

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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November 16-22, 2016

Music
inside
him,
music
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The ins and outs
of jazz master
Rodney Whitaker
page 9



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Correction

Because of an editing error, last week's story the Lansing mayor's race wrongly reported on mayors who have served longer than 12 years. Besides Ralph Crego, it should have said that Gerald Graves served 12 years and eight months.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, **December 6, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held for Ordinance 1387, an ordinance to rezone the property more commonly known as Four Winds Golf Course. It proposes to rezone the northern 26.27 acres from RM8, Planned Unit Development District to B2, Retail Sales Business District and the southern 38.21 acres from RM8, Planned Unit Development District to B4, Restricted Office Business District. (This B4 area is proposed for a permanent Conservation Easement).

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from TJ Design Strategies, Ltd., for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 5800 Park Lake Road and Haslet Road Vacant (33-20-02-09-151-003) to construct a 157,000 sq. ft. Costco retail warehouse with a free standing fueling facility, attached tire center, and three (3) outlots for future users to be determined. The properties are proposed to be rezoned from RM8, Planned Unit Development District to B4, Restricted Office Business District. (This B4 area is proposed for a permanent Conservation Easement).

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-265

**City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing**

**Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District
204 East Grand River Avenue**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on November 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 204 East Grand River Ave, Lansing, Michigan, legally described as follows:

COM 44.44 FT W OF NE COR LOT 2, TH W 20 FT, S 80 FT, E 20 FT, N 80 FT TO BEG; SUB OF BLOCK 12, 33-01-01-09-402-081.

Creation of this District will enable the owner or potentially the developer of property within the District to apply for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate which would result in the abatement of certain property taxes. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), 1000 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

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CP#16-261

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-7-2016, 3600/3626 Dunckel Road & Vacant Parcel North of 4600 Collins Road
Rezoning - "DM-2" Residential & "F" Commercial Districts to "E-1" Apartment Shop District**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider Z-7-2016. This is a request by Gateway, LLC to rezone the property at 3600/3626 Dunckel Road & vacant parcel north of 4600 Collins Road from "DM-2" Residential & "F" Commercial Districts to "E-1" Apartment Shop District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit a mixed use development on the subject property consisting of residential apartments, a hotel and various retail and office uses.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
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Monte Pride draws on his musical elders



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MSU student turns hobby into fashion business



**COVER
ART**

by VINCE JOY

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6704
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com**

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

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirten
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Ty Forquer
ty@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Allison Hammerly
adcop@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com

Todd Heywood
todd@lansingcitypulse.com

**ADVERTISING Mandy Jackson, Liza Sayre,
Suzi Smith**

mandy@lansingcitypulse.com
liza@lansingcitypulse.com
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

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

Delivery drivers: Frank Estrada, Dave Fisher, Paul Shore, Richard Simpson, Thomas Scott Jr.

Intern: Tejas Soni

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

A widening divide

Trump win unsettles those outside region's mainstream

As the map on the television screens in his apartment changed colors Tuesday night, Ben Schroff and his friends saw the hope of a Hillary Clinton presidency slip away and the terror of a Donald Trump presidency arise.

"It was a dramatic shift in the mood in the room," the 21-year-old MSU student leader said — a palpable dread set in. The dread, he said, was informed by the unprecedented campaign rhetoric of Trump — mocking the disabled, calling for registering Muslims, assuring the right he would appoint justices to overturn marriage equality, promising to deport over 11 million undocumented people from the country and build a wall, attacking the media.

That dread seemed a precursor to local incidents. Lansing Police are investigating two incidents of vandalism on Michigan Avenue. On Wednesday, a building at the corner of Lathrop and Michigan, which was displaying Trump for President signs, was spray-painted with "Fuck Trump" and a window was broken. The other incident involved spray painting City Pulse Thursday or Friday overnight. A vandal spray painted "Fuck U" on City Pulse itself and what appears to be a swastika on property next door associated with the newspaper.

Schroff and his peers organized a rally and march Thursday to respond to the election of Donald Trump.

Friday also brought a rumor that neo-Nazis would demonstrate outside the Islamic Center of Greater Lansing in East Lansing, its outreach coordinator, Thasin Sardar, said. When he arrived, there were people with signs in front of the center.

"I was disturbed they showed up with signs," he said. "But then I saw they were there to support us. It was heartwarming."

But the presidential campaign rhetoric about and against Muslims has not been easy, said other members of the group.

Farha Abbasi is a psychiatrist originally from Pakistan who teaches at MSU. Her research specialty is mental health issues in the Muslim community. A naturalized citizen, she called the election result



Abbasi



Courtesy Photo

Friends show their support at the Islamic Center of Greater Lansing in East Lansing on Friday after a rumor spread that neo-Nazis planned to demonstrate there in the wake of Donald Trump's election.

"disheartening."

However, she saw the impact of the election even before the ballots had been counted.

"In the weeks before the election I had graduate students who were paranoid to the point of disconnection," she said. One student had to be hospitalized, while another was stabilized without hospitalization she said.

She cited an incident in Ann Arbor this weekend, where a female Muslim student had her hijab torn from her head.

Still, she remains positive.

"I have hope that we can come together," she said. "I believe in out of many, one. We need to find the spirit of America again."

Jaime Esquivel, 50, came to this country from Mexico as a legal worker in 1990.

His visa and work permit expired and he didn't renew them, but he continued to work in the U.S., eventually moving to Lansing to be near family. In 2009, he got lost in Detroit and ended up at the Canadian border. He was arrested. While he was originally ordered deported, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that order. He is still awaiting a final determination by immigration officials.

"They are watching me very closely, just waiting for me to do something wrong," he said. "Then they can deport me."

He fears for his family should immigration officials deport him. He has twin 12-year-old daughters and an 18-year-old son attending LCC. "I am the bread winner for the house. If I am deported, we will lose everything," he said.

Esquivel, a construction worker, asked his children if they would want to go with him to Mexico, and they declined. "It's not safe for them. Plus they don't know the language or the culture. This is their country."

He's zen about his future. "I have to just wait and see."

Concern for the safety of family was a common refrain in interviews this weekend. Abbasi, the psychiatrist, said she worries for her own daughters, who were part of the reason she escaped Pakistan in the first place.

"I fear things will be worse here, now," she said.

Those who supported Trump are also feeling the backlash. Joanna Dresden, 33, lives in Brighton and is a graduate of MSU. She voted for Trump and was horrified when, days after the election a gay friend of 13 years announced he would no longer be friends with anyone who voted for Trump.

She said the dissolution of her friendship "hurt," but she noted she understood the fears.

"But those fears go both ways," she said.

There have also been incidents in the local schools. In DeWitt, middle school students chanted "build a wall." In Charlotte, school leaders are responding to "inappropriate comments" but aren't releasing much detail. In Eaton Rapids elementary age students posted "I don't like

See Divide, Page 6



Property: 1113 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Owner: Saboury Old Town LTD

If a single building is removed from a cohesive streetscape, the result can be surprisingly severe. The effect is multiplied when several structures are demolished, as seen at this building at 1113 North Washington.

Apart from this short section of the street, this block is home to numerous tidy buildings within a successful commercial district. While this building exhibits some maintenance concerns, the state of the block is equally troubling. This building is isolated and abandoned by its immediate neighbors. An adjacent building would be the best way to hold the front property line and return some continuity. In the interim, that line could also be held by a transect-appropriate fence, an urban garden or pocket park.

Mayor Virg Bernero announced in August 2013 that the building would be renovated as part of a \$3 million mixed use development. Efforts to reach the owner for comment were unsuccessful.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Color me perplexed

Mayor's race grows nasty quickly

When I wrote the headline for last week's cover, which said: "You thought Clinton-Trump was nasty: The 2017 Lansing mayor's race is coming," I didn't think it would be that day.

But within hours, one candidate started to define herself in reaction to a drawing of her on the cover. The race is underway.



The cover showed two pretenders to the throne, City Council President Judi Brown Clarke and state Rep. Andy Schor, peering through the window at the incumbent, Virg Bernero.

BERL SCHWARTZ

Brown Clarke and her husband, District Judge Hugh Clarke, took offense. The judge called me to say his "heart sank" when he saw how dark his wife's skin color was portrayed. I started to explain how I thought the whole paper had printed dark. He cut me off. "Don't tell me it's the ink," he said angrily. "You made her look like a Sambo."

I was stunned at being accused of employing a racial stereotype — so stunned that I forgot the obvious reply: Why don't you tell that to the artist, who is an African American?



You can look at the image above and decide for yourself if you think it makes her look like a "Sambo." We've thrown in a pic of Little Black Sambo from the children's book for comparison.

I won't get into all the back and forth here between me and Brown Clarke that ensued by phone and text messages. (See accompanying editor's note.) What's of lasting importance is what this tells us about Brown Clarke. There's reason to be concerned.

First, there was her unwillingness to listen to my side of the story. Parroting her husband — itself interesting because of talk that he would be her "co-mayor" — she said in a voicemail message to me: "Don't tell me it printed darker. It was created darker, and I don't appreciate it."



The implicit message I received: When Judi Brown Clarke doesn't like something, she won't listen and goes on the offensive.

Further, she said in the same message that unless we printed an apology, she'd no longer talk to City Pulse.

How very Virg Bernero, known both for his my-way-or-the-highway approach and for cutting off media organizations when they run stories he doesn't like. That will be an interesting dynamic to watch in a race that may well revolve around the perception that the incumbent is a bully, as Kyle Melinn's story last week pointed out.

Then there's the offense she, and her husband, took at her being depicted darker than she actually is.

The Clarkes' reaction suggests colorism. Colorism, you ask? Well, until this inci-



Brown Clarke



Clarke

dent occurred, I hadn't heard of it either.

But there's a lot of literature about it since the novelist Alice Walker, herself an African American, coined the term in the 1980s. Walker defined it as "prejudicial or preferential treatment of same-race people based solely on their color."

Lori P. Tharps, a journalism professor at Temple University, wrote an essay about it in Time magazine just last month.

"In this country, because of deeply entrenched racism, we already know that dark skin is demonized and light skin wins the prize. And that occurs precisely because this country was built on principles of racism. It cannot be overstated that if racism didn't exist, a discussion about varying skin hues would simply be a conversation about aesthetics. But that's

See Color, Page 7

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Divide

from page 5

gays" on their lockers.

The LGBT community is experiencing some backlash, according to reports. The Lansing State Journal reported Saturday that three Okemos women who share an apartment — two of whom are legally married to each other — awoke to find the word "fags"



Courtesy Photo

Okemos High School freshman Angela Demas was met with chants of "Lock her up" when she and her girlfriend walked in the hallway with a sign calling for unity.

written in black marker on their door.

Also in Okemos, 14-year-old Angela Demas, who is the daughter of Inside Michigan Politics editor and publisher Susan Demas, tried to call for unity in the face of divisive campaign rhetoric. She was met with chants of "Lock her up," as she and her girlfriend walked in the hallway with a sign. Angela is out as a lesbian in the school, said her mother. She was uncertain if her daughter's sexual orientation played a role in the incident.

"It's pretty clear gender played a role," she said.

Agustin V. Arbulu, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, expressed concern about reports of harassment and intimidation in schools and colleges. He urged schools and parents to intervene in any such bullying incidents and asked those who are victimized to report the incidents to the department for investigation.

On Monday, the FBI released hate crimes incident statistics from 2015. The agency found 5,818 single-bias incidents involving 7,121 victims. Of them, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted because of race, ethnicity or ancestry; 19.7 percent because of religion; and 17.7 percent for sexual orientation.

In the three days after the election, the Southern Poverty Law Center documented over 200 election-related incidents of hate around the country.

—Todd Heywood



Editor's note

Todd Heywood's story about local fallout from the presidential election and my column today demand some amplification.

The fallout story reports that Lansing Police are investigating the defacement of City Pulse property as related to the election. That may be. But it may also be related to the dispute with the Clarkes. Here's why:

On Wednesday, after being accused by District Judge Hugh Clarke of in essence being racist, I overreacted and told him to "go fuck himself" and hung up on him.

The Clarkes spread that information to friends, from whom I received emails, before I wrote about it online.

Within 48 hours, the front of City Pulse was spray-painted with "Fuck U." I don't think the similar language is a coincidence. Others do, saying they think targeting a liberal, gay-owned newspaper fits a post-election pattern.

Secondly, my language to Judge Clarke. I lost my temper because I am convinced he was accusing me of being racist.

Some people think that since he didn't explicitly use the word "racist," that's not what he was saying.

Remember the basic lesson in mathematical logic, which is if A equal B and B equals C, then A equals C? Well, if (A) you're told you

made someone look like a Sambo, and if (B) Sambo is a racist stereotype, then (C) you're being accused of racism. Gee, why would I take that personally?

It's been suggested that somehow my response to Judge Clarke caused his wife, Lansing City Council President Judi Brown Clarke, to overreact on turn. If it did, her initial voicemail message to me made no mention of it as she berated me for making excuses — the printing problem to which I referred in my column — for making her look darker. A second voicemail from her said she'd "forgotten" something, which was to point out a lack of professionalism for telling her husband to "go f himself."

I've apologized online and in a letter to the Clarkes for my language. I don't apologize for my deep anger at the ugly accusation that prompted it.

I've yet to hear anything from either of them that suggests they think they bear any responsibility for this dispute. If either of the Clarkes had been willing to even consider my explanation, we'd have moved on and been commiserating about how the Trump election led to short fuses among liberal Dems like us.

By the way, if the Clarkes would like to respond, including for publication, they obviously have my number.

— Berl Schwartz



Color

from page 6

not the case. The privileging of light skin over dark is at the root of an ill known as colorism."

Now, you can judge for yourself from the pictures on the preceding page where the Clarkes each fall on the melanin scale, but I think it's fair to say neither is on the dark ends.

So, if you think the shoe fits, then what we have is a thin-skinned potential mayoral candidate uncomfortable with being portrayed as darker.

But maybe that's not it, or only part of it. Perhaps they are worried for political reasons.

There's reason to be concerned. After all, Capital Region Progress, the shadowy political operation aligned with

Bernero, sent out fliers depicting political opponents Adam Hussain and Derrick Quinney as darker than they are.

But those fliers also made them look sinister. Do you think Judi Brown Clarke looks sinister in our image of her? I don't. I see an attractive woman. If you think she looks sinister, maybe you need to examine if ... well ... you're a colorist.

Regardless, the Brown Clarke's reaction to the cover image suggests the mayor's race is going to be a nasty fight. If she runs, we're facing not one but two temperamental candidates.

For voters who prefer a more low-key contender, consider Andy Schor's response by text to me to the same cover:

"My wife thinks you gave me too much hair."

What, a mayoral candidate with not just a self-effacing sense of humor but perspective as well?

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, December 8, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Matt Hagan, for the property at 211 North Harrison Road, to replace wood siding. This property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential.

2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Dr. Gary Bente, for the property at 303 Chesterfield Parkway, to construct an addition of a front porch to the home. The property is zoned R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-258

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Amendment to Section 1460.44 (e) Rental Registry

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to amend Section 1460.44e to the Lansing Codified Ordinances for the purpose of clarifying the documentation that will be accepted to verify ownership of real property to determine application of the rental registry inspection requirement.

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

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

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CP#16-263

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held on the appeal of Dana Mirate requesting a variation for the property located at 1050 Glenhaven Avenue, in the R-1, Low Density Single-Family Residential District, from the following requirements of Chapter 50 - Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing:

Article IV. Section 50-301, to permit 44% ground coverage which exceeds the maximum allowed by 4%.

The applicant is proposing to improve the drainage on the site by installing a "French" style drain and additional driveway paving to slope toward the drain.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-259

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act Certificate 204 East Grand River Avenue

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the "Certificate"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 204 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, but more particularly described as follows:

COM 44.44 FT W OF NE COR LOT 2, TH W 20 FT, S 80 FT, E 20 FT, N 80 FT TO BEG; SUB OF BLOCK 12, 33-01-01-09-402-081, and

Approval of this Certificate will provide the owner or potentially the developer of property an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to the property noted above. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), 1000 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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CP#16-262

Despicable Dunnings

Report amplifies his crimes and seeks harsher sentence

Stuart Dunnings III soon will be going to prison, probably for three to five years. Really not enough time.

After pleading to felony misconduct in office and one misdemeanor prostitution charge, Dunnings was facing just 0-to-6 months' incarceration. It was an astoundingly light sentence considering his brazen relations with prostitutes, allegations of hundreds of related encounters, abuse of his office and felony coercion of a woman into the sex trade.

Just another example of a rigged system?

But the Attorney General's Office, rejecting the light pre-sentencing guidelines, is making the case for significant prison time.

Its sentencing report on the former Ingham County prosecutor's reckless conduct



MICKY HIRTEN

details callously exploiting women he paid for sex, betraying his self-proclaimed campaign against trafficking and enabling of assorted criminal activities while he was the county's chief law enforcement officer.

As prosecutor, he claimed prostitution as his specialty. Little did we know. His office prosecuted prostitution in Lansing, normally handled by the city attorney. He publicly railed against sex trafficking, ordered felony charges against repeat prostitution solicitors and heralded law enforcement personnel combating the exploitation of "vulnerable young ladies in our society."

The state's sentencing report focused on six women who provided Dunnings with sex. He took them to local motels, sometimes to apartments, drove them around town during working hours — his working hours.

He encouraged his victims to call him at work and engaged in sex with one woman in his Lansing office, where investigators found condoms and lubricant hidden in a pot on his bookcase. He trolled the Internet to find local prostitutes whose charges for services started at \$100 for the first half hour. One victim, a heroin addict who was prostituting herself to pay for her drug

habit, said she and Dunnings had sex as often as three or four times a week.

Incredibly, Dunnings asked his victims whether they knew who he was, and when they didn't, he told them. As the sentencing report notes, this alone would intimidate the women who were "committing crimes by using drugs and engaging in prostitution."

Even more incredibly, he attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings with two of the prostitutes, and while his victims didn't recognize him as county prosecutor, others did.

According to the sentencing report, Dunnings' presence at these meetings intimidated the other women who were trying to become sober, discouraging them from attending.

The state's sentencing report portrays Dunnings' actions as so calculating, so abusive, that they seem almost fictional — the stuff of a TV crime procedural or detective novel.

While the FBI was investigating a notorious local sex trafficker, Tyrone Smith, Dunnings was sleeping with the pimp's prostitutes, sometimes at Smith's house in Lansing. According to the sentencing report, one victim, identified as W-3, was forced by Smith to have sex with as many as 20 men a day. He supplied the women he was pimping with drugs — heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine — and beat them regularly.

"During the time W-3 was having commercial sex with Dunnings, W-3 had visible bruising on her body and multiple, noticeable needle marks on her arms from

heroin injections. W-3 has stated it would have been obvious to Dunnings that during their commercial sex dates W-3 was high on drugs," the sentencing report said.

Another victim, W-4, also had sex with Dunnings at Smith's house. She was punched repeatedly, slammed to the ground and burned in the eye with a heated spoon after Smith caught her freelancing to support her drug habit. Dunnings' victims were poor, had troubled backgrounds and were abused, which the sentencing report said would have been obvious to an experienced prosecutor.

There was one victim, W-6, a 26-year-old with no connection to prostitution or the sex trade, who sought Dunnings' help in a child custody dispute. After two meetings, he pressured her into having sex in exchange for cash, which she did.

According to the sentencing report, W-6 believed that if she did not agree to Dunnings' demand he would have retaliated against her in the custody case.

In a three-page letter to the court, she tells how Dunnings' demand ruined her life.

"I knew that my body and my soul didn't have a price to be bought for. But, I couldn't say no. ... He took that choice away from me.

"I can still feel the sadness inside of me. It is still a part of my everyday life. Everything that I do and everything that happens to me is harder now. Everything hurts more than it should. I do not know if I will ever heal or overcome the depression I've encountered and suffered through. I can only hope that I can overcome for the sake of my sons, my family, and myself."

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF BROWNFIELD PLAN #22 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, MI 48823 on the adoption of a resolution for Brownfield Plan #22 for the City of East Lansing, within which the Authority shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The description of the proposed Brownfield is:

Land situated in the City of East Lansing in the county of Ingham, consisting of two (2) parcels located at 5800 Park Lake Road, Tax ID 33-20-02-08-276-004, and No Known Address, Tax ID 33-20-02-09-151-003, consisting of approximately 64.49 acres.

Costco Wholesale Warehouse ("Costco") is a commercial redevelopment project that seeks to construct an approximate 156,170 square foot warehouse retail building that includes an attached tire center. In addition, a freestanding gasoline and diesel fueling facility is also proposed for the Property. The applicant proposes to relocate an existing pipeline, raze the existing buildings on the Property, bring off-site infrastructure to the Property and construct this commercial project.

The description of the property, along with maps and a copy of Brownfield Plan #22, are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930 and at www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects.

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard and written communication will be received and considered. **The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.**

Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-260

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on December 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider **Ordinance No. 1394**; an ordinance to amend Section 26-401 of Division 5 – smoking and distribution of tobacco products - of Article IV - nuisances - of Chapter 26 - offenses – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to prohibit smoking in city parks, plazas, and recreational facilities

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

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#16-266

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THE LONG WALK

Music and life lessons from
jazz master Rodney Whitaker

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A bass solo by Rodney Whitaker starts with a handful of notes that float into the air like a question. Urgently yet carefully, his hands reach out for a response. Melodies and countermelodies dart up and down, pushing the limits of his instrument in swifter and swifter sweeps, until the question is one with the answer.

Suddenly — almost too soon — the solo is over and the bass line resumes its long walk home.

The walk is always purposeful. Whitaker is not a solo artist.

The 16-year director of Michigan State University's Jazz Studies program has changed hundreds of lives, built MSU's program into a national bastion of jazz and conjured a jazz scene out of mid-Michigan cornfields.

Sunday, Whitaker, 48, got a lifetime achievement award from the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan. Colleagues and students gathered to jam, bask in the glow and celebrate the world Whitaker has made.

'My life has not been the same'

Joe Vasquez, a freshly minted MSU master's graduate, gets very big eyes when you mention Whitaker. He came to MSU six years ago as a tuba player and didn't even know how to hold a bass.

"I didn't know what I was walking into," Vasquez said. "Six years later, look at me, I'm a great bass player, traveling the world."

Vasquez only went to MSU because it was close to his home in Michigan, where a member of his family was ill. So much for the idea that Whitaker and his stellar jazz faculty recruit top students, give them a final polish and go back to being jazz stars. Everyone in Whitaker's program puts education first, himself most of all.

Sunday, Vasquez took part in a unique bass quartet tribute to Whitaker.

"My life has not been the same. This is crazy," said Vasquez, who was just back from a West Coast swing that took him from San Diego to Seattle. "I never would have expected this. I have only Rodney to thank for it. I've never had another teacher."

Since Whitaker took over the program in 2000, the number of majors has grown from 12 to about 70. There are so many MSU grads working in New York that they literally



Photo by Richard Cohen

Whitaker has made many appearances at the Detroit International Jazz Festival and tours the world as an in-demand bassist, bandleader and composer.

bump into each other. (That happened last week in Harlem to trumpeter Kris Johnson and bassist Endea Owens, both MSU grads, on their way to separate gigs.)

At MSU, Whitaker has assembled a round table of star jazz professors who earn Guggenheim fellowships, get into Vanity Fair photo spreads (trumpeter Etienne Charles) and win Downbeat awards (trombonist Michael Dease). They do that stuff on their own time, though, because teaching comes first on Whitaker's watch.

Along the way, Whitaker has breathed new life into East Lansing's two-day Summer Solstice Jazz Festival and kept up a rigorous schedule of outreach that takes MSU students to schools across the state.

It's easy to forget how unlikely a project it was to turn Spartan country into jazz heaven.

Person to person

As recently as the 1950s and '60s, it was forbidden to play jazz in MSU's music auditorium, according to College of Music Dean James Forger.

Open-minded professors like Owen Reed

snuck a little jazz into MSU School of Music programs in the 1970s, but jazz studies started to take root only in the 1980s, when early proponents like pianist Ron Newman, bassist Peter Dominguez (now at Oberlin) and Australian-born saxophonist Andrew Speight came on the scene.

The director's post opened up when Speight left for San Francisco in 2000.

Whitaker was already a part-time instructor at MSU, but he wasn't sure about leading the program. His career was in full swing as a key member of Wynton Marsalis' Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. He was on top of his game, free to tour the world with the top bands of the time.

But on the other hand, he was ready to settle down with his wife, Cookey, and a growing family that now numbers eight children.

And there was one other thing.

"Because I didn't have an academic background, a lot of people didn't think I was qualified for this job," he said.

Here we get into deeper waters. Barred from universities and concert halls for most

of its history, unrecognized by academies and critics, jazz elders created their own schools, in kitchens and living rooms and on bandstands after hours. Universities without walls sprang up in cultural centers like New Orleans, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Whitaker traces the tradition all the way back to the Mississippi Delta's Dockery Plantation, widely considered the birthplace of Delta blues in the early 1900s.

"Charlie Patton, the father of the blues, taught Son House," Whitaker said. "Son House taught Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf. They're all from the Dockery."

In Detroit, where Whitaker was born and raised, generous elders like bebop pianist Barry Harris encouraged and trained a generation of younger players.

At 19, Whitaker started playing an annual Kwanzaa concert series with Harris, who visited Detroit for the holidays each year.

"It would always spill into days of me being at his house and getting lessons," Whitaker said.

When he tried to leave, Harris' wife would ply him with food. She never saw Harris so happy as when he was teaching.

Along with New Orleans and Chicago, Detroit ranks as one of the great jazz cities, with a web of connections that has stretched across the world. Harris and other Detroit mainstays schooled a generation of players in the music called "hard bop," the elastic, melodic, soulful successor to bebop.

"Miles (Davis)'s band, (John) Coltrane's, Cannonball Adderley's band, Horace Silver's band — you've got one or two Detroit musicians in every hard bop band," Whitaker said. "It's a deep story. These cats from one stable of musicians changed the world. They changed music."

In the mold of mentors like Harris, Whitaker says his goal is to teach 1,000 who teach 1,000 more. And he's getting there.

Trumpeter Kris Johnson, one of the first cohort of MSU students who studied with

See Whitaker, Page 10



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

MSU jazz ensembles have visited hundreds of inner city, suburban and rural schools across the state, often in the company of national guest stars like trumpeter Jon Faddis, seen here with Whitaker and students at East Lansing's Red Cedar Elementary in 2013.

Whitaker

from page 9

Whitaker, is now director of jazz studies at Utah State University. He recalls his lessons with Whitaker the same way Whitaker talks about Harris.

"We just sat at the piano and talked about harmony, reworked some of my songs and he showed me his songs," Johnson said. "It was more of a mentorship than it was formal teaching."

Johnson said he now does the same thing in Salt Lake City.

At MSU, Whitaker saw the chance to harness jazz's mentoring tradition to a major institution, with its stability and resources.

He also read up on MSU's origins in Justin Morill's Land-Grant Colleges Act and saw a chance to push back at a historic injustice.

"Martin Luther King had a big speech about how they created these land-grant colleges to teach European farmers but neglected the African-American," Whitaker said.

Whitaker is not a man to waste seed. In his first years at MSU, he launched a relentless outreach program. Early on, Whitaker had to stretch infrequent grants and donations to the limit to keep the outreach program going, but it paid off. His efforts have been boosted in recent years by a \$1 million grant from the MSU Federal Credit Union. Several times a year, MSU students, professors and star guest artists like Christian McBride or Louis Hayes barnstorm across the state.

"I've got the Octet I playing a little concert hall in Roscommon," Whitaker said. "Inner city schools, suburban schools, rural schools — you can't go anywhere in Michigan and they don't know about the MSU jazz

program because we've been there, we played in their opera house and went in their school."

The breathtaking growth of the program and fruitful outreach efforts helped to earn Whitaker the title of University Distinguished Professor in 2013 — the youngest professor ever to get the honor.

Two years ago, Wynton Marsalis offered Whitaker the post of director of jazz studies at the Juilliard School.

According to Forger, MSU President Lou Anna Simon personally intervened, even though she was dealing with a death in the family. Simon went to Whitaker's office and asked what it would take to keep him at MSU. Whitaker asked for two new appointments — one for guitar Professor Randy Napoleon and an events coordinator, Max Colley, who took on the logistical burdens of the proliferating tours, events and residencies going on at MSU.

"Sure, I think of what I might have done at Juilliard," Whitaker said, "but the people here were willing to invest more in what I started."

Armor and sword

For much of the 20th century, jazz was driven by a dizzying series of trends and



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The MSU Professors of Jazz surprised themselves with an unexpectedly incendiary take on "Stella by Starlight" at the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan's tribute to Rodney Whitaker Sunday. Left to right: Randy Napoleon, Diego Rivera, Whitaker, Etienne Charles and Randy Gelispie.

movements that came in waves, each one swamping the last.

Whitaker embraces them all at once. He credits his early training in Detroit with showing him "how the music is all connected."

Like many teenagers of his generation, he was fired up by the revolutionary music of Charlie Parker, late Coltrane and avant-garde artists like Roscoe Mitchell. But early Detroit mentors like Donald Washington stressed tradition as well.

Whitaker compared his 1996-2003 tenure with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra under Wynton Marsalis to graduate school. Some musicians criticize Marsalis' approach as backward-looking, but Whitaker made the most of his time with Marsalis, steeping himself in the music of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and other pre-bebop pioneers, often playing in the company of greats who were present at the creation of the music.

Whitaker wants his students to experience as much of that jazz panorama as they can, from stride piano through swing, bebop and avant-garde to the latest mixes of jazz and Indian music, classical, hip hop or whatever else is happening in the Spotify era.

"Think about all the music these kids get exposed to," he said. "They're learning Max Roach's 'Freedom Suite,' Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On,' masterworks from Ellington and Strayhorn — where else are they going to learn it? What band? It's not 1942."

But in Whitaker's world, it is 1942. And 1961. And 2016. MSU students have taken Whitaker's inclusive brand of jazz all over the world. Beginning in 2012, saxophonist Marcus Elliot, trumpeter Anthony Stanco, pianist Paul Bratcher, drummer Jordan Otto and bassist Sam Cooperman — all MSU grads — became one of 10 bands, out of 300 who auditioned, to travel to Namibia, Botswana, Egypt and Jordan as part of the

American Music Abroad program.

Lansing-born drummer Lawrence Leathers has hit the big time with regular work in New York, including tours with vocalist and rising jazz star Cécile McLorin Salvant. As one-third of cerebral pianist Aaron Diehl's trio, Leathers has been holding forth at Smalls Jazz Club in Greenwich Village for about five years, attracting some high-profile fans and sit-inners like Wynton Marsalis, who recommended Leathers to Salvant.

"Those years back home at MSU gave me my armor and sword," Leathers said. "Without those guys, I wouldn't be out here."

Since graduating from MSU in 2007, bassist Ben Williams won the genre's most prestigious honor for a young jazz artist, the 2009 Thelonious Monk award.

"Rodney was almost like a father, as well as a professor," Williams said. "I learned so much from him musically and personally, as a man."

Williams went on to study at Juilliard and became firmly established in the jazz world, playing most recently in guitarist Pat Metheny's Grammy-winning Unity Band with saxophonist Chris Potter and drummer Antonio Sanchez.

Metheny was impressed when he saw that Williams had memorized the music, a skill inculcated in him by Whitaker.

"You can't be out there turning the pages when you're in a big band," Whitaker said.

Diego Rivera, born and raised in East Lansing, is the only home-grown MSU professor of jazz. Under Whitaker's aegis, Rivera blossomed from a shy, inexperienced teenager to becoming assistant director of jazz studies, a thoughtful composer and a fearsome, nationally rec-



Courtesy Photo

Married in their late teens, Cookey and Rodney Whitaker built a jazz life together, raising eight children while sharing mundane logistical tasks and musical highs.

See Whitaker, Page 11

Whitaker

from page 10

ognized saxophone player.

"I don't think I could do what I do, the way I've done it, anywhere else," Rivera said. "We have an interesting relationship. He's able to go from mentor to friend to colleague, and he does it gracefully."

Despite the program's professionalism, there's a family feeling to everything Whitaker touches.

"Together they have built a community of students," Forger said. "They hang out, they mentor, they perform together. I think it's a very unusual circumstance."

"Cookey is an incredibly important part of this," Rivera said. "She's seen me grow up, develop as a musician, become a father. She's given me advice too. It's hard for me to think about Rodney without thinking about Cookey as well."

Tied to slavery

Utah State's Kris Johnson has noticed that some programs "try to teach black art without teaching black history."

"That's completely unacceptable," he said. "This music is tied to slavery, to all of the events that have happened to the black community over the years. You can't teach one without the other."

Whitaker has set a tone at MSU that harks back to his own time with mentors in Detroit. No subject is off the table in classes and one-on-one lessons.

Last week, Whitaker, Rivera and the other jazz professors found themselves consoling students who felt crushed by the 2016 election results. Some students wondered aloud whether it was worth bothering with music any more. Rivera reassured them their Jazz Octets concert Friday was probably the first time some audience members had smiled since Tuesday's election.

"It's done with dignity and respect," Rivera said. "Students feel comfortable asking potentially volatile questions about race, about society, in the space Rodney has created at Michigan State."

"I try to provide a place where people can say whatever they want to say," Whitaker said. "You've got to have a place to talk it out."

Whitaker knows that despite the success of so many MSU jazz studies grads, most will not end up playing music professionally.

"I'm teaching a life skill," Whitaker said. "I'm giving them certain information. That's what I got from my mentors. They had so much wisdom that was beyond music."

As a teenager, Whitaker asked one of his mentors, Herbie Williams, how to know when to stop a solo.

"He told me: just when you think you can play another chorus, that's when you should stop," Whitaker said. "Think about that on another level."

With that, Whitaker rose from his chair, heeding Williams' advice. It was time for him to move out of the spotlight and walk on. There's work to do.

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Whitaker directs a student big band at a Wharton Center concert in 2010. Since 2000, Whitaker's first year as director, MSU's jazz program has grown from 12 to about 70 majors.



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ARTS & CULTURE

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BRIDGING GENERATIONS MONTE PRIDE PULLS INSPIRATION FROM FOLK GIANTS, LOCAL LEGENDS

By EVE KUCHARSKI

“Play number five!” shouted a small voice from the crowd. Ben Hassenger, guitarist for local band Mystic Shake,

Monte Pride Album Release Show

With Ben Hassenger and Pat Malloy

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18

\$12/\$10 adv.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave.,

Lansing

therobintheatre.com

obliged 5-year-old Monte Pride’s request, knowing that he meant “Lois,” the fifth track off of the group’s first album.

Fifteen years later, Pride is preparing to re-

lease his first full album, “Hawthorne Morning Sound,” with a CD release show Friday at the Robin Theatre. And Hassenger will take the stage to open for the 20-year-old singer/songwriter. Pride has released two EPs, but he feels that this album is his most mature work yet.

“This project is a really long way from those EPs. I still like some of the songs, but for the most part, I feel like I’ve grown past those,” he said. “The writing process, the songwriting in general, has become much stronger.”

Pride draws inspiration from folk giants like Paul Simon and Bob Dylan, as well as contemporary folk genre-benders like Bon Iver, the Tallest Man On Earth and Frontier Ruckus, which got its start at MSU. Hassenger describes his sound as “soothing and edgy at the same time.”

Over the course of the five-month recording period, Pride ended up scrapping over half of his originally planned songs and replacing them with songs that better fit the “vibe of the record.”

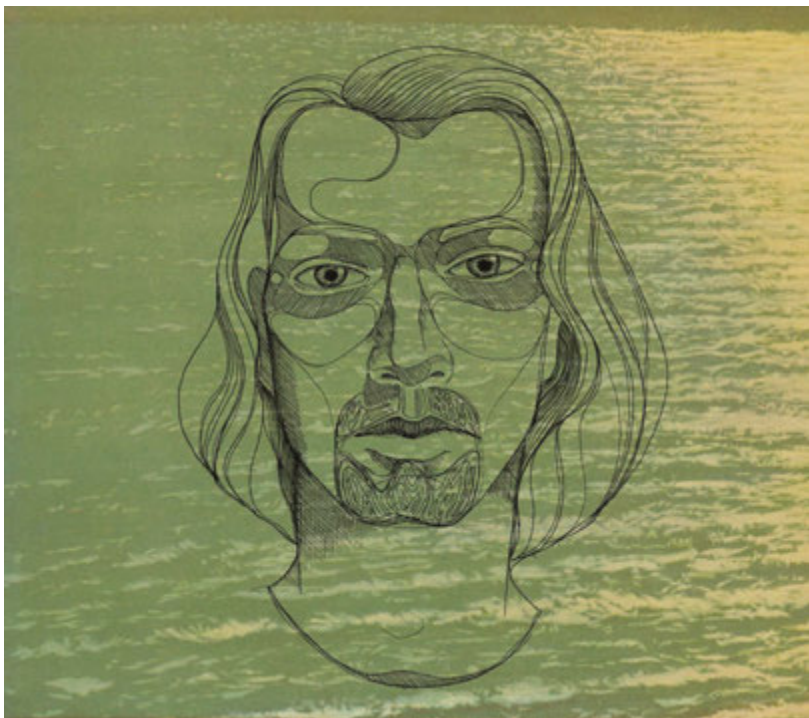
“You sit down after a crazy month or two, and you realize you have things to write about,” he said.

Pride, an environmental studies and sustainability major at Michigan State University, had a burst of creativity over the summer, using the break from school to focus on writing.

“The summer has really become my time to write,” he said. “There’s a really calm energy, and there’s not as much pressure from other factors. I can really focus on creativity.”

The album is named after the Okemos street Pride grew up on, which is where he did most of the writing. The album features several themes, but nostalgic memories of home are some of the most prevalent. Pride attributes this in part to one of his main influences, Simon & Garfunkel.

“They were really a huge inspiration in this project, they really came through more than I expected it in the recordings



Courtesy Photo

Okemos native Monte Pride draws inspiration from folk giants like Paul Simon and Bob Dylan, as well as contemporary folksters like Bon Iver and the Tallest Man On Earth.

and the overall feel of the album,” Pride said. “I think it has an interesting vintage sound. It’s something I didn’t necessarily expect to come of the recording, but it’s there, and I’m happy with the way that it turned out.”

Pride enlisted the help of other musicians to create a deeper, more experimental sound than his past releases. These collaborations are especially noticeable in the song “Bed-ridden,” which incorporates cello and layered vocals for a rich yet still intimate sound.

“I can hear his style maturing, the ways he’s orchestrating things,” Hassenger said. “And some (songs) are a little more up-tempo than what he’s had before. So he’s expanding a little bit.”

Hassenger will be joined Friday by fellow Mystic Shake alum Pat Malloy. Pride describes the duo as his “musical uncles,” mentors who have helped guide his musical development. Hassenger noticed Pride’s love of music early on.

“He claims I gave him his first guitar lesson,” Hassenger said, “but he’s a way better guitar player than I am.”

Hassenger gave him music lessons and tips on how to choose instruments, but it wasn’t until high school that Pride started performing. For a talent show, he covered “Criminals” by the Tallest Man On Earth, and the positive response gave him the confidence to write his own music and continue performing.

Hassenger and Malloy also perform with ukulele trio the Ukulele Kings. The two are still finalizing a set list for Friday, but there will be a few treats for fans of their now-defunct group.

“We’ll do some Mystic Shake and some of the other things we’re doing now,” Hassenger said. “I think it’s going to be a great night. It’ll bring some different generations together.”

Even with the album release coming up, Pride is already thinking about his next steps, but his first priority is finishing up the semester at MSU.

“I’m definitely trying to get a tour this summer, just a kind of do-it-yourself thing around the East Coast if I can,” Pride said.

Pride wants to finish his program at MSU, but he’s also keeping his musical options open.

“We’ll see what happens, but once I graduate, I’ll definitely pursue it full time for a while,” he said. “You have to be realistic with music, but if an opportunity presents itself, I’ll always take it over anything else.”

Monte Pride releases his first full-length album, “Hawthorne Morning Sound,” at the Robin Theatre Friday.

Courtesy Photo

Comedy of errors Matt Braunger finds humor in his own mistakes

By TY FORQUER

Matt Braunger's latest tour is something like a comedy version of "God Bless the Broken Road," looking at poor decisions that shaped who he is today, like getting a tattoo at 19 on a dare or getting a DUI for driving too slow.

Matt Braunger

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macsbar.com

"It's fleshing out a lot of the dumb things I've done — but also wouldn't take back — to get where I wanted to be," he said. "I'm not King Fuck-Up or anything, but I didn't go a

traditional road."

The comedian brings his "Made of Mistakes" tour to Mac's Bar Thursday. Mistakes aside, he's pretty happy where he's ended up.

"I'm in a pretty decent point in my life," he said. "I'm in a functional relationship, my career's doing okay and I get along with my parents and all that jazz."

A former cast member on Fox's "MADtv" Braunger cut his teeth in the Chicago comedy scene.



Courtesy Photo

Comedian/actor Matt Braunger brings his "Made of Mistakes" tour to Mac's Bar Thursday.

"I love playing dive bars," he said. "That's where I started out, back in Chicago. There was only one comedy club near us, and they would never let us on stage. So we'd go wherever else we could."

In addition to standup, Braunger is a busy actor who's held recurring roles on ABC's "Agent Carter" and NBC's "Up

All Night." In 2008 and 2009, he was a cast member on the final season of Fox's Saturday night sketch show, "MADtv," which helped launch the careers of actors Andy Daly, Ike Barinholtz, Alex Borstein, Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele.

"I was on 'MADtv' for seven months, and then the show got canceled," Braunger recalled. "It was a moment, but it was a glorious moment."

Braunger called the "MADtv" audition process a "surreal experience." He auditioned with Eric Andre, who didn't make the show but later found success as star of "The Eric Andre Show" on the Cartoon Network's late night Adult Swim programming block.

"Eric Andre is like a cultural icon to the legions of the weird — which I mean in the most complimentary sense," Braunger said. "I think he's amazing."

While his time on "MADtv" was short, Braunger appreciated the chance to work with so many creative comedic minds.

"Imagine how you riff with your friends over coffee, joking about something. Now imagine someone walking by and saying 'Let's turn that into a sketch.' That would happen," he said. "We could actually get this piece of B.S. I just made up on a TV screen."

Braunger, who spoke with City Pulse before the presidential election, doesn't expect politics to come up in his show Thursday.

"By the time I get there, the election

will be over and we'll be at peak national exhaustion," he said. "I think we'll want to talk about literally anything else."

But that's not the only reason he's avoiding politics. This election season has proven difficult for him to deal with as a comedian.

"There's nothing I can do with it," he said. "You can make fun of it all you want, but it won't be as funny — or as crushingly tragic — as it is right now. It's beyond parody at this point."

Braunger also hosts a podcast, "Ding-Donger with Matt Braunger," hosted by the Nerdist Podcast Network.

"It's literally the dumbest title I could come up with," he said. "It sticks in people's brains"

The half-hour episodes feature Braunger, sometimes with a guest, talking about whatever topic has caught his interest that day.

"I listen to podcasts on the road to feel less lonely. I want to do that for anyone listening," he said. "I hitchhike into your life, talk for half an hour, and then I jump out."

While he loves podcasting as an outlet, he has a warning for people hoping to do it for a living.

"It's not anything I do to make money. It's not something I need to put food on the table," he said. "If someone really wants to make money off of this, they're probably screwed. But if they want to do it to get their voice out there, it's not a bad idea."

Standing out MSU Student turns love of bow ties into a business

By EVE KUCHARSKI

One day in middle school, William Murphy decided that he wanted to stand out. So he came to school wearing a bow tie. Just a few years later, the 19-year-old MSU business student created his own online bow tie shop, Reign Bow Ties. The Canton resident took his love of the accessory from a fashion statement to a hobby and then to a business.

"When I first started, it was just something I was doing for fun," Murphy said. "I was sitting in the house, and I didn't have anything else to do. I started making them out of fabric and hot glue."

Soon after, Murphy decided to step things up a notch. He got some sewing lessons from his mother, Sherrie Murphy, and taught himself how to properly make bow ties. Eventually, Murphy taught his mother how to sew them.

"She's way better than I am now," Murphy said with a laugh. "She's definitely on a whole new level."

By 2014, Murphy's senior year in high school, he had opened up an online shop and earned the nickname "the bow tie guy." His 100 percent cotton bow ties

range in style from solid colors to floral prints and more. The business was originally called Benson-Roberts Bow Ties, but Murphy decided that was too "old school" and tried to come up with a fresher sounding name.

"My original idea was to have a bow tie of each color, each solid color, that way it could match all the outfits in my wardrobe," he said. "It could be a rainbow of bow ties, so I had Rainbow Ties."

Murphy's mother pointed out that the colorful name might not broadly appeal to men, the target market for his accessories. So Murphy tweaked the idea.

"We want to reign over the bow tie industry, so why not Reign Bow Ties?" Murphy said. "It's a great play on words, and it's really worked for us marketing-wise."

His online store, reignbowties.com, offers both pre-tied and self-tied bow ties. Since the company's launch, Murphy has branched out to offer other accessories like pocket squares, bracelets and baseball caps, which he calls "dad hats." Murphy pictures the company expanding further to include items like suspenders and book bags, but he also doesn't want to stray too far from his signature product.

"I've been so consumed trying to take it from being a bow tie brand to being an accessories brand that we've kind of

strayed away from the bow ties," he said. "I've started to think maybe we should go back to our roots."

Murphy keeps a close eye on millennial fashion trends, and he pulls inspiration from fashion-forward musical artists like Kanye West and Tyler, the Creator. While most of his customers are men, he is hoping to establish Reign Bow Ties as a unisex brand and market his ties to women. And the ultimate vision is to have a brick-and-mortar production company.

"Our real plan is to have our own factory where we have people making our products — still hand made but in a big factory," Murphy said. "We want to be a part of rebuilding Detroit, because that's where I'm from. That's definitely the direction we're going in."



Courtesy Photo

MSU student William Murphy founded Reign Bow Ties, an online bow tie and accessories store.

CURTAIN CALL

The Bard goes digital

Modern technology drives MSU's take on 'The Tempest'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

What do a lavish opera sung in 16th century German and Michigan State University Department of Theatre's production of "The Tempest" have in common? Even if one doesn't understand the dialogue, they can still be very entertaining.

In the hands of director Deric McNish, William Shakespeare's play about sorcery, power, revenge and love was a dazzling visual and audio delight worthy of an ovation. Kirk Domer's colossal multi-level iceberg set, complete with secret entrances, was already remarkable, but using it as a canvas to reflect projected animations and computer images

made it outstanding. Fabulously formulating fancy lighting to fabricate, fires, fissures, fairy tracks and foaming ocean waves made the fantasy fantastic.

Precise sound cues by Jason Painter Price accompanied the phantasmagorias, adding realistic noises that were like thick icing on a cake made of already-iced fudge. When a scepter struck the stage, the "ice" showed spreading and glowing cracks while loud pops and snaps matched each spreading tentacle.

Alison Dobbins deserves praise for media design and Heather Brown for lighting design. They took the play, which was first performed in a theater that was lit by sunlight, to a majestic

level. The 100-minute, no-intermission show was closer to a Pink Floyd concert than a Globe Theatre presentation.

Caliban, played with humor and gusto by Matt Greenbaum, stood out as a grotesque half-man, half-fish mutant. Lavish wardrobes by Karen Kangas-Preston adorned the all-powerful Prospera, powerfully portrayed by Christina Traister, and Queen Alonsa, in a regal performance by Grace Hinkley. Period details like pointy and square-toed shoes, ornate jewelry and fancy buttons were a nice touch. Only the modern haircut of Trinculo, gleefully played by Evan Phillips, seemed out of place.

Shakespeare purists might be bothered by some of McNish's gender switching in his version of "The Tempest." Queen Alonsa replaces the original King Alonso, and brother Antonio becomes the sister Antonia, featuring Beth Hendrickson in a feisty performance. The duke, Prospero, becomes a duchess, Prospera, and the drunkard Stephano is changed to Stephana, played by Karen Vance. I found nothing bothersome about her beguiling boozier bits. While I don't mind the gender swaps, the decision made it harder to follow the Bard's already hard to follow family connections.

Thanks to a capable cast, connecting with 400-year-old dialogue was not difficult. Like most of the actors, Jen English, as Miranda, made complex lines filled with puns and layered inferences flow in a coherent stream. Her sprinkles of giggles were an extra treat. Ryan Duda, as Ariel, also stood out for his ease of delivery — and for his acrobatic skills. His Ariel often went aerial with stunning leaps and yoga-like moves. Everything Duda did was a joy to watch. Sean McKeon meekly portrayed the meek Ferdinand, sometimes amid more athletic and lithe dancers. Compelling choreography by Rosely Conz was, at times, as complex as the digital visuals, and the use of recorded music and on-stage singing were extra bonuses.

In the wrong hands, Shakespeare plays can be tedious affairs. So did I enjoy McNish's 21st century take on the 17th century play? Verily, me thinks I did.

Trouble breathing

'Every Breath You Take' delivers strong performances, macabre themes

By TOM HELMA

You may find yourself with shortness of breath — not to mention dry throat, sweaty palms and a rapid heart rate — after experiencing the macabre "Every Breath You Take," the latest offering from Ixion Theatre.

The world premiere play, by British playwright Graham Farrow, is a take-no-prisoners tale of grief and loss taken

to bizarre lengths. Rick Dethlefsen and Sadonna Croff are the Conways, a bitter and bickering too-long-married couple. They struggle through most of Act One, inconsolable after the death of one child and the mysterious absence of a second son. In the capable hands of Croff and Dethlefsen, the dialogue crackles and sizzles, making the iconic dysfunctional couple from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" seem well adjusted by comparison.

Then a plot twist arrives with an urgent knock on the door. A tall and seemingly business-like woman arrives at their house with a cut on her head. Her car has been stolen — or has it? As the car theft story unfolds, we discover that

it was a ruse to get into the house. When the woman's husband arrives, we are presented with the horrible notion that one can consider avenging a loss as a way of resolving a loss.

Miranda Hartmann is the tall and lanky businesswoman, Mrs. Hunter, and Todd Heywood plays her equally diabolical husband, Mr. Hunter. They seethe with outrage. When Mr. Hunter has second thoughts about going ahead with their avenging intent, the sharp knife in the hands of Mrs. Hunter brings Hartmann's intensity to another level. One cannot ignore it as she gestures, waving it around with frightening intensity, throughout the remainder of the play. One can sense the inevitably — the knife will cut through someone.

Hartmann brings a nearly psychotic intensity to this role, revealing the depths of anguish one can go through when experiencing a loss, trying to figure out who is at fault, who is to blame. Heywood's Mr. Hunter, when confronted with the consequences of the couple's plan, reveals an unexpected burst of compassion, which is ultimately insufficient to turn the tide of the inevitable outcome of the play.

Dethlefsen and Croff transform into tender souls under duress, revealing a married couple who truly love each other. Mrs. Conway's tortured emotional state is hard to watch, while Mr. Conway displays an unrelenting bravery even in the midst of physical abuse.

Audience members on Saturday night's performance were still and silent at the end of the play, not quite sure whether to applaud. Clapping was faint and tentative, despite the obvious skill and talent of the cast, as people tried to get their heads around the play's tragic ending. Grief and vengeance are never pretty.

"Every Breath You Take"

Ixion Theatre
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19; 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20
\$15/\$10 adv.
The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com

The Nutcracker 2016
Capital Ballet Theatre Presents
Choreographed & Directed by Gregory M. George
Thanksgiving Weekend
The Margaret Livensparger Theater Holt High School
Friday and Saturday Nov. 25 & 26 7:30pm
Sunday, Nov. 27 2:00pm
Tickets at www.cbtdance.org
CBT capital ballet theatre of Michigan

Expanding minds — and square footage

Coyote Wisdom bookstore moves next door, doubles in size

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In Native American mythology, coyotes are tricksters and clever troublemakers. So when Connie Ranshaw opened a bookstore featuring books on metaphysics and related items, she named it Coyote Wisdom Bookstore.

Infobox

Coyote Wisdom
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday;
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday,
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday
2442 N. Grand River
Ave., Lansing
(517) 323-1707,
coyotewisdomstore.com

“In American Indian lore, a coyote is the clown of the tribe,” Ranshaw said. “Bookstore” doesn’t quite capture the Coyote Wisdom experience. In addition to new and used books on topics like astrology, meditation and Native

American religion, the store carries everything from essential oils and scented candles to crystals and tarot cards. It also hosts classes from practitioners on subjects like psychic development and spirit animals, as well as palm and tarot readings.

Ranshaw founded the store 13 years ago after retiring from a career in state government. After a year of research, she opened the store at 2432 N. Grand River Ave., just east of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on Lansing’s northwest side.

“I was always interested in natural healing, but that was a part of my life I couldn’t show on the job,” she said.

She recently made the short move to 2442 N. Grand River Ave. — just one house over — into an 1880s-built house that’s been gussied up with a 1950s plantation look. The move doubled the store’s square footage.

“The interior has lots of wood with pocket doors and parlors,” Ranshaw said. “I want to keep its integrity. It’s a privilege to be in it.”



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Coyote Wisdom, located on Lansing’s northwest side, offers a variety of books on metaphysical topics, as well as crystals, tarot cards and other items.

When Ranshaw started, she was told the location was too far out of the way and that she wouldn’t have any foot traffic. But she slowly built a base of loyal customers who come to the shop regularly for psychic readings or classes, and she has seen the public attitude toward metaphysical topics and holistic healing shift in her direction.

“More and more people are searching for who they are, and they are afraid of drugs with too many side effects,” she said. “Things like meditation and other ancient

healing methods can work for them.”

Ranshaw, who has studied with alternative medicine advocate Deepak Chopra, is a practicing psychic astrologer and card reader. She’s also an expert on Native American healing methods. Ranshaw goes to great lengths to stock her store, including an annual trip to Tucson to buy stones, crystals and other items.

“We go out there with a truck and trailer and fill it up,” she said. “You can buy crystals on the Internet, but it isn’t the same. They’ll show you beautiful pictures

of stones, but that is not what you get.”

The store is tidy and quiet, exuding a feeling of calm and balance. Ranshaw attributes much of the store’s success to word of mouth from her loyal customers and her dedicated staff, many of whom are practitioners of the various disciplines represented in the store’s book selection.

“I like to have a variety of different opinions,” she said.

Ranshaw has noticed things like tarot cards and crystals, once pushed to the margins of society, growing in mainstream acceptance. Proponents say stones and crystals can be used to cure a variety of ills, including sleep issues and even heart problems.

“Coyote Wisdom has the biggest collection of crystals in the state,” Ranshaw said. First time visitors are offered a free small crystal.

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

The LCC Science Department Presents **Café Scientifique**

Tuesday, Nov. 15 @ 7pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

This month’s subject is: *Shaken Baby Syndrome: Facts and Fiction*. Dr. Robert M. Reece, retired clinical professor of Pediatrics at Tufts Medical Center in Boston and author of the novel *To Tell the Truth*, will discuss this form of abusive head trauma. Learn the kinds of injuries these infants sustain, how they occur, the effect of these injuries on the victims, the outcomes of the injuries, and some proposals about how these injuries might be prevented.

Lansing Storytellers Meeting

Monday, Nov. 21 from 7-9pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

The Lansing Storytellers are a group of mid-Michigan storytellers and story lovers, both amateur and professional, dedicated to keeping the tradition of oral storytelling alive. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Magic: Commander Night

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 6-8pm
Meridian Mall location

Bring a Commander deck and play a grand, multi-player game in this Magic rules variant. If you don’t have a deck, extras are usually available to borrow and are available for sale. All Magic and related products will be 20% off for those attending the event.

for more information visit
www.SchulerBooks.com



Lansing's LGBT Connection!

Lansing Association for Human Rights

The LGBT News

Michigan's oldest community based organization

November 2016 : Published Monthly

LAHR President's Corner: November 2016

November is Transgender Awareness Month. LAHR unequivocally contends that transgender people are equal and must be treated as such by our communities and under the law. Yet, we know that most people still don't know trans, gender nonbinary, and gender queer people and do not understand the trauma caused by discrimination and exclusion. Trans people do not owe anybody an explanation for living and should not need to prove their worth. LAHR hopes that the stories shared this week will be received with the knowledge

that telling your story publicly when you are not protected is dangerous and is an act of courage. We should be honored to be trusted with a glimpse into the lives of those we often harm — knowingly or unknowingly, through our action and inaction. We can all do better in our accepting and advocating for trans people, LGB folks included. The first thing we can do is make space for trans people tell their own stories and to listen.

*Emily Dievendorf, President
Lansing Association for Human Rights*

Personal Exploration in the Gender Prism

by Parker Curtis

When I think about trans visibility, I think of fear and anger. Last week some MSU men called me a faggot and a dyke just for living, and it was scary. But I am also proud of who I am and of the work I have done to be my authentic self. What I think about most, though, is need. I used to spend a lot of time feeling alone, scared, and isolated. By being visible I may be able to help others who are struggling with living in a gender oppressive culture.

I am a genderqueer trans-masculine person of lesbian experience whose pronouns are neutral (their/they).

I have been living my life as a non-binary trans person for as long as I can remember, though I haven't always had the words to explain who I am. I blame this last part on American culture, which relies heavily on a binary gender system. You are born either male or female, and this is classified depending on your genitals. There are huge expectations and pressures to follow gender norms that are assigned by society. Imagine having to color a portrait of the entire world with only two colored crayons. It would feel limiting. That's what the gender binary feels like to me and my experience.

When I was growing up in the 1980s, I would have loved gender variation re-

HUES Report November 2016

The past couple of months have been considerably busy for Humans Uniting for an Equal Society (HUES): we held our second annual Coming Out Day Brunch in October, started planning for our second annual The Come Out in January, and held our usual Coalition meetings to discuss important community issues. Speaking of, in case you haven't heard, HUES Coalition meetings have changed times and dates! We now meet the second Wednesday of the month between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m at Everybody Reads in Lansing. Our next meeting is on December 14. Keep up to date by finding us on

flected in the world around me — not just something I experienced personally. When I was five, I loved wearing a quilted Strawberry Shortcake dress and riding my Big Wheel. When I was eight, I had a short, tight haircut with a long "rat tail" in the back. When I was 10, I practiced slicking my hair back with Vaseline so I could look like James Dean. During high school, I sometimes wore makeup and curled my hair. Outwardly I was always very gender nonconforming, but on the inside there was also something happening that felt very confusing.

I can only explain it as a feeling of be-

Facebook, Twitter, or at our website, humansuniting.org.

We are also looking for a Vice Chair and Communications Strategist to join our Board. Elections will be held at our December meeting. Interested in learning more about our election procedures? You can find our bylaws on our Facebook page in the About section, subsection General Information. If you or anyone you know wants to get involved, we encourage you to look through our bylaws!

As always, we welcome Facebook messages or emails at humansunitingforanequalsociety@gmail.com. We hope to hear from and see you soon!

ing uncomfortable with my body and how I felt inside it. I had been feeling this uneasiness since puberty when my beautiful, flat chest disappeared. That feeling of being uncomfortable was always present. About 12 years ago, I began questioning my gender identity. I thought, "Maybe I'm a transgender man?" This realization scared me, and I began repressing these thoughts and feelings. Still, there was a nagging feeling inside me to listen to myself. I needed something but I didn't know what it was. Testosterone maybe? If I transitioned, what would my friends think? Would my family disown me? What

does it even mean to transition? Where would I go to get this help?

I messaged the only trans man I knew, disclosed my secrets, and never received a response. I felt overwhelmed and terrified, so I pushed all the thoughts and feelings into the back of my mind, as far as I could. I rationalized the decision to stay in the closet, keeping myself miserable and justifying the reasons I couldn't move forward. I would tell myself I couldn't do it because my dad wouldn't understand, because I wasn't suicidal, because it would be hard for my daughter, because I'm an introvert and everyone would be looking at me. I didn't feel safe enough to tell anyone, so I kept it to myself for 11 years.

The universe helped me out in an unexpected way. I started a master's program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Siena Heights University in the fall of 2012. Throughout the program I did my best to advocate for the LGBTQI community and educate my straight, cisgender classmates. When we had a diversity class, I arranged for a panel of transgender people to come answer questions. When we had a class in diagnosis, I prepared a presentation about gender dysphoria. I tried to help my peers and instructors understand that being transgender is not a mental disorder and that being transgender is beautiful and shouldn't be stigmatized. Secretly, I

Being Visible: A Trans Perspective

By Michelle Fox Phillips

Since becoming an activist 19 years ago, I have been advocating that more transgender and non-conforming individuals be open about their experiences. This lack of openness has put us 10 years behind the LGB community when it comes to civil rights. We need to be able to live our lives as authentically as we can without being ashamed of who we are.

Now, more than ever, the transgender community is at the forefront of the civil rights movement. Opponents of equality have been going after us relentlessly, putting forth all these bathroom bills claiming that we are predators and that we are going to harass their wives and daughters. We all know that this is not true; we have been using the restrooms and locker rooms for forever, without problem. This fear is out of ignorance. This is why we need to come out more and speak up; as the LGB community came out, they were eventually accepted by some of the straight community.

A BuzzFeed article recently described fractures within the TLGB community, with some advocating that bills for civil rights should not include public accom-

modations, just employment and housing protections. They said they'd eventually come back to add these public accommodations. We all know this incremental approach will not work. We need a comprehensive law. People advocating for this approach are throwing the transgender community under the bus. We cannot let this happen.

The transgender community needs to go to their representatives and senators in Lansing to advocate and educate on why we need protections for employment, housing, and accommodations. We need to write letters to the editors and other media outlets to let them and their audiences know how important this is. We need to speak up for ourselves and not let the LGB community speak for us.

Don't get me wrong, we still need LGB organizations to work with us. I highly recommend the ACLU's transgender advocacy program, which is taught by Amy Hunter. I urge people to sign up for it. I went through this program, and it helped me gain confidence in dealing with the media and taught me how to lobby.

For those of you who do identify as transgender, while I encourage you to come out and tell your story if you can, be safe about it. Don't put your life in jeopardy, and take care of yourself first.

stable for the first time since puberty, and there is peace inside of me. The physical changes are nice, but the mental changes and the feeling of belonging in my body is the best. At the same time, I can accept and appreciate the body I was born with. My life is beautiful. Living an authentic life is beautiful. Even more affirming is that I am no longer afraid to be seen. I want to be visible and help others, too!

Becoming visible as a trans person is important to me. I want other transgender people to know they are not alone. There are many crayons inside the box, and you can be whatever color you are in this beautiful gender prism.

Gender Prism

from page 16

wasn't just educating others; I was also exploring my own gender identity.

I spent my internship working with transgender clients, helping them find resources, begin medical transition, come out and overcome gender challenges. At the same time, I sought therapy to begin unpacking all the things I had been holding in. Straight and lesbian culture had taught me how I was expected to act as a gay person and a female person. I needed to sort it all out, to essentially find myself. Therapy helped me realize I'm a nonbinary trans person. I wasn't someone who always knew they were a guy because I'm not a guy. I also wasn't someone who always accepted being a girl because I am not a girl. There are more ways to be than male or female, and I fit somewhere in the middle. My gender is queer. My gender identity is Parker! I began masculinizing hormones three months ago, and I have never felt better. I am currently a genderqueer identified mental health therapist working at a private practice in East Lansing.

I feel more connected to my body now than I ever have before. I love the facial hair that I am beginning to grow. I love that I feel stronger. My moods are



First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

Reformed and Always Reforming

Welcomes and Affirms the LGBTQ Community

Worship Service: Sunday at 10:00 am

510 W Ottawa St, Lansing, Michigan 48933

(517) 482-0668 info@lansingfirstpres.org

www.lansingfirstpres.org

Facebook: LansingFirstPresbyterian

Heroes Needed

Donate | Educate | Elevate

lcc.edu/heroesneeded

SUITS AND THE CITY

DECEMBER MIXER

- ◆ Turner-Dodge House ◆
Sponsored by Richard Sneery
- ◆ Wednesday, Dec. 7 ◆
5:30pm to 8pm
- ◆ Featuring a silent auction ◆
for TRUE, the LGBTQ program
at Capital Gateway Services
- ◆ www.suitsandthecity.org ◆

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.

Turner-Dodge House call for holiday trees

The Friends of Turner-Dodge House is looking for businesses, organizations and individuals to decorate holiday trees for the annual Festival of Trees at Turner-Dodge House. If interested, please call (517) 483-4220 for more information or see the online submission form at: ow.ly/B3Qs305wv99.

Wednesday, November 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tax Time: How to Avoid Business Tax Panic. Course on making business and tax decisions. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chris Dombrowski. Conversation at 3 p.m. Gallery reading at 7 p.m. RCAH Auditorium in Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

MUSIC

MSU Opera Theatre: The Elixir of Love. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu/event-listing.
Stagetime Open Mic. Featured artist Chara Love & Friends. 7-10:11 p.m. FREE. Sir Pizza Grand Cafe, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4825.

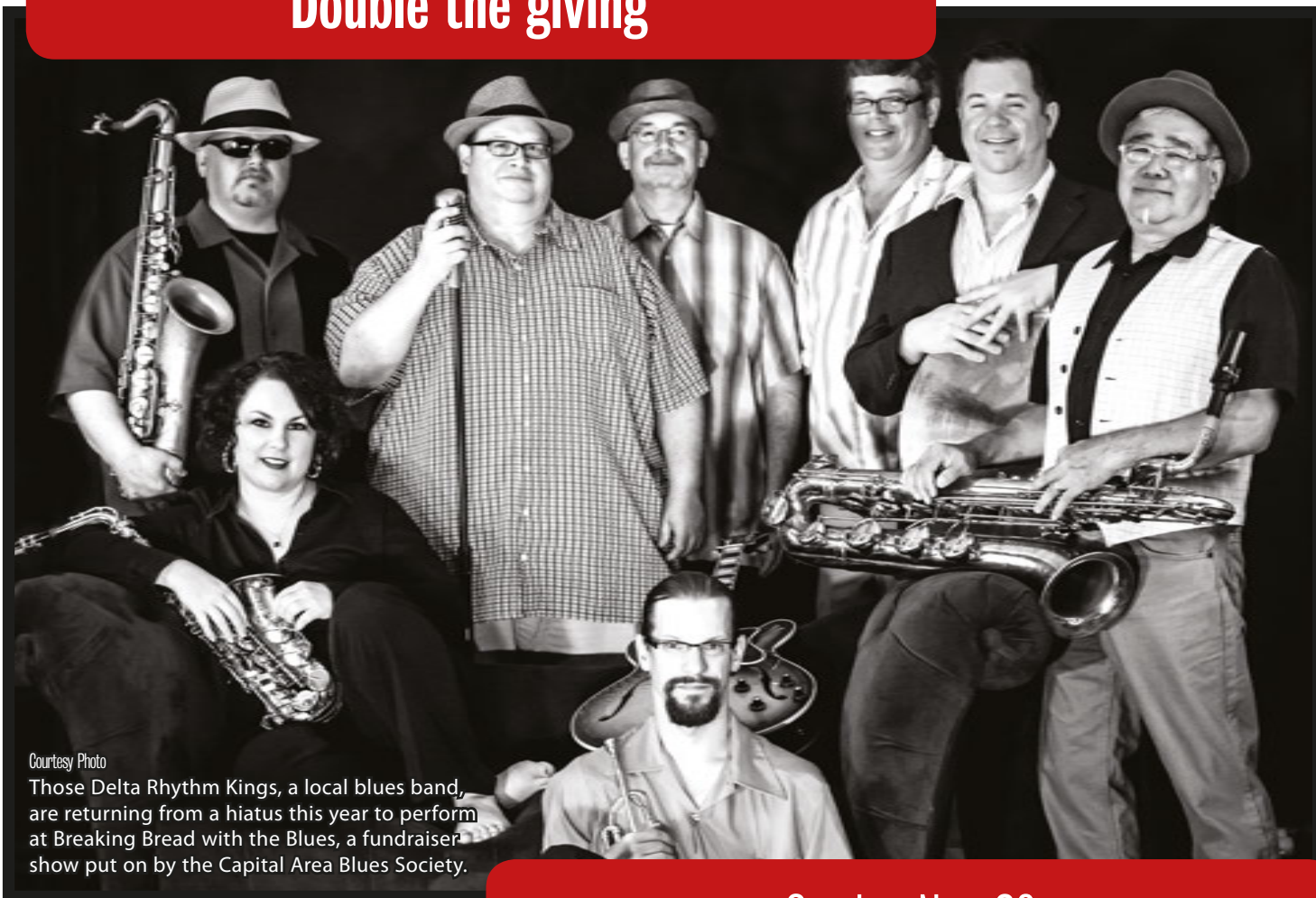
EVENTS

Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejcg305OBT8.

Preschool Thanksgiving Storytime. Ages 3-6 enjoy holiday stories and craft. 9:30-10 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.
Action Opportunity/General Membership Meeting. Information on the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. 6-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East

See Out on the Town, Page 20

Double the giving



Courtesy Photo

Those Delta Rhythm Kings, a local blues band, are returning from a hiatus this year to perform at Breaking Bread with the Blues, a fundraiser show put on by the Capital Area Blues Society.

Why support one cause when you can support two?

A singular focus isn't bad when it comes to charity, but a two-birds-one-stone mentality led the Capital Area Blues Society to expand the reach of its annual Thanksgiving fundraiser. A few years ago, the group added a food collection to Breaking Bread with the Blues, the society's annual fundraising event, with the non-perishable donations going to the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

"It was a good thing to do," explained Steve "Frog" Forgey, a member of the Blues Society and frontman of local blues band Frog & the Beeftones. "There are people out there who need help. There's nothing wrong with helping."

Admission for Sunday's fundraiser, hosted by the Green Door Blues Bar & Grill in Lansing, is \$10 and a donation of one non-perishable food item. Attendees are encouraged to donate more food items if they can. Children under 16 can get in for just a food donation, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

"It's an opportunity for kids to see community involvement," said Denise Lynch, Capital Area Blues Society president. "And it involves them in blues at a young age. We don't really

have a blues radio station or a blues studies program. You have Jazz Studies at MSU; you don't really have that with blues."

The afternoon show features a slate of local blues talent, including crowd favorites like Frog & the Beeftones and harmonica-focused act Calling Dr. Howard. The lineup also includes Those Delta Rhythm Kings, a local blues staple for nearly three decades. The band took a break earlier this year but is reuniting for the fundraiser.

"I was thrilled when Those Delta Rhythm Kings said they would play, since they've been on a bit of a hiatus," said Forgey, who coordinates the acts for the event.

This year also includes a number of special guests who will join the bands on stage, including singer Twyla Birdsong. The event is emceed by LCC Radio host Daedalian Lowry.

And the afternoon features more than just music. This year, Larry Grudt, a Capital Area Blues Society board member and owner of Lansing Mall art gallery Keys to Creativity, pulled in local visual artists for this year's event. Airbrush painter Wendy Dalton will create a blues-themed

piece of art during the show that will be raffled off.

Local illustrator and caricaturist Dennis Preston offers a large, original work that attendees can help color, and he'll also be showing off his recently released coloring book.

"Coloring is so big with adults now," Lynch said.

According to the organizers, the event has seen an increase in donations each year, and the performers are eager to come back year after year to support the Blues Society and the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

"They are very good hearted," Lynch said. "That's one thing about the local music community that I really admire. The local musicians are so generous with their time when it comes to good causes and fundraisers in the community."

Breaking Bread with the Blues

3-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20

\$10 and one non-perishable food item/ children under 16 FREE with donation of non-perishable food item
Green Door Blues Bar & Grill
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 482-6376, capitalareablues.org

— ALLISON HAMMERLY

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

DAVEY O. AND JEN SYGIT AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



THU. NOV. 17TH

Davey O.

Thursday, Nov. 17 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, 7 p.m.

New York-based singer/songwriter Davey O. headlines an evening of contemporary Americana at the Robin Theatre Thursday. Opening is local troubadour Jen Sygit. Davey O., a Buffalo native, is known for writing rustic tunes based on blue collar American life — or, as he puts it, “songs of labor, love, laughter, sorrow, life and death.” His recordings and concerts are equal parts songwriting and storytelling, a vibe he describes as “like a conversation with your neighbor.” His two LPs have garnered acclaim and reached many critics’ “best of” lists, and the singer/songwriter plays more than 120 shows across the country each year. In 2013, Davey O. was a finalist in the Kerrville Folk Festival’s prestigious New Folk Competition. His music is available for streaming at daveyo.com.

THE FALCON, COMEDIAN KYLE KINANE AT THE LOFT



SUN. NOV. 20TH

The Falcon

Sunday, Nov. 20 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$20/\$16 adv., 7 p.m.

The Falcon, a Chicago-based punk rock super-group, features guitarist/vocalist Brendan Kelly and drummer Neil Hennessy of the Lawrence Arms and Alkaline Trio's Dan Andriano on vocals and bass. The band, which headlines Sunday at the Loft, has been jamming since 2004 and released its latest LP, “Gather Up the Chaps,” back in March. The disc was released via Red Scare Industries, which also pressed the band’s debut 2004 EP, the epically titled: “God Don’t Make No Trash or Up Your Ass with Broken Glass.” Kelly, the creative force behind the band, played with Andriano from 1993 to 1996 in Slapstick, a ska-punk band. Opening the Mac’s Bar show is stand-up comedian Kyle Kinane and Lansing-based pop-punks Frank and Earnest.

UNION GUNS AT TEQUILA COWBOY



NOVEMBER 18-19

Union Guns

Nov. 18-19 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. Free, 8 p.m.

High-energy modern country outfit Union Guns formed in the winter of 2008, bought some Miller Lite and recorded a seven-song demo within weeks. Shortly after, the group’s first gig was opening for Jamey Johnson, and a string of high-profile shows followed. The band’s inspiration pulls from everyone from Waylon Jennings and Tim McGraw to AC/DC and Ryan Adams. Over the years, Union Guns — which plays two shows this weekend at Tequila Cowboy — has shared stages with the likes of Montgomery Gentry, Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley, Jason Aldean and Little Big Town, just to name a few. Prior to Union Guns’ formation, Timmy Lee (vocals/guitar) and Frank Pop (bass) fronted the band Branded for several years. The defunct group put out nine original songs on its debut 2007 record, “Fifty Turns.”

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.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Jonestown Crows, 8 p.m.	Starving Arts, 8 p.m.
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Alistair, 7:30 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	Lee Groove, 8 p.m.
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			Jammin' DJ, 8 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd		Open Mic w/ Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.
Crafty Palate, 333 S. Washington Square		Team Trivia, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Founders Tap Takeover, 5 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St.				Mark Sala, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Rush Clement, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 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.	Two Rivers Trio, 7 p.m.	Brother Jack with Corban Robbe, 7 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Stagetime, 7 p.m.		Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.		
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.,				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Minnesota, 8 p.m.	Aryay, 9 p.m.	Battle of the Sexes Comedy Show, 9 p.m.	Marvel Years and Artifakts, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Matt Braunger, 8 p.m.	Pay It Forward, 8 p.m.	November -2- Remember, 7:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Atomic Boogaloo, 9 p.m.	Zydecrunch, 9 p.m.	Jim Shaneberger Band, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Life Support, 9 p.m.	Steve Elgas, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Jake Stevens, 9 p.m.	Hollywood and Vinyl, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The New Rule, 9 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.		HomeSpun, 8:15 p.m.	Union Guns, 8:15 p.m.	Union Guns, 8:15 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Rotations, 9 p.m.	Rotations, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Jake Stevens, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Mike Skory Patio Blues, 6 p.m.	Oxymorons, 8 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	

Out on the town

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Lansing. (517) 927-8392, ow.ly/HRCm306321B.
Mid-MI Genealogical Society. Topic: "Little Known Facts About Census Records." 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. mmgs.wordpress.com.
The Peace Corps Adventure: Living, Learning, and Working Overseas. General info session about the Peace Corps. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. International Center, 427 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. ow.ly/nhxM304f4Ro.
Allen Farmers Market — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 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.

THEATER

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Thursday, November 17

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.
H.E.R.O: Holiday Home Safety. Course for homeowners and renters. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.
Radiation from the Big Bang. Professor lectures on latest developments in astronomy. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672, ow.ly/H7z1304dwAs.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time: Leaf Hunt. Storytime and nature activity. 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.
MSU Opera Theatre: The Elixir of Love. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu/event-listing.

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.
Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejcg305OBT8.
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.
Anime & Manga Club. Ages 10-18 watch and discuss anime with snacks. Call to register. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351.
Drum Circle. Meditative drumming session. 7-9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lightiam.org.
Fantastic Beasts Pizza Party. Ages 6 and up celebrate new movie release. Call to register. 5-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.
Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All skill levels welcome. Lessons, practice and fun. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiesilverblades.com.
Mason Codependents Anonymous. A fellowship to develop healthy relationships. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.
Senior Reminiscing Series. Fun and nostalgia remembering times gone by. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston.

NOV. 16-20 >> 'THE ELIXIR OF LOVE' AT MSU OPERA THEATRE

We've all had crushes on people who are out of our reach. "The Elixir of Love," the 19th century comic opera by Gaetano Donizetti, tells the story of the peasant Nemorino, who falls for the wealthy and disinterested Adina. When he procures a love potion — or what he believes to be one, at least — Nemorino stumbles through a series of misunderstandings and miscommunications, all the while pursuing Adina. MSU Opera Theatre brings the opera to the stage under conductor Marcello Cormio and director Melanie Helton. The production's music, including the famous tenor aria "Una furtiva lagrima," is sung in Italian with English surtitles. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Wine & De-Fine. Regina Carey leads discussion about "Raising Your Frequency." 6-8 p.m. \$15. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing. (517) 927-7115, reginacarey.com.
Woven Potholders. Grades 3 and up create woven potholder using looms. Call to register. 3:15-4:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

THEATER

The Nerd. Comedy about selflessness and selfishness. 8 p.m. Pay-what-you-can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.
Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

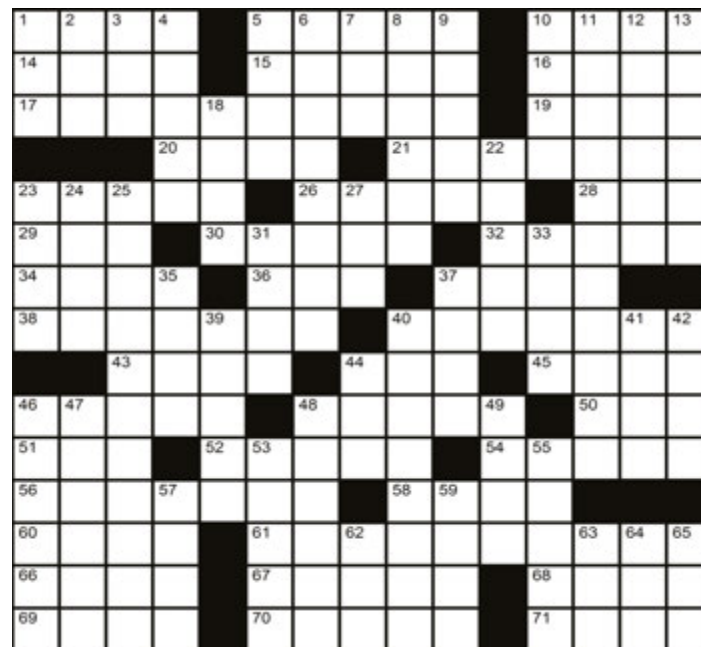
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Go Completely Ad-Free"— in all parts of this puzzle. Matt Jones

Across

1 Audio boosters
 5 They say "Nowaday!"
 10 Tropical getaway
 14 Renegade (on)
 15 "Wayne's World" sidekick
 16 Connery of "Dr. Nado"
 17 Guilty pleasure that's difficult to accomplish?
 19 Mountaintop
 20 "Heady, relax!"
 21 Munitions maker
 23 Roadsters
 26 Cedars-___ Hospital
 28 Lang. of Cads Lewis
 29 Gomez's hairier cousin
 30 Garment fold
 32 Source of a meadow of bears?
 34 Company behind a candy stamped with "mad"
 36 Orange sadpud
 37 "___ made up, Scotty"
 38 Knotted snack
 40 Drink for the lactose intolerant
 43 "For Your ___ Onlady"
 44 Health facility
 45 Cheese on crackers
 46 MGM Grandad Las Vegas, for one
 48 Puget Sound traveler
 50 Nickname of Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis
 51 "Goad on ..."
 52 ___ Lama
 54 Bead on the same page
 56 Broad, in Spanish
 58 Shadow's partner



60 Toad ___ (just right)
 61 Mornings in the world of bears?
 66 Busted tirade sound, perhaps
 67 More sound
 68 Sadat practice
 69 Word before "ran" or "known as"
 70 Bright-colored fadish
 71 Unlike vocal ranges for badasses

glycerides
 8 "___ bead much worse ..."
 9 Headman's sister
 10 Aoki of the PGA
 11 Anonymous mud wallower?
 12 Feel regret for
 13 Ade, to Einstein
 18 Rough file
 22 Kid who eventually liked Life?
 23 Lacking stiffness
 24 Russia's ___-Tass news service
 25 Garb for milling about the neighborhood?
 27 "___ a Man of Constant Sorrow"
 31 Caustic chemicals
 33 Foot in a meter
 35 Eyelid annoyance
 37 Wild swine
 39 "The Legend of ___"

(Nintendo game)
 40 Light white wine drink
 41 Scalp parasites
 42 Actress Palmer of "Scream Queens"
 44 Crusade locale
 46 "What a radiot!"
 47 Almost on the hour
 48 Counterparts of faunae
 49 Everybody, down South
 53 Brooding feeling
 55 Pictographic letter
 57 Prefix with America or morph
 59 Pound who was a master of the adverse
 62 Bank statement abbr.
 63 "All Things Considered" reporter Shapiro
 64 "Family Guy" daughter
 65 Geom. figure

PRE-THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION
 FEATURING
Root Doctor
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST
BIG DADDY FOX

WED., NOV. 23rd, 7-11pm
UrbanBeat Event Center
 1213 Turner Street, OLD TOWN, Lansing

\$25 TICKETS available at
 ROOTDOCTOR.brownpapertickets.com
 Advance tickets include
 2 beverages.
\$45 for couples.

An intimate and Unplugged evening with Root Doctor featuring a very Special Guest.

Seating is limited.

Sponsored by **CityPULSE**

Out on the town

from page 20

p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Friday, November 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Reform Judaism and the Halakhah: The

Enduring Connection. With Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D. 7:30 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing.

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.

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

MSU Opera Theatre: The Elixir of Love. Opera about Nemorino, who loves the wealthy Adina. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu/event-listing.

Interfaith Holiday Musical Celebration. Local performers represent diverse traditions. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Fellowship for Today, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 505-2809, fellowshipfortoday.org.

Monte Pride - Album Release Show. 7-10 p.m. \$10. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

Starry Night Gala featuring Three Men and a Tenor. Vocal concert and silent auction. 7-9 p.m. \$25. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (989) 224-2429, clintoncountyarts.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.

EVENTS

Ring Out for Peace. Bring a bell to ring. Noon. FREE. State Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details.

NOV. 17-DEC. 18 >> 'THE NERD' AT WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

People aren't always what — or who — they seem in Williamston Theatre's latest comical production, "The Nerd." During the Vietnam War, Willum Cubbert's life was saved by a stranger named Rick Steadman. When Willum sends a letter to Rick promising to do anything to repay him, Rick takes him up on the offer. Rick turns out to be a hopeless nerd, causing faux-pas after faux-pas with his awkward behavior and lack of social graces. But as time goes on, it becomes apparent that Rick has secrets up his sleeve. Williamston Theatre's production is directed by John Lepard. Call or see web for complete schedule and ticket prices. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18 >> STARRY NIGHT GALA

The Clinton County Arts Council starts what it hopes will become an annual tradition Friday with its inaugural Starry Night Gala, a fundraiser featuring live music and theater. Headlining the evening is Michigan-based comedy barbershop quartet Three Men and a Tenor. The vocalists have been voted "Best Entertainment in Michigan" three times by MI Meetings and Events magazine. Also performing are the Mint City Singers and members of Homegrown Productions, a St. Johns-based community theater group. The evening also offers a silent auction and art sale. Tickets are available at the Gallery at 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns, from CCAC board members or at the door. 6 p.m. \$25. The Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (989) 224-2429, clintoncountyarts.org.

NOV. 18-20 >> SILVER BELLS IN THE CITY

Lansing's annual celebration of winter holidays may not feel so wintery this year. Friday, when the 32nd annual Silver Bells in the City gets underway, temperatures are expected to be in the mid 60s, dropping to the 50s as the sun sets. Attendees should be able to stay fairly warm during the annual Electric Light Parade, which features 75 illuminated floats and this year's Grand Marshal, former NFL and MSU football player Todd "TJ" Duckett. Afterward, the East Lansing-based Steiner Chorale leads a community sing-along at the State Christmas Tree. The official tree lighting will be followed by the annual fireworks show. The evening closes with a concert from country duo Smithfield at the Lansing Center at 9 p.m. Festivities continue into the weekend, with the Silver Bells 5K on Saturday and Breakfast with Santa on Saturday and Sunday. See web for schedule. FREE. Downtown Lansing. silverbellsinthecity.org.

Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejcg305OBT8.

Back to the Moon for Good. Show on space exploration. 8-9 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672. ow.ly/SOUp304fb2G.

International Holiday Bake Sale and Coffee House. Bake sake featuring global food. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church, 725 W. Mt.

Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 303-6212.

MSU Community Club Meeting. Presentation on Mid-Michigan modern architecture. 1-2 p.m. MSU Federal Credit Union, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-1700, msu.edu/user/msucclub.

Silver Bells in the City. Library offers activities and entertainment. 5-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Silver Bells in the City. Parade, tree lighting, vendors and concert. 5 p.m. Downtown Lansing. silverbellsinthecity.org.

Thanksgiving Storytime. Bring the kids to enjoy stories about Thanksgiving. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.

THEATER

The Nerd. Comedy about selflessness and selfishness. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Saturday, November 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging

French language education. 9:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Suite F, Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com.

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.

Lansing Area Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Support Group. Info and support for MS patients. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 393-9747.

Tai Chi at the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Choosing Judaism: Conversion and Jewish Identity. With Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D. 12:15 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing.

THEATER

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

The Nerd. Comedy about selflessness and selfishness. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Every Breath You Take by Graham Farrow. Two families deal with their dark connections. 8-10 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington, Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

Freakshow Film Festival. Horror film screenings. 9 p.m. FREE. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte. ow.ly/FGMm305c93j.

EVENTS

Classicon 50. Comic, pulp, paperback and glamour art show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$3. University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. curiousbooks.com/classicon.html.

Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Party. Ages 4 and up enjoy activities and dinner. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 E. Mason St. Dansville. (517) 623-6511.

Drop-in Thanksgiving Crafts. Make a Thanksgiving craft while supplies last. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road Mason. (517) 628-3743, cadl.org.

Thanksgiving Wreath Craft. Ages 5 and up make seasonal paper wreath. 2:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejcg305OBT8.

Come-Write-In Weekend. Tea and coffee provided. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Dinner Dance. Roast pork dinner and dancing to live music. 5:30-11:30 p.m. \$10/\$4 kids for dinner; \$6/kids FREE for dance. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330.

Family Tree Talk. Teens and adults take a field trip to the Library of Michigan. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

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

Harry Potter Party. Ages 9 and up enjoy Harry Potter games and crafts. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Haslett Friends' Book Basket Silent Auction.

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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

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 22

Out on the town

from page 21

Bid on themed baskets and special books. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Impression 5 Science Series: Paper Circuits. Ages 8-12 make light-up greeting card. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

International Game Day. Video, board and cards games galore. Bring handheld consoles. 2:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Mini-Golf @ the Library. Putters provided. Register online. 6-8 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156, ow.ly/OwMe30614sY.

Mobile Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items for those in need. 9-11 a.m. FREE. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

PEC Alternative Holiday Sale. Shop locally, supporting small businesses. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter@gmail.com.

What a Trip: Migration Campfire. Campfire, educational program and nature walk. 7-8:30 p.m. \$3/\$5 for family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

ly/HNCprg.

Sunday, November 20

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 to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

Do We Have a Right to Die? Physician-Assisted Suicide in Jewish Law. With Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D. 10 a.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing.

MUSIC

Breaking Bread with the Blues. Blues concert and food drive. 3-8 p.m. \$10 plus food item to donate/FREE for kids. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. capitalareablues.org.

MSU Opera Theatre: The Elixir of Love. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu/event-listing.

Mid-Michigan Bluegrass and Folk Jam. 2-6 p.m. \$4/\$2 seniors suggested donation/kids FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road Lansing.

The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812

See Out on the Town, Page 23

SUNDAY, NOV. 20 >> MID-MICHIGAN BLUEGRASS & FOLK JAM AT WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER

While sport leagues and theater companies have already begun their 2016-2017 seasons, Woldumar Nature Center kicks off its Mid-Michigan Bluegrass & Folk Jam season Sunday. The season premier features performances by folk quintet Kari Anne and Lost Creek and traditional bluegrass outfit Out of the Blue. Following the main stage acts is an open mic. Throughout the day, musicians are invited to jam in the lower level of Woldumar's Big Barn. Bluegrass and Folk Jams are held on the third Sunday of the month. 2-6 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. re-news.net/mmb.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19 >> CLASSICON

Pulp fiction covers a variety of genres — Western, romance, sci-fi, mystery and more — but it always feels uniquely “pulpy.” Curious Book Shop offers a chance to relive the bygone era of pulp fiction with its semi-annual Classicon, a pulp paperback show highlighting items from the 1920s through the '60s. Over 35 vendor tables offer vintage magazines, comic books, digests, paperback novels, pinups, posters and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$3. University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. curiousbooks.com/classicon.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

A	M	P	S		A	N	T	I	S		I	S	L	E
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Nov. 16-22

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There is a 97 percent chance that you will NOT engage in the following activities within the next 30 days: naked skydiving, tight-rope walking between two skyscrapers, getting drunk on a mountaintop, taking ayahuasca with Peruvian shamans in a remote rural hut, or dancing ecstatically in a muddy pit of snakes. However, I suspect that you will be involved in almost equally exotic exploits — although less risky ones — that will require you to summon more pluck and improvisational skill than you knew you had.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The Onion, my favorite news source, reported that “It’s perfectly natural for people to fantasize about sandwiches other than the one currently in their hands.” You shouldn’t feel shame, the article said, if you’re enjoying a hoagie but suddenly feel an inexplicable yearning for a BLT or pastrami on rye. While I appreciate this reassuring counsel, I don’t think it applies to you in the coming weeks. In my opinion, you have a sacred duty to be unwaveringly faithful, both in your imagination and your actual behavior — as much for your own sake as for others’. I advise you to cultivate an up-to-date affection for and commitment to what you actually have, and not indulge in obsessive fantasies about “what ifs.”

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I hesitate to deliver the contents of this horoscope without a disclaimer. Unless you are an extremely ethical person with a vivid streak of empathy, you might be prone to abuse the information I’m about to present. So please ignore it unless you can responsibly employ the concepts of benevolent mischief and tricky blessings and cathartic shenanigans. Ready? Here’s your oracle: Now is a favorable time for grayer truths, wilder leaps of the imagination, more useful bullshit, funnier enigmas, and more outlandish stories seasoned with crazy wisdom.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Kavachi is an underwater volcano in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. It erupts periodically, and in general makes the surrounding water so hot and acidic that human divers must avoid it. And yet some hardy species live there, including crabs, jellyfish, stingrays, and sharks. What adaptations and strategies enable them to thrive in such an extreme environment? Scientists don’t know. I’m going to draw a comparison between you and the resourceful creatures living near Kavachi. In the coming weeks, I bet you’ll flourish in circumstances that normal people might find daunting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Seventeenth-century British people used the now-obsolete word “firkytooodle.” It meant “cuddling and snuggling accompanied by leisurely experiments in smooching, fondling, licking, and sweet dirty talk.” The coming weeks will be prime time for you to carry out extensive experiments in this activity. But here’s an interesting question: Will the near future also be a favorable phase for record levels of orgasmic release? The answer: maybe, but IF AND ONLY IF you pursue firkytooodle as an end in itself; IF AND ONLY IF you relish the teasing and playing as if they were ultimate rewards, and don’t relegate them to being merely preliminary acts for pleasures that are supposedly bigger and better. P.S. These same principles apply not just to your intimate connections, but to everything else in your life, as well. Enjoying the journey is as important as reaching a destination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here’s an experiment worth trying: Reach back into the past to find a remedy for what’s bugging you now. In other words, seek out on an old, perhaps even partially forgotten influence to resolve a current dilemma that has resisted your efforts to master it. This is one time when it may make good sense to temporarily resurrect a lost dream. You could energize your future by drawing inspiration from possibilities that might have been but never were.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): By the time he died at the age of 87 in 1983, free thinker Buckminster Fuller had

licensed his inventions to more than 100 companies. But along the way, he often had to be patient as he waited for the world to be ready for his visionary creations. He was ahead of his time, dreaming up things that would be needed before anyone knew they’d be needed. I encourage you to be like him in the coming weeks, Libra. Try to anticipate the future. Generate possibilities that people are not yet ripe to accept, but will eventually be ready to embrace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Does the word “revolution” have any useful meaning? Or has it been invoked by so many fanatics with such melodramatic agendas that it has lost its value? In accordance with your astrological omens, I suggest we give it another chance. I think it deserves a cozy spot in your life during the next few months. As for what exactly that entails, let’s call on author Rebecca Solnit for inspiration. She says, “I still think the [real] revolution is to make the world safe for poetry, meandering, for the frail and vulnerable, the rare and obscure, the impractical and local and small.”

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): “We all have ghosts inside us, and it’s better when they speak than when they don’t,” wrote author Siri Hustvedt. The good news, Sagittarius, is that in recent weeks your personal ghosts have been discoursing at length. They have offered their interpretation of your life’s central mysteries and have provided twists on old stories you thought you had all figured out. The bad news is that they don’t seem to want to shut up. Also, less than 25% of what they have been asserting is actually true or useful. But here’s the fantastic news: Those ghosts have delivered everything you need to know for now, and will obey if you tell them to take an extended vacation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the film Bruce Almighty, Morgan Freeman plays the role of God, and Capricorn actor Jim Carrey is a frustrated reporter named Bruce Nolan. After Nolan bemoans his rocky fate and blames it on God’s ineptitude, the Supreme Being reaches out by phone. (His number is 716-776-2323.) A series of conversations and negotiations ensues, leading Nolan on roller-coaster adventures that ultimately result in a mostly happy ending. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you Capricorns will have an unusually high chance of making fruitful contact with a Higher Power or Illuminating Source in the coming weeks. I doubt that 716-776-2323 is the right contact information. But if you trust your intuition, I bet you’ll make the connection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some spiders are both construction workers and artists. The webs they spin are not just strong and functional, but also feature decorative elements called “stabilimenta.” These may be as simple as zigzags or as complex as spiral whorls. Biologists say the stabilimenta draw prey to specific locations, help the spider hide, and render the overall stability of the web more robust. As you enter the web-building phase of your cycle, Aquarius, I suggest that you include your own version of attractive stabilimenta. Your purpose, of course, is not to catch prey, but to bolster your network and invigorate your support system. Be artful as well as practical. (Thanks to Mother Nature Network’s Jaymi Heimbuch for info on stabilimenta.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): “Aren’t there parts of ourselves that are just better left unfed?” asked Piscean author David Foster Wallace. I propose that we make that one of your two keynotes during the next four weeks. Here’s a second keynote: As you become more and more skilled at not fueling the parts of yourself that are better left unfed, you will have a growing knack for identifying the parts of yourself that should be well-fed. Feed them with care and artistry!

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

Out on the town

from page 22

E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

THEATER

The Nerd. Comedy about selflessness and selfishness. 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Every Breath You Take by Graham Farrow. Two families deal with their dark connections. 7-9 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington, Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

EVENTS

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. Secular candlelit vigil with Q&A session. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-4539.

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

Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejcg305OBT8.

Intro to Filmmaking, Part 3. Ages 8 and up learn post-production basics. Call to register. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

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

Dance In The Gallery. DANCE Lansing: A Community Dance Project performs. 1-2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Monday, November 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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.

Figure Drawing. No drawing experience needed. 6-9 p.m. \$15. 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.

MUSIC

Symphony Orchestra and MSU Jazz Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

EVENTS

Beer and Soup Pairing. With Mt. Town Beer. 7-10 p.m. \$32. REO Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. imabeerhound.com.

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.

Bath Bombs. All ages make own bath bombs. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

Be an Angel Giving Drive. Take a tag, purchase listed item and drop it off before Dec. 15. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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.

Drop-in Thanksgiving Crafts. Make a Thanksgiving craft while supplies last. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason.

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.

THEATER

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Tuesday, November 22

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.

Bible and Beer Study. 6 p.m. Buy your own beer. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. At 7 p.m. FREE. 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.

EVENTS

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

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

Drop-in Thanksgiving Crafts. Make a Thanksgiving craft while supplies last. 3-6 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason.

Drop-in Turkey Day Craft. Ages 5 and up make craft while supplies last. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Jennifer Lewis with Family & Friends. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

THEATER

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Wednesday, November 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

French Playtime. Playgroup ages 1-6 encouraging

See Out on the Town, Page 24

CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

MID•MICHIGAN

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FROM FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TO GOOGIE

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Expanding Practice



ENVIE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

EnVie, a new French fusion restaurant, is set to open next month in downtown Lansing, taking over the space that was formerly home to Brannigan Brothers.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

At Silver Bells in the City Friday, downtown Lansing revelers will get a first look—and perhaps a first taste—of Metro Lansing's latest addition to its growing French culture. EnVie, a new fusion restaurant opening next month at 210 S. Washington Square, will be open for folks looking to duck in from the cold, and take a sneak peek at downtown's newest dining destination.

"Initially we were looking to have just a few French items on the menu," said co-owner/operator Lance Davis. "But when word got out we were coming and people saw the name, they started posting to our Facebook page saying how much they were looking forward to authentic French food. So we made some changes based on that feedback. It's definitely more French than we were thinking."

Slowly and subtly, Francophile-friendly joints have been popping up all over Metro Lansing. You like sweets? **Le Bon Macaron**, 1133 E. Grand River in East Lansing, is dedicated to creating macarons, the classic French meringue mini-pastries that resemble tiny ham-

burgers. **Chapelure**, 4750 S. Hagadorn Road, another East Lansing patisserie, recently opened a second location in Eastwood Towne Center. Then there's **For Crêpe Sake**, which did so well in Lansing City Market that it moved into a brick-and-mortar location at 221 S. Washington Square, in the heart of the bustling downtown lunch scene. And the **Creole**, 1218 Turner St. in Old Town, **Bridge Street Social**, 107 S. Bridge St. in DeWitt, and **Guyton's Heirloom Cuisine**, inside Lansing City Market, all have portions of their menus dedicated to authentic French items, such as steak tartare and charcuterie plates.

EnVie, meanwhile, will have a scratch kitchen, offering house-made sauces and hand-made pasta. Familiar French dishes such as duck à l'orange and coq au vin will certainly make the cut, but beyond that, the menu is a work in progress.

"We're still finalizing the menu, but the idea is to use French cuisine as a base and build up from there," said co-owner/chef James Cheskaty. "I'm creating things no one has seen before. I obviously want to make diners

who are coming in looking for French items happy, so I'm including some familiar favorites that I'll give a modern, interesting twist to."

Cheskaty said he's working with local farmers to do meat curing for some items. While the menu won't be strictly farm-to-table, he plans to use as many local items as he can as they come into season. The goal is to have a 20-item menu that will be in place all day, from 8 a.m. breakfast to happy hour. Special grab-and-go salads, sandwiches and soups will be positioned near the entrance for downtown workers who don't have time to sit, but a full European experience will be available for diners with relaxed schedules.

"Not everyone has time for a three-hour lunch," Davis said. "If you just want a sandwich, you have your choice of sandwich shops already. We wanted to do something different."

Cheskaty, originally from Florida, has been working in Lansing-area restaurants for the last six years, including recent pop-up experiments **Supu Sugoi** and **Ruckus Ramen**. Lansing native Davis, meanwhile, spent the last 10 years as the general manager of **Gilbert & Blake's** in Okemos before striking out on his own.

"The company wasn't expanding, so I decided the time was right to do my own thing," Davis said. "And we decided on downtown because I live down here, and it's an exciting time to be here. There's so much going on now with new apartments and new things to do. Old Town is growing, REO Town is growing, and we're right in the middle of all that."

Bar manager Joshua Williams will keep the beverage menu focused on high-end wines and craft cocktails. Handmade syrups, grenadines and mixers will keep the European vibe going, as will the décor. Since August, the team has been working to turn the former Brannigan Brothers space into an intimate dining room (seating capacity: 65), including a glass-top bar and a new entrance featuring folding French doors, as well as a fireplace, a chandelier and a black-and-white subway tile theme.

"It's going to be much lighter in here," Davis said. "We really want to make you feel like you're walking into a European bistro when you enter."

The name is a clever triple entendre of French words. As an adjective, it means to have a desire for something. As a noun, envie means a craving, especially for food. And as two words, "en vie" means to live life to its fullest.

"There's a certain romance to France and French culture that (Americans) just seem to connect with," Davis said. "If we can capture a little bit of that, I think we'll do alright."

Out on the town

from page 23

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.
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

Pre-Thanksgiving Celebration. Featuring Root Doctor with Big Daddy Fox. 7-11 p.m. \$25/\$45 couples. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. rootdoctor.brownpapertickets.com.

EVENTS

Thanksgiving at Cristo Rey Community Center. Volunteers and food donations needed for meal for those in need. See web link for details. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. (517) 881-9181, ow.ly/ejccq305OBT8.
Capital Comeback. Networking event for young

professionals. 6-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 492-5588, ow.ly/i8xn304i5Qr.

Family Thanksgiving Storytime. Networking event for young professionals. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5588, ow.ly/i8xn304i5Qr.

Drop-in Thanksgiving Crafts. Make a Thanksgiving craft while supplies last. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

Family Storytime. Stories, songs and activities to build early literacy skills. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

Haslett Friends' Book Basket Silent Auction. Bid on themed baskets and special books. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Allen Farmers Market — Indoor Season. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE.

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

ICACS Whisker Wednesday. Pet adoptions.

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

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

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

THEATER

Wicked. Story of the Wicked Witch of the West. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$45. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23 >> A PRE-THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Local blues artists, along with a special guest from West Michigan, join together next week, hoping to give Lansing something to be thankful for. Blues band Root Doctor, featuring vocalist Freddie Cunningham, takes to the stage Wednesday for a Pre-Thanksgiving Celebration in Old Town. Joining the fun is Big Daddy Fox, a soul, blues and R&B vocalist/guitarist from Muskegon. Big Daddy Fox has competed in the finals of the Memphis International Blues Challenge and has been awarded the Mid-Northern Michigan Blues Society's Farmhouse Music Organization Lifetime Achievement Award. The performers kick off the Thanksgiving weekend with an intimate, unplugged show at the recently renovated UrbanBeat space. 7-11 p.m. \$25/\$45 couples. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. rootdoctor.brownpapertickets.com.



HE ATE

SHE ATE



The Vault has sandwiches and salads on lock

Picnic supply mecca

By **MARK NIXON**

Some of my fondest food memories revolve around picnics that began with a stop at the delicatessen. (Our favorite is Burritt's Fresh Markets in Traverse City.) Now we have memories-in-the-making much closer to home — just 10 miles from our country abode — thanks to the Vault.

This is a solid little corner deli with high ceilings, wooden floors and narrow aisles that beg the customer to browse while waiting for an order. The building feels old, because it is. The space was originally a bank founded by the great-grandfather of co-owner Scott Robinson.

Scott and Jamie Robinson opened the Vault about eight years ago and — full disclosure here — I know the Robinsons, and I like them. They also own Darrell's Market & Hardware, a godsend for home repair klutzes like me.

The Vault embodies the “hometown friendly” attitude of Darrell's. The staff is in no rush, and neither should you be. Stroll the aisles to soak in the eclectic mix of take-home products, from Jamaican ginger beer and fried beet chips to cheese boards and gourmet chocolate.

And do yourself a favor: Don't miss the actual vault. The deli's namesake has been transformed into the Wine Vault, a browse-worthy array of wines, including several Michigan varieties.

Over the course of six visits, Judy and I noshed on various sandwiches and sides, as well as pizza and soup. On balance, I give the Vault's sandwiches a B+. The Momma's Turkey sandwich (\$7.25) was one of the best. It has layers of smoked turkey, a thin slab of Havarti cheese (I detected dill) and lemon pepper mayonnaise on a crusty, herb-seeded bread.

Likewise, the chicken pesto melt (\$7.95) earns high marks for the pesto's garlicky goodness. This sandwich is served hot on a crunchy ciabatta roll, with slices of cool cucumber acting as counterbalance to warm ingredients.

Judy's favorite was the chicken salad sandwich (\$6.95), served on whole wheat bread. Instead of the shredded or diced chicken pieces found in many chicken salads, this one has knuckle-size chunks of roasted chicken, with just enough mayo to bind together the meat, red onion and celery. We made our order to-go, and at home Judy added slices of fresh avocado. Later, I realized the Vault offers avocado as an add-on (\$1.50).

Every jewel has its flaws, and in our experience, the Vault had a couple. The Rollin's Reuben (\$7.95) reminded me of that old “Where's the beef?” TV ad. The portion of corned beef inside was skimpy. OK, so I'm a snob when it comes to corned beef on rye. I expect the beef to be bulging outside the borders of the bread

See He Ate, Page 26

Gimme that bread

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON LAWRENCE**

When Mr. She Ate and I started dating, I asked him one of my litmus test questions: What's your favorite Thanksgiving side dish? Thanksgiving is my Super Bowl, and if he would have answered with mashed potatoes, it would have been over. The tasteless but quintessential item does nothing for me. Instead, he threw me for a loop. “Sandwiches,” he said. After I giggled for an hour, I probed this topic more deeply and thus uncovered his deep and abiding love for everything sandwichy.

It was with great pleasure that he accompanied me, several times, to the Vault Delicatessen, even though Mason is a bit out of our typical restaurant circumference. On our first visit, he chose the advertised special, the Sergeant Pepper Jack sandwich. Grilled deli-style chicken — and a lot of it — bacon, thick slices of pepper jack cheese and crisp Romaine lettuce served on three-cheese bread and slathered with red pepper mayonnaise. The breads here are thick, grainy and flavorful, unlike the virtually translucent “bread” found at so many delis in the area. The bacon was well prepared, not wobbly with fat or burned to a crunchy and unappetizing crisp. He upgraded his side item from the side salad to potato salad for an additional \$1.25, and he was happy he did.

The potato salad was made with our preferred redskin potatoes, and the mustard dressing was tangy and refreshing.

When I'm visiting a new restaurant, I generally try a basic menu item to get my feet wet, in the hopes that they will do the basic items well. I chose the Momma's Turkey sandwich, which features sliced smoked turkey, havarti cheese, lettuce, tomato and lemon pepper mayonnaise on herb-seeded bread. This sandwich was, unfortunately, uninspiring. There wasn't anything special about it except the mayonnaise, which was obviously full-fat. Stay away from me with your Miracle Whip, and that goes for margarine and Splenda as well, while we're at it. If I'm going to eat something, I want it to be the truest version of itself.

My side salad was another story. With not a leaf of wimpy iceberg lettuce to be seen and house-made croutons, I was happy to munch on vegetables. This side salad is the real deal.

I had that in mind on our next visit, when I tried the Veggie Salad. I was blown away by its excellent simplicity. A bed of mixed greens, heavy on the baby spinach, was topped with chopped cucumber, tomato, green pepper and those killer croutons, and on the side was a scoop of hummus.

Vegetable quotient, met. Healthy protein source in the form of hummus, satisfied. My taste buds and previously-growling stomach, satiated. This is what I mean when I encourage restaurants to focus on the basics. A vegetable salad with hummus doesn't need bells and whistles. Fresh, dark green vegetables with something as simple as

The Vault Delicatessen

10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday
368 S. Jefferson St., Mason
(517) 676-2696,
thevaultdeli.com



Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence/City Pulse

Left: The Vault's sandwiches, like the Momma's Turkey sandwich shown here, are piled with quality meats and cheeses, fresh vegetables and house-made spreads. Right: Hearty salads like the Vault's Veggie Salad feature fresh vegetables and house-made croutons.

See She Ate, Page 26



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He Ate

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— and yes, I expect to pay more for it.

But I decided to give Rollin's Reuben another chance. On my final visit, I ordered the same thing but asked for extra meat (\$2.50). I also asked for Dijon mustard instead of Thousand Island dressing. Jackpot. The beef bore the bulge, and the mustard was the proper tangy counterpart to the beef and lightly grilled rye bread. I should have asked them to substitute the coleslaw for sauerkraut, but this was still an A+.

The biggest disappointment was the gourmet pizza (\$9.95). We ordered the Meats & Cheeses pie with add-ons of red onions and kalamata olives. There was nothing bad about the pizza; it was just so doggone ordinary.

The Vault is full of little surprises,

and here's one I didn't see coming. Its upscale array of soft drinks is amazing. Try the Jamaican ginger beer (\$2.25) if you like the full flavor and heat of real ginger. I do.

In the spirit of a true deli, the Vault has an array of cheeses, olives and cured ham. You can ask for samples. Note: Alcoholic drinks can only be consumed off-premises.

The best way to dine at the Vault is to grab a seat next door at Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., also owned by the Robinsons. It's a great place for people-watching or burying yourself in a book while munching on your meal.

Being a bit of a recluse, I normally prefer takeout. Already I'm thinking of next spring — before the mosquitoes are in full bloom — and a certain picnic table I know that's close by, perched on a hill above a small stream. All we need are silverware, plates, an ice bucket to chill the chardonnay — and a quick trip to the Vault.

She Ate

from page 25

house-made croutons blew me away.

The Mr. didn't fare as well with his meats and cheeses pizza. The pizza was thin-crust, which we like, but was soft and lacked texture, which we hate. I'd suggest keeping the pizza in the oven a few more minutes, but honestly, I question why the deli even offers pizza. The sandwiches and salads are much better than average. There is no need to muddle the menu with "gourmet" pizza. I think I'm going to start calling my breakfast "gourmet" oatmeal, because I guess you can just stick that word anywhere now if you want to make something sound fancier. And don't get me

started on "artisan."

But back to the Vault. The deli has an adorable arrangement with the bookstore next door — owned by the same people — which has a connected dining room. The deli staff will deliver your order to you as you peruse Bestsellers and wait for your lunch. There is also a small selection of retail items for sale in the deli, including Tate's Bake Shop cookies (which Ina Garten, my hero, always writes about), locally-produced maple syrup and various candies and sodas. If they started selling loaves of their bread, I predict they'd be a hot item. It was the highlight of many of our visits and would make some absolutely killer Thanksgiving stuffing. Stuffing, by the way, is an acceptable favorite side dish in my book. Especially if it's "gourmet" oyster stuffing.

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 5 MEDITERRANEAN

#1 WOODY'S OASIS

City Pulse readers love Woody's fast-food take on Mediterranean cuisine
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280
woodysoasis.com
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#2 ZAYTOON MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

City Pulse readers love the fresh, well-prepared food and Mediterranean ambiance
940 Elmwood Road, Lansing
(517) 203-5728
zaytoonlansing.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#3 ALADDIN'S RESTAURANT

City Pulse readers recommend the chicken schwarma and Mediterranean salad
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
(517) 333-8710
aladdinslansing.com
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday


#4 SULTAN'S MEDITERRANEAN

Known for its authentic Mediterranean fare and bright, welcoming dining room
(517) 333-4444
sultansmediterranean.com
4790 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
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#5 TABOOLI MEDITERRANEAN

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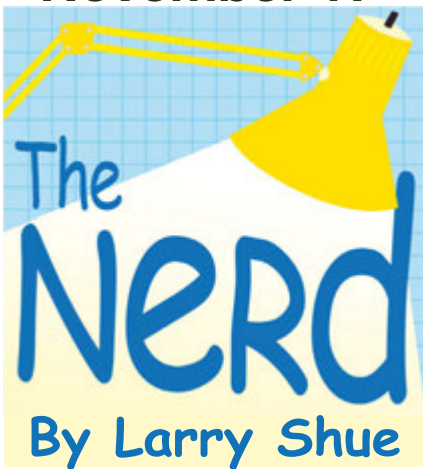


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1/2 lb. Greek burger (with olive sauce) — Harry's Place

The Internet calls them life hacks. Little tricks to make your life easier, better, or more productive. Things like using a hanging shoe rack to organize your cleaning supplies or making frozen grapes to chill your wine without watering it down.

While browsing some old issues of City Pulse, I stumbled onto



Harry's Place
10 a.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday
404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing
(517) 484-9661

I. Ross, found himself at Harry's Place. The menu at Harry's doesn't have a proper olive burger, but you can add olive sauce to any burger — and that's where things get interesting.

Harry's has a 1/2 lb. Greek burger, which features two beef patties stuffed with feta cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, green olives and "a variety of spices." All that is topped with fresh lettuce and tomato. Then, for the real olive overdose, you can top that monster with Harry's

a delicious life hack. In the search for Lansing's best olive burger, my predecessor, Allan

Place's olive sauce.

The olive sauce at Harry's isn't super mayonnaise-y like the sauces at other joints. It's lighter and has a hint of cucumber, like a Greek tzatziki sauce. The zip of the olive sauce and fresh tomato balances out the rich beef and feta, and the olive bite pulls it all together.

This burger is a beast, so come hungry or bring a friend. And it's messy. But it's worth the mess. So ask for some extra napkins and dig in.

— 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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