lot of waste) if you have soft lunches and abbreviated dinners, which is what was happening. After a while, it just became painful."

Crafty exit

Last week, **Crafty Palate**, 333 S. Washington Square in downtown Lansing, announced it will permanently close on Dec. 21. The news came via the business' Facebook page.

"It is with a heavy heart that we announce the closing of Crafty Palate Restaurant & Deli," the statement read. "It was our extreme pleasure to have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and holidays with so many. We are very thankful for our family, friends and regular guests and sincerely hope to see everybody one last time to express our gratitude for your support and to spread some holiday cheer before we go."

Husband-and-wife team Tim and Peggy Pinter opened Crafty Palate in May 2015. Manager Colleen Dick said that although the restaurant had many loyal customers, it struggled to connect with the downtown dining crowd.

"There just isn't enough traffic coming in the door," Dick said. "We had a lot of parties and group events, but the day-to-day business wasn't enough."

Dick said the outpour of support from the restaurant's regulars has been "overwhelming," and while there won't be any official farewell party, the restaurant is booked through its closing day with holiday parties.

"We'll be partying every night," Dick said. "I don't know if (the owners) plan to open another restaurant anytime soon, but you never know. There's always a chance for a Christmas miracle."

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Savannah Beach — Crafty Palate

“Oh yeah, Crafty Palate, we should go there sometime” is something I’ve said to my wife at least a dozen times as we were drove through downtown, usually on our way to a different bar or restaurant.

But we never made it there, and apparently we weren’t the only ones. The downtown Lansing eatery, which opened in March 2015, is closing its doors Wednesday. (See New In Town, p. 22, for details.)



So this week, I decided to stop in for a hello/goodbye drink. As I scanned the cocktail menu, in desperate need of a pick-me-up to get me out of the polar vortex blues, I quickly locked in on the Savannah Beach.

Crafty Palate
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday
333 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 657-2303, thecraftypalate.com

This decidedly un-wintery cocktail features Bacardi rum mixed with lime, cherry and pineapple juices and ginger ale. As the bracing wind blew snow across downtown sidewalks just a few feet away, I sat at the bar, sipping my tropical drink and, for a brief moment, pondered living somewhere where the weather isn’t actively trying to kill me.

It was a brief escape, but Michigan winters are long and mean. I’ll take what I can get.

— TY FORQUER

What’s your favorite dish/drink?

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



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zaytoonholt.com

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5920 S. Cedar St., Lansing
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(517) 580-6702
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