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December 4-10, 2013

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SEE PAGE 8



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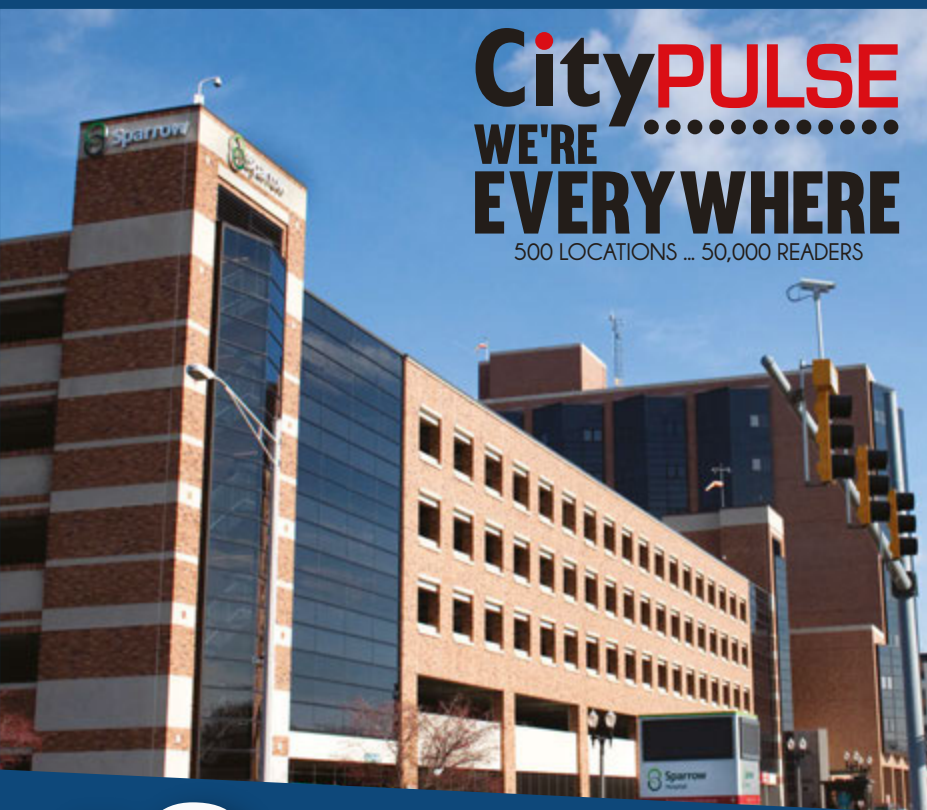
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Drummer Jeff Hamilton will be the next internationally known jazz artist in residence. 4/14/2014, 8:00 p.m. Fairchild Theatre

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Music

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Showcase SERIES

Catch These Two Holiday Traditions

MSU's HOME FOR THE

holidays

Enjoy a fun-filled family event celebrating Christmas traditions of old.



DECEMBER 7, 8:00 P.M.

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TICKETS: Adults \$20, seniors \$18, students \$10
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Celebrate the season with
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Music

'It's good to be back'

To City Pulse readers:

After a few months of downtime, I am returning to newspapering and will be working with City Pulse. From 2001 until this past August, I was executive editor of the Lansing State Journal. And then I wasn't. Not my choice, but new opportunities arise.



Mickey Hirten

Right now they are at City Pulse and its commitment to local, community-based journalism, which we need more than ever.

Even those who read mainstream newspapers the most recognize that they are struggling. Reporting and editing ranks have thinned, news pages reduced and coverage narrowed. Trust me, I know.

Yet there remains a compelling desire for news, especially local news, and that's where City Pulse finds its niche. It is *the* source for local arts and entertainment and dining cov-

erage. Its local calendar listings are extensive; its political coverage incisive. And most important, it has a voice that reflects what makes Lansing and nearby mid-Michigan communities different — and I'll say better — than other regions in this state.

We are progressive, open to new ideas and initiatives. Our perspectives are framed by Michigan State University and other area colleges, by a labor history that embraces change while remaining united and collective, and by a state government workforce that until the Republican ascendancy was supported in the mission of service to the people.

My title at City Pulse is rather nebulous: editorial director. I will be doing this while I seek full-time employment, which as many of you may know is a challenge in this recovering economy. Tell me, where are all those "Right-to-Work jobs"?

Meanwhile, I can lend a hand at Greater Lansing's locally based alternative newspaper. As I have discovered, there is more to City Pulse than you might realize and great potential to even better serve the news needs of our community.

I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Call, text, email. It's good to be back.

(Mickey Hirten is at mickey@lansingcitypulse.com and (517) 999-5067.)

Feedback

False portrait of Dougan

In the November 27-December 3, 2013 issue, the Walt Sorg Political notes article stated that Steve Dougan has made it known that he will be a candidate for the 67th House district. Additionally, it stated that Steve is allied with the libertarian, tea party wing of the local Republican party. Please verify your source for making these statements. I'm a personal friend of Steve and I supported him in his last election. I know that Steve is neither libertarian nor tea party. Mr. Sorg's statements seem to be a continuation of the false and unconfirmed rhetoric from the last election used to condemn the best and most qualified candidates of Dehli Township, and his attempt to try to paint such a picture of Steve Dougan is totally without merit.

— Michael A. Henderson
Holt

BWL makes out like a 'bandit'

I was stunned by the BW&L rate increase proposal. To cover increase costs from the city of \$4 million, it wants to increase charges to you and me by \$18.2 million!

This is more than four times its increased costs! BW&L, rather than tightening its belt as we all must do, makes out like a bandit, taking home a profit of \$12 million. Further, the increased costs are temporary till 2018, while the BW&L increase has every appearance of being permanent. I urge rejection of the BW&L proposal, with instructions that they go back to the drawing board, and come back with a proposal that includes some thinking about how to reduce costs before automatically passing all the burden on to the ratepayer.

— Kerby Rials
Lansing

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

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
 - Fax: (517) 371-5800

- 2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

B/14/047 MDOT TRUNKLINE MOWING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JANUARY 7, 2014** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this bid contact Paul Dykema (517) 483-7674.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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Link: In budgeting, prioritize the environment and social well-being over the economy



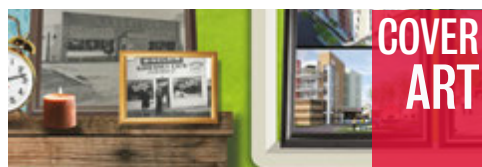
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Roma Bakery's owners are selling their 44-year-old business — but not to just anyone



**PAGE
26**

Annual arrival of French specialty wine a treat for both newcomers and connoisseurs



**COVER
ART**

PAST & FUTURE TENSE by RACHEL HARPER, PHOTOS courtesy of GOODRICH SHOP-RITE, RENDERINGS courtesy of KEVIN MCGRAW

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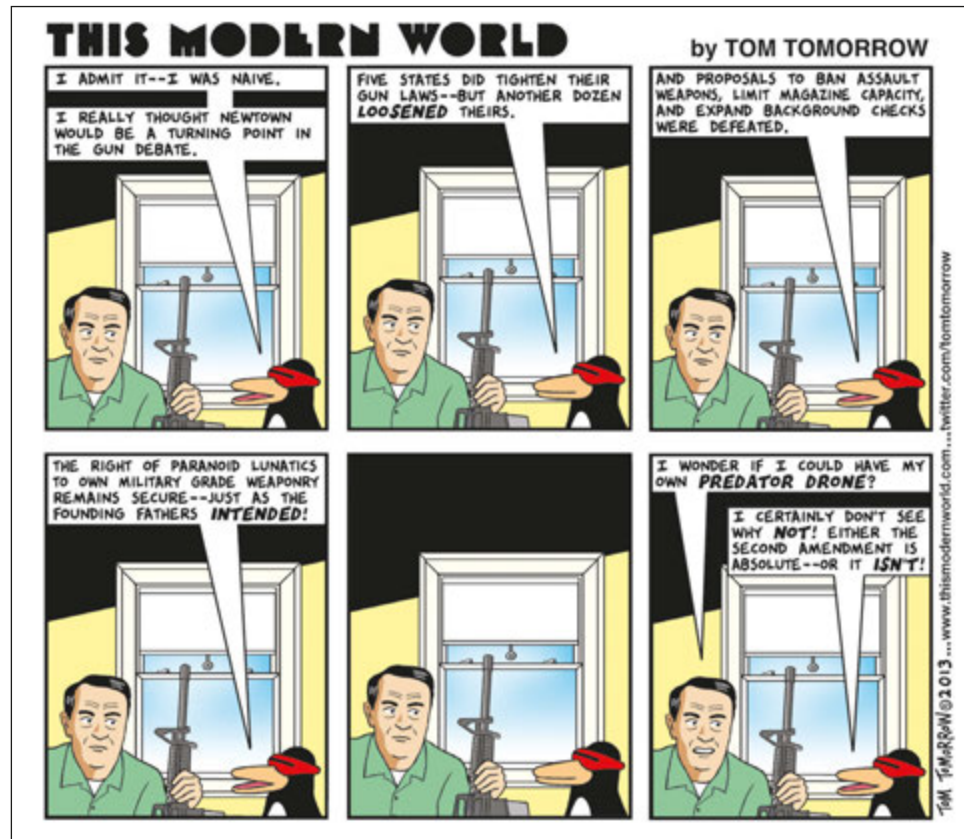
THIS WEEK Developer Kevin McGraw
Richard and Kathy Verlander
Mickey Hirten, City Pulse editorial director
Ginny Luedeman on Christian Science



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

**IMPACT
89FM**



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing and Dewpoint

Mayor Bernero and Councilwoman Dunbar return campaign contributions to Dewpoint officials in latest chapter examining city's relationship with tech firm

The reelection campaigns of Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar plan to or have returned \$500 contributions to officials at Dewpoint Inc. The Lansing-based firm manages software for the city's pension systems, but it is also being paid \$1.25 million over two years to overhaul the city's information technology.

The contributions appear to violate a state law that was amended this year to limit contributions from vendors who do business with public pension boards to elected officials with direct or indirect control over how public retirement system money is spent.

It's unclear whether Councilwoman Jessica Yorko will do the same for a \$500 contribution she received from Dewpoint CEO Andrew Kotarba, though she said she will comply with any campaign requirements. She had first learned of the issue on Monday night.

The refunds are the latest chapter examining the tech integration and consulting firm's relationship with the city, which has been questioned in recent weeks by the city's internal auditor, who wants more detailed accounting about what the city gets from Dewpoint.

"The relationship between Dewpoint and the City of Lansing appears to be a cozy one where services are purchased with ease and often without regard to providing detailed documentation for same," Internal Auditor Jim DeLine wrote in a Nov. 22 report to the Council and administration.

DeLine was looking for line items explaining what Dewpoint did for \$90 an hour totaling nearing \$200,000. A July 5 purchase order for the company billed for 2,088 hours of work with little explanation. Lansing is paying Dewpoint

on three fronts: For day-to-day "project management" work, a long-term infrastructure redesign of the city's IT system and by the pension systems for software management.

Dewpoint is one of 19 businesses paid to oversee the pension systems. The list also includes consulting and investment firms.

Bernero is an ex-officio member of the city's two retirement boards. The Council president appoints a Council member to serve on each. Council President Carol Wood, who serves on both the police and fire and employee retirement boards, said she was given legal advice that the contribution limitations extend to all eight Council members, because they are eligible to serve on the boards and are therefore indirectly qualified to make decisions on how assets are spent. The

3. Contribution # 101	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt 08/27/2013	500.00
Name: Ken Theis Address: 6535 S Airport Rd Saint Johns MI 48879			
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation Director - Technology, Employer Dewpoint			
3. Contribution # 4	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt 08/02/13	\$500
Name & Address Joe Findlater 1921 E Miller Lansing, MI 48911			
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Business Development Executive Employer Dewpoint			
3. Contribution # 3	PAC Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	4. Date of Receipt 7/25/13	\$500
Name & Address: Andrew Kotarba 1736 Brookshire Ct, Williamston MI 48895			
5. If over \$100.00 cumulative, please provide: Occupation CEO Employer Dewpoint			

boards also include union, city and public representatives.

Kotarba gave \$500 to Yorko's campaign on July 27, campaign finance records show. The director of government solutions, Joe Findlater, gave \$500 to Dunbar's campaign on Aug. 2. Chief Operating Officer Ken Theis gave \$500 to Bernero's reelection campaign on Aug. 27.

A review of campaign finance reports shows that no other candidates in this year's citywide elections accepted contributions from Dewpoint officials.

According to the state law, if the contribution was more than \$350, the Dewpoint officials would need to discover it within four months and seek a refund within 60 days to avoid a violation.

"The campaign contribution in question is governed by a little-known new law that took effect earlier this year," Bernero said in a statement. "The law itself permits the refunding of excess contributions within a certain time period to avoid a violation of the contribu-

tion limits. My campaigns always strive to fully comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and in this case we will return the entire contribution, even though we are not required to do so by the new law."

On Monday night, Dunbar said that her campaign treasurer, Dylan Hellus, returned the contribution to Findlater after the Nov. 5 election, but she could not provide specifics of when and why it was returned. Hellus could not be reached for comment. Yorko first learned of the discrepancy on Monday night when the Council was provided a memo from City Attorney Janene McIntyre backing a legal opinion by outside counsel.

A request for comment from Dewpoint officials was referred to Theis, who did not respond.

As part of the changes to Public Act 314 that took effect in March, a disqualifying contribution must have been made after March 28; it must have been made to a candidate who could "potentially influence the selection of service providers"; it was more than \$350 for a candidate running in an election in which the contributor was eligible to vote; and, if the employee was hired after the contribution, it was made within six months of the employee being hired. It appears all three contributions are in violation until they are at least partially returned.

According to documents provided to City Pulse showing quarterly expenses for both the Employees Retirement System and the Police and Fire Retirement System, Dewpoint was paid \$9,588 between April 1 and Sept. 30 for "software project" work on the retirement systems.

The city also has a two-year, \$52,000 a month infrastructure agreement with the company to launch Lansing's forthcoming Information Technology Department that was part of Bernero's budget this fiscal year.

The city's relationship with Dewpoint started in 2008. The IT company has worked on several projects and assists in day-to-day IT needs.

At a Council Committee of the Whole meeting last week, administration officials presented the Council with a copy of the two-year infrastructure management agreement, but it did not have written

SORE



Photo by Anthony Tucker Amirante

Property: State Christmas tree, downtown Lansing

Owner: State of Michigan

Owner says: Getting fewer complaints than last year

Well, they've done it again. As if last year's oddly lit Christmas tree wasn't enough of an assault on our holiday sensibilities, state-employed decorators again leave us puzzled with this 71-foot-tall misshapen blue spruce. Again, the lights — albeit a touch more creative than last year's red and green — are draped over like Aunt Edith's ugly Christmas sweater. Or worse, a lunch lady's hairnet.

But don't take our word for it.

"It's ridiculous," said Tim Holmes, who's been in the professional holiday decorating business since 1995. Holmes, a professional actor who lives in Michigan nine months out of the year and in Los Angeles around the holiday season (he called from L.A. on Tuesday), said his main problem is how the lights are wrapped around the exterior. Any serious tree decorator goes branch-by-branch, tucking lights inward toward the trunk all the way to the top.

"Right now it looks like a big huge net sitting on top of a tree," he said. Holmes also has demanding clientele, which includes Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nicholas Cage, Jennifer Garner and other A-list movie stars and directors. Recently, his company decorated a 30-foot-tall tree inside of a 56,000-square-foot house. "It took five guys 12 hours to light this tree correctly."

Steve Benkovsky, agency director for the Legislative Council Facilities Agency (he and his staff maintain the Capitol grounds), said his staff of electricians and mechanics put together the pattern this year. While it looks like a net, Benkovsky said the lights are wrapped horizontally 18 inches apart and wired together so they don't blow away.

"It looks like a Christmas hat you put on your head," Holmes countered.

— Andy Balaskovitz

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

Dewpoint

from page 5

records of the hourly work.

“The lack of detailed documentation for Project Management services being provided and invoiced by Dewpoint is disturbing,”

DeLine wrote.

Lansing Chief Operating Officer Chad Gamble explained last week that Dewpoint updates the city’s servers and programming, schedules software updates “that haven’t been performed in a very long time” and secures the city’s IT network.

— Andy Balaskovitz


MY18-TV! 9 A.M.
 Every Sunday
 THIS WEEK: Affordable Care Act

CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS


 Hosted by
 Berl Schwartz



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CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-5-2013, 2323 W. Holmes Road
Rezoning from "F" Commercial District to "A" Residential District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, to consider Z-5-2013. This is a request by Naomi Joy Schafer to rezone the property at 2323 W. Holmes Road, legally described as:

Commencing 650 Feet West of the Northeast Corner of Section 31, Thence South 210 Feet, East 122 Feet, North 210 Feet, West 122 Feet to the Point of Beginning; Section 31 T4N R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, MI

from "F" Commercial District to "A" Residential District. The purpose of the rezoning is to bring the single family dwelling at this location into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 13, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

As Detroit retirees worry ...

Posthumus, Schuette and lawmakers graze at the pension trough

Local government retirees in Detroit are sweating.

A federal judge Tuesday ruled Detroit could file Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Thousands of workers are wondering whether the federal bankruptcy court will wipe out some or all of their retirement pay, which averages \$19,213 annually.

Meanwhile, a small group of state officials live in a far different universe: They collect both a sizable paycheck for their jobs, plus large constitutionally guaranteed lifetime pensions.

As a result, the highest paid employee in the Governor's Office isn't Rick Snyder, who is paid \$159,000 a year. Snyder's chief lobbyist, Dick Posthumus, collects more than \$270,000 from the state treasury for his 16 years in the Legislature and four years as lieutenant governor — a \$170,000 salary and a \$100,000 pension.

When he was hired by Snyder, Posthumus said he was told the law didn't allow him to forgo the pension. In an interview, he noted that the Legislative Retirement System, which is operated separately from the State Employees Retirement System, is self-funding: Participating lawmakers paid 7 percent of their salaries into the system.

Retirement contributions by classified state workers were eliminated in the 1970s in lieu of a pay increase to save the state money.

The state official who filed the Detroit bankruptcy — Attorney General Bill Schuette — is one of those who draws both a six-figure salary and a five-figure pension: \$112,410 as attorney general and a \$39,237 legislative pension. That makes his total state compensation roughly the same as Snyder's. Schuette's office did not respond to requests for an interview.

When he turns 62 in two years, Schuette will be eligible for a second government pension for his three terms in Congress. He could eventually qualify for two more government pensions: one for executive branch service as attorney general and agriculture director and another for six years on the state Court of Appeals. While arguing the state's case for Detroit bankruptcy, Schuette is simultaneously defending the Detroit municipal pensions, supporting the contention of retirees that their retirement benefits are guaranteed by the Michigan Constitution.

Since October 2007, most state retirees have been prohibited by law from collecting both a state pension and salary. The 2007

law has been modified several times since to allow limited exceptions: corrections officers, assistant attorneys general and retirees hired for part-time positions.

Changing branches of government is one way to legally double-dip. A second way is to move from one level of government to another. Four area public officials benefit from multiple government checks every month as a result of moving up:

- U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, and U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, were both paid \$174,000 for their federal jobs and also receive state pensions of more than \$60,000 for their time in the state Legislature and are eligible for free lifetime medical coverage.

- State Rep. Tom Cochran, D-Mason, receives more than \$84,500 in retirement benefits as Lansing's former fire chief.

- State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, supplements his state legislative salary with a \$50,000 pension from Eaton County for 31 years in the Sheriff's Department. State legislators are paid \$71,685 plus an annual \$10,800 expense allowance.

Pension amounts were provided in response to City Pulse Freedom of Information inquiries to the State Employees Retirement System, Judges Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System and city of Lansing.

Jones noted that his pension was funded with large deductions from his salary: 14.5 percent of his gross pay as a deputy, 16.5 percent when he became a command officer and 23 percent when he was sheriff.

"I put a great deal of money into the system. It was required, so I don't feel bad about accepting the compensation," Jones said. He added that he has also declined county-paid health care benefits.

State legislators no longer receive pension benefits or lifetime medical coverage. Beginning in 1997, the Legislature converted to a 401(k) retirement program. Lifetime medical benefits have been eliminated for any lawmaker first elected after 2006. Jones has been campaigning to change medical benefits for legislators elected prior to 2006 so that their share of health care premiums is the same as for other state retirees.

Former Senate Majority Leader Art Miller, D-Warren, receives the largest legislative pension at \$121,200 annually for nearly 26 years service. A classified state employee in the old defined benefit system with 26 years of service would be paid 39 percent of the average of his or her three highest-paid years. At Miller's top salary of \$79,650, that equates to a pension of \$31,000. His actual legislative pension is four times that amount.

While no new members are being added to the Legislature Retirement System, 282 former members or survivors continue to receive pensions and full medical coverage, although most of them are now covered by Medicare. Thirty-six receive pensions that are greater than the current legislative salary. The average legislative pension is \$45,400.



WALT SORG

Reframing government budgets

There has been an increase of late in letters to our local paper calling for a national balanced budget amendment. The fact that they have appeared in clusters suggest a campaign by some entity. For the most part, these letters express the sentiment that not only is government spending at the root of all of our problems, but that government itself is the problem. So the inferred hope of the authors is that by shrinking spending, we can shrink government. I infer this because none of the letters suggest raising revenue to balance budgets.

Now I suspect that some of the letter writers actually believe this simplistic myth — that if government balanced its budget all would be right in the world. But the evidence is startlingly in contrast to that myth. Most states and many communities have balanced budgets, and many of them are communities that are failing on many levels — economically, socially and environmentally. Others like Detroit are not working from a balanced budget because revenues are far below what even the minimum required services for a livable city require. Does one really think

that cutting expenditures further in Detroit, Flint, Battle Creek or Pontiac will make those communities stronger?

But let me now defend the balanced budget idea from a different and deeper perspective. Almost universally, talk of balanced budgets comes from those who want to shrink government's role or at least think that a budget for a locality, state or nation is like a personal checkbook, where we spend only what we have on account. Of course, these same folks almost universally use credit cards, these days more than they use checkbooks, but that analogy doesn't support their notion of austerity for government. So the typical narrow idea of balanced budgets can be framed in different ways.

So here's a new, and I would argue a more sustainable way, to frame this issue since we humans require oxygen, water and food to exist. And since we receive these gifts from the unique attributes of this planet (at least in this solar system), it would seem to follow that accounting for the health of those necessary attributes and ecologies for life would be a fundamental element of any budget we might be trying to balance. What science continues to uncover is the evidence that we have spent the interest of billions of years of evolution of the biological health of this living system and we are now spending down the capital itself. Of course, this robs the future of opportunities that we're fortunate to have enjoyed. Through our profligate consumption we have become spendthrifts, especially those in the so-called developed world. The U.S., with 4 percent of the global population, uses more than 20 percent of its energy, and has for many years. So we need to get that spending under control first.

Secondly, we need to account for the social well-being and harms that exist.

Prioritizing the economy over the social and environmental health of the planet is putting the cart before the horse. The economy is a human tool created to provide for social well-being, not the other way around. A good metaphor is that the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment and society, although our economic gospel inverts that reality. The increasing inequality in opportunity, power, and well-being both domestically and globally are clear signals that the economic system has been overdrawn and moving towards bankruptcy.

So if we are really concerned about balancing budgets, then the revenue and expenditures must include the ecological systems and the social systems. To continue to leave out those line items would be like taking the Defense Department expenditures out of the budget sheets as if they didn't exist, even while we fight wars, maintain military bases, run surveillance programs, etc. The budget might look like it was balanced on paper, but we know in reality it wouldn't be. And the future debt payments for this absurd accounting would be paid by our children and grandchildren.

I know this analysis is incomplete and there is much more nuance than can be accommodated in a short piece like this. But the main point is if the frame we use to address the challenge is wrong, the chance that the solutions we create will bring us to a suitable outcome are doubtful at best. We

must face the fact: The natural world must be protected.

The orientation away from the singular pursuit of private profit over community and planetary well-being must be reined in. There is no silver bullet. Communities must determine their own course without harming the prospects for their neighbors, and in fact collaborate with their neighbors near and far. For ultimately there is only one real budget and one real future we share.

Consultant Terry Link was the founding director of MSU's Office of Campus Sustainability and is a senior fellow with the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development. He can be reached at link@lansingcitypulse.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING

THE LANSING CITY COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AS FOLLOWS:

Monday, January 6, 2014
 Monday, January 13, 2014
 Thursday, January 30, 2014, 5:00 p.m.; reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for Mayor's State of the City Address at a location to be announced
 Monday, February 10, 2014
 Monday, February 24, 2014
 Monday, March 10, 2014
 Monday, March 24, 2014
 Monday, April 7, 2014
 Monday, April 21, 2014
 Monday, May 5, 2014
 Monday, May 19, 2014
 Monday, June 2, 2014
 Monday, June 16, 2014
 Monday, June 30, 2014
 Monday, July 14, 2014
 Monday, July 28, 2014
 Monday, August 11, 2014
 Monday, August 25, 2014
 Monday, September 8, 2014
 Monday, September 22, 2014
 Monday, October 6, 2014
 Monday, October 20, 2014
 Monday, November 3, 2014
 Monday, November 17, 2014
 Monday, December 1, 2014
 Monday, December 15, 2014

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on a Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall.

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CIRCLING THE CARTS

NEIGHBORHOOD GRAPPLES WITH CHANGES THAT THREATEN GOODRICH'S SHOP-RITE



Left: Courtesy of Kevin McGraw Right: Lawrence Cosentino

Left: View from the southwest on Kevin McGraw's proposed Trowbridge Plaza development. Right: Goodrich's co-owner Steve Scheffel (left) and general manager Fred Savage got out of the store for a little sunshine on the store's 75th anniversary last summer.

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

On the day before Thanksgiving, Brian Jeffries prowled the aisles at Goodrich's Shop-Rite, gathering stuff for the 17 pies he planned to bake on Thanksgiving Day. The longtime Lansing City Councilman is a relative newcomer to Shop-Rite. He has only been shopping at this 76-year-old locally owned grocery for 25 years.

"I would really hate to see this go," Jeffries said, looking around at the holiday bustle. "It's a tremendous anchor for this side of East Lansing and Lansing."

As multiple development pressures bear down on the nexus of MSU's southwest gateway at South Harrison and Trowbridge roads, Goodrich's finds itself in the eye of a slow-motion cyclone of change.

The news that Shop-Rite may close its doors when its lease expires in August, pushed out by a proposed mixed-use development that calls for higher rent and six months of downtime for remodeling, had Jeffries and other shoppers worried.

Would this be the last Thanksgiving turkey, the last Christmas to load up on lumpy links of Dr. Beef's potato sausage, the last holiday haul of wine from Shop-Rite co-owner Steve Scheffel?

Developer Kevin McGraw's \$24 million proposal for the corner of Harrison and Trowbridge calls for two new buildings dedicated to student housing, offices and retail and complete renovation of Goodrich's space, making it ready for a "cutting-edge organic grocer," in McGraw's words. McGraw said he's offering the same terms to Goodrich's.

"Quite frankly, that store needs to be gutted, and we have an opportunity to get a new store in there that's going to help us gut it," McGraw said. He was referring to

an organic food natural chain that he says is waiting in the wings if Goodrich's pulls out.

The lease negotiations are shielded by a confidentiality agreement, but Scheffel said the higher rent and the requirement to close for months amount to an "eviction notice."

Goodrich's, like any local grocer, is skating on thin ice to begin with. Former East Lansing Councilman Don Power is familiar with the economics of retail from his 40 years as a labor mediator. Kroger is among his past clients.

Power said the profit margin for most groceries is razor-thin, half a percent to 1 and a half percent. There's no break for grocers who circulate money locally, know their customers by name, give free expert wine advice or help seniors load up in the parking lot, as they do at Goodrich's.

"Many markets sell food at a loss," Power said. Even big stores like Meijer or Wal-Mart often make up the difference on merchandise.

With a margin that thin, Power said, Shop-Rite probably squeaks through by virtue of specialties like high-end meats, liquor and densely packed wine shelves he deemed "the best selection in town." Also, its prices generally are higher than other large grocery stores. In Power's analysis, closing Shop-Rite for six months or more to modernize the store, as McGraw proposes, would be a lethal blow. The higher rent would simply sharpen the guillotine. Even Kroger, he said, would have to close its doors in two weeks if sales were frozen.

"You have to flow or you die," Power said.

The Trowbridge business corridor is not downtown East Lansing, with its high-rise housing and new brew pubs, but it's a zone in flux. A slow funnel cloud of change began to encircle Goodrich's in 2001, when Trowbridge Road was extended into MSU as part of a high-visibility southwest gateway to campus. Hundreds of older stu-

dent apartments, including all of Cherry Lane along Harrison Road and much of nearby Spartan Village, were razed by 2011, shrinking foot traffic and the customer base for Goodrich's and its international foods. By 2015, a new \$10.5 million regional transport hub will go up across Trowbridge Road from Shop-Rite, making dowdy Trowbridge Plaza look all the more ripe for a makeover.

It was inevitable that a developer would declare that the plaza, with its vacant Oodles of Noodles hulk and long-empty drive-through bank, "underperforming."

"Now that MSU opened it up, folks are looking at it more," Trowbridge Road-based attorney Susan Chalgian, chairwoman of the Trowbridge Business Association, observed.

Before McGraw's proposal came along, some big ideas about the Trowbridge corridor were gently floated in neighborhood and MSU circles. The idea of housing for seniors, especially alumni who want to partake of university life without living in undergraduate housing blocks, was one.

Another was to open up the nearby residential Red Cedar neighborhood to small high-tech companies that would find the area congenial, much like Neogen Corp.'s scattered offices in former residences in Lansing's Oak Park neighborhood.

Eliot Singer is a resident, community activist and mem-



McGraw

LOYALS WEIGH-IN

On Tuesday, senior discount day at Goodrich's Shop-Rite, wry women in berets and men with salt and pepper beards nearly outnumber the students and young parents. With so much history to draw upon, Tuesday's customers range from merely loyal to rabidly so.



ROBERT BANKS (East Lansing)

Shopped here since 1967

"If this goes, it will be a great loss. It's not just a store shutting and being replaced. It's the loss of a major contribution to the community."



BRUCE ALLEN (East Lansing)

Shopped here since 1975

"If it goes, we're going to miss it. I think it probably needs some updating. I've seen this reel before. I had to help my elderly in-laws get rid of the farm."



ANN HANCOCK (East Lansing)

Shopped here 22 years

"I'm a fiercely loyal customer. If this developer puts in another store, I will never darken their doors. Never, ever. "Everybody pays attention to you here. They know me by name and I know them by name."

"I just think it's a great little store and I would be heartbroken if it was closed by some greedy developer."



JACK AND SUE PREISS (East Lansing)

Sue has shopped here since 1970; Jack since 1980

Sue: "We come here every week. The ethos of the store is so good and positive and we don't want to lose that to some ephemeral grocery this guy has cooked up."

Jack: "There are other stores that don't have the friendliness this store emanates. They do as much as they can for us. We do not see that kind of atmosphere at other stores."



CYNTHIA MANNING (Lansing)

Shopped here since 1985

"I like shopping here and I hate going to Meijer. It's too big and crazy and the service is below par. The quality of food I get here is good. I won't buy my meat anyplace else."



JAN LEPAGE (East Lansing)

Shopped here since the store opened in 1966

"What they've brought to the community, as people — I would like to see a community petition started or something to send to the City Council. I wouldn't come running back to this location for a new store."



NUR MOHAMMED (MSU freshman)

Lives in Spartan Village

"The store is important, especially for international students who don't have cars. I'm the kind of person that practices a healthy diet and I like the fruits and vegetables. If it closes, it is quite difficult for me."

Goodrich

from page 8

ber of East Lansing Citizens Concerned, a watchdog group about 100 strong. "This isn't just about Shop-Rite. It's about (the) Trowbridge (business corridor), Red Cedar neighborhood, the Ivanhoe neighborhood." Both are located just north of the shopping center.

MSU Professor Mark Sullivan, who lives in the area, has worked with the city of East Lansing, the Red Cedar Neighborhood Association and the Trowbridge Business Association on some of those ideas. "We've had discussions going back 18 months on ways to revitalize the whole Trowbridge corridor," Sullivan said.

Under one plan, nearby Red Cedar School would develop an eco-curriculum tying into nearby green space and neighboring Trowbridge Plaza. The plan included an extension of the Lansing River Trail to the plaza, an outdoor cafe with solar heating and state-of-the-art green technology.

Sullivan said MSU's Jazz Studies has been looking for "a first-class space, preferably a jazz club," as a venue for jazz students and professors, poetry and other musicians, run by MSU's hotel and management school. The former Pretzel Bell/Oodles of Noodles, he said, might have suited the purpose.

"We were having discussions once or twice a month when this new development came along," Sullivan said.

McGraw told the group he had a two-year construction window to make the project profitable, so planning and development time was limited.

"That put our more visionary concepts on hold," Sullivan said.

McGraw said the expiration of Shop-Rite's lease is an overdue chance for the corner plaza to perform "at market rate."

He asked for credit for trying to keep a grocer on the corner at all.

As usual, banks are in the driver's seat. When McGraw applies for loans to build his student-housing-office-retail village, banks will look for low-risk, high-credit tenants. Deep-pocketed chains always win that game. Goodwill and 76 years of successful business history are difficult to factor into a balance sheet.

"People should be thanking us for the willingness to invest millions to attract a grocery," McGraw said.

But "a grocery" is not what interests Goodrich's customers, who are legion. Chalgian summed up the conflict in the form of two questions to herself.

"Do I want Goodrich's to survive and thrive? Absolutely. Do I want a developer to be able to come in and feel like that corner is a good investment, and things will improve in value? Of course."

Chalgian is "conflicted" about the fate of Goodrich's. She has lived in East Lansing since 1987. "What a wonderful business it is," she said. "My husband and I spend so much money there, both for business and our family."

She hopes "the community could rally to support this local business that has given so much flavor and good quality to our East Lansing community."

What form could that support take? Singer has joined many development frays in the past, but he said he doesn't want to "tilt at windmills."

"There's strong sentiment in the community that we want Goodrich saved," Singer said. "If there is a way to save it, and the

See Goodrich, Page 10

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Photo courtesy of Kevin McGraw

Bird's-eye view looking northwest at the reimagined Trowbridge Village Commercial Development and the organic market that wants Goodrich's location.

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Goodrich

from page 9

owners want it to be saved, there will likely be some sort of political organization to try and make that happen.”

The Goodrich's lease deal is a private transaction, but there are toe-holds for public input. McGraw's site plan has to be approved by the city of East Lansing. If the developer asks for brownfield funds or tax increment financing, the city, county and state of Michigan will have a say.

“There are conditions you could place in the brownfield incentives to encourage them to keep [Goodrich's] here,” Jeffries said.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture offers 10-year tax breaks to “certain retail food establishments” that “expand, improve or open” in “underserved areas.” The incentive may apply to a Goodrich's makeover. Jeffries said Lansing took advantage of the program when the city was looking at putting a new grocery in Colonial Village (the former L&L Food Center, renovated into a Valu Land in July).

Some Goodrich supporters suggest that as a developer, McGraw simply think twice about where his own interests lie. And they say the same of property owner Chris “Sparty” Baryames. (Baryames did not return calls from City Pulse Monday and Tuesday.)

They question whether their actions may simply stir up a hornet's nest of ill will.

“If I was the developer looking at this,” Jeffries said, “Goodrich is the draw to this area and this whole plaza. I'd be thinking two or three times if you're going to do something that would push these folks out of here. It would have an impact on the economic viability of the project.”

While not giving up on Goodrich's, Power said future East Lansing Planning Commission hearings should focus on other problematic aspects of McGraw's plan. He said lack of green space and the height of the housing units (four or five stories, depending on the variant) are among the biggest bones of contention in the neighborhood.

“Those are the issues I plan to home in on,” Power said. “Goodrich's will seek its own level. My gut tells me, based on my experience, that there will be something else there, and that's unfortunate. Just because I like something doesn't mean it lives.”

Sullivan thinks a solution might still be worked out. He said he's talking with East Lansing Citizens Concerned, McGraw, Goodrich's Scheffel, city officials and MSU planners to set up a meeting in early January.

“There are decent chains in terms of the quality they provide, the product and the management,” Sullivan said. “Nobody's blind to that fact. But there is a human factor here that isn't trivial and just can't be ignored.”

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Passing the torte

Roma Bakery's owners are selling their business — but not to just anyone

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Last week, Mena Castriciano's dining room table was covered with authentic Italian dishes. Breads, salads, finger foods, pasta dishes and piles — actual heaping piles — of desserts. Cakes on top of tortes on top of almond cookies. In all, Castriciano estimated there were about 200 items.

"This is more than just a lifetime's worth of knowledge," she said. "These are from my family, my husband's family, things we created — it's everything we built our business on. I'm so, so proud of it, and it's my dream that they get (passed on)."

For the last 44 years, Castriciano and her husband, Sostine, have owned and operated Roma Bakery Deli & Fine Foods in downtown Lansing. These are her family's/business's recipes filling her usual dining space, mostly handwritten, mostly stuffed into multi-colored manila folders like massive raviolis. They're not really food items of course (what suburban table could hold all those wedding cakes, lasagnas and bracioles?), but step-by-step guides to making these dishes just like they did in Italy. She hired a Cooley Law School student, Emma Ewusi, to help her transcribe them so she can turn them into a cookbook, "Cooking with Mena," that she hopes will be out next year.

And the wisdom passing will continue in a grand return to tradition, if their plan works out. The Castricianos recently put Roma up for sale with a very specific proviso: After they sell the bakery, they want to stay on to teach the new owner (or owners) how to run it.

"We've put so much work into this," Sostine Castriciano, 67, said. "We don't want to sell it just to see it get turned into something else — we want to make sure it will keep on going as Roma.

"And he'll be an excellent employee," his

wife chimed in. "He's been doing this for a long time."

He wakes up every Monday through Saturday morning at 4 and works from 6 a.m. to about 6 p.m. in the kitchen. Mena Castriciano used to spend almost as much time working the front of the house until she had a stroke in 2007, forcing her to take a few steps back.

"I just can't work like I used to," she said. "And I have aphasia — sometimes the words don't come back for certain things. It's hard. I've started working half days, but I'll probably only be able to do this for a few more years. This would be a perfect time to spend teaching someone how to do this."

The Castricianos have three grown daughters who have set courses in life that don't involve donning the Roma baking hat, hence this unorthodox approach.

"I think this would be best for someone young, preferably a couple, who want to stay in the area," Sostine Castriciano said. "It's like an apprenticeship. That's the way they pass on trades in Italy."

And it soon may be the way it's done in Lansing. Her brother, Gino Baldori, a commercial sales and leasing agent with NAI Mid-Michigan TMN Commercial, is handling the transaction. He said it will either be sold as a package, which would include the business, the equipment, the land and the 5,500-square-foot building, or through some other arrangement that would split up the components, enabling someone to lease the property or building.

"This isn't about money," Mena Castriciano said. "I'm slowing down. It would be sad to let that information (disappear). We know a lot of people who are gone and took a lot of knowledge with them. We don't want that to happen with Roma Bakery."

Castriciano counts Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero as a regular customer; she said Gov. John Engler used to be one, too. Customer David Trierweiler said he used to come in 35 years ago, before he relocated. He was overjoyed to see Roma was still here when he rediscovered it five years ago. Roma



also sells bread to other businesses, such as Horrock's Farm Market on Lansing's west side. A lot of people rely on Roma, and continuity is a rare quality.

A new schedule would enable them to spend more time with family, but Castriciano said she already knows the first thing she's going to do.

"I've always wanted to go to Spain," she said. "And Fatima (in Portugal). And of course I'd visit family in Italy. I haven't been in three years."

Both Castricianos were born in Italy and immigrated to North America as adolescents. She came straight to Lansing, he moved to Canada first, then Lansing after he met her. They were married in 1968 and started Roma Bakery a year later on the corner of Cedar and Erie streets. That building was only 1,200 square feet and Sostine Castriciano had his eye on expansion. In 1978, work started on the new location one block away, and in 1979 the business moved to



Allan Ross/City Pulse

(Top) Mena Castriciano (left) hired Emma Ewusi to help her transcribe a lifetime of family recipes for her cookbook, "Cooking with Mena," due early next year. (Bottom) Sostine and Mena Castriciano are looking for a young person or couple to take over their 44-year-old Italian café/grocery store, Roma Bakery.

its present location, 428 N. Cedar St.

Aside from those treasured recipes, which they'd use to stock their bread, deli and dessert areas, the Castricianos also brought in specialty imported items, which were sold in the business's grocery area. When asked if he'd ever considered another line of work, Sostine Castriciano just laughed.

"Like what you do," he said, a smile creeping under his charming cookie duster mustache. "That's half the job."

The other half probably has to do something with waking up at 4 a.m. six days a week for nearly half a century. But, hey, Roma wasn't built in a day.

Annual Bridal Guide

CityPULSE



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This Special Bridal Edition will be distributed at the following bridal shows:

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Pick of the Glitter

City Pulse recognized for local arts and culture coverage

By ALLANI ROSS

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing presented City Pulse with the 2013 Business Arts Award at its 34th Annual Holiday Glitter gala Tuesday night at the University Club. The event honors contributors to the mid-Michigan arts and culture scene in two categories: for individuals, with the Applause Award, and for businesses, with the Business Arts Award.

Deborah Mikula, executive director of the Arts Council, said City Pulse was recognized for its “expansive” coverage of Lansing arts and culture. She said City Pulse was nominated by Courtney Millbrook, executive director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, who wrote that City Pulse’s reporting of local arts is “unparalleled.”

City Pulse has written about Lansing-area music, theater, film, dance and art since the paper’s inception in 2001. Founded by editor and publisher Berl Schwartz, it is read by an estimated 50,000 people in mid-Michigan every week.

“Arts coverage has from the beginning been one of City Pulse’s primary missions,” Schwartz said. “On behalf of the many City Pulsars over the years who have dedicated themselves to that goal, I am deeply gratified



Photo by Randy Blankenship

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing presented City Pulse with the Business Arts Award at the 2013 Holiday Glitter event held at MSU’s University Club.

by this honor.”

The Applause Award winners were Jerry & Joan Mattson, for their role as members of MSU’s Friends of Theater and for Jerry Mattson’s work with Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. Mikula said they also often open home to guest artists visiting the area.

The theme of this year’s event was “Holiday Glitter & Jazz: Live at the Copa Room.” It featured performances by jazz musicians Mardra and Reggie Thomas, who appeared on the cover of City Pulse this summer for their Old Town JazzFest performance, as well as the Rat Pack crooning of Gino Federici, who’s also been featured in the paper.

Remembering Paul Walker

MSU grad worked with late action star on his first film

By ALLANI ROSS

In 1998, MSU graduate Steve van Wormer co-starred in the live-action Disney comedy, “Meet the Deedles.” He played an adrenaline junkie working as a park ranger in Yellowstone with his twin brother, played by Paul Walker in his first headlining roll. Walker, who went on to star in a slate of Hollywood movies, including six films in the “Fast and the Furious” franchise, died on Saturday in a car wreck in Santa Clara, Calif. He was 40 years old.

Even though van Wormer said he hadn’t talked to Walker in several years, he said he was “elated for all his successes” and was shocked and saddened when he heard the news of Walker’s death through Facebook.

“He was very kind and he had this really warm personality,” van Wormer said. “I highly admired (him).”

Van Wormer, who turns 44 on Sunday, said he and Walker bonded while doing many of their own stunts over the 12-week shoot of “Deedles,” which involved rock



Courtesy Photo

Steve van Wormer (left) and Paul Walker did many of their own stunts in the 1998 film, “Meet the Deedles.”

climbing and street lugging.

“The very first day, we showed up and had to learn how to rappel,” he said. “It was the first stunt training either of us had. But we were young guys. It was fun for us. Three of us rented a house in Utah for the duration of the shoot. The off-hours were as exciting as what we did on-screen.”

Van Wormer said he moved to Los Angeles “about four days” after graduation, where he fell in with some other MSU alumni who were breaking into filmmaking. He said his passion, however, is on the writing side of the business and that he splits his time these days between creative marketing and voiceover work. And while “Deedles” didn’t connect with audiences, van Wormer got something significant out of it.

“I had a great time working with Paul,” van Wormer said. “This was just a horrible, tragedy. He was a great guy.”



SHOP LOCAL this holiday season

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For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$73 stays in the local economy (compared to \$43 for chain stores)

2. Go Green! Buy Local.
Locally owned businesses buy from other local businesses, reducing unnecessary transportation, packaging and fuel emissions.

3. It's good to be different.
You can visit a national chain anywhere, but you can only visit our locally owned businesses when you shop in the Capital Area.

4. More innovative & unique choices.
Small, local businesses often sell products or provide services you can't get from national chains.

5. Encourage entrepreneurship
Cultivating and nurturing local, innovative entrepreneurs is the best way to grow our economy.

6. Create jobs for your neighbors.
Small businesses are the largest employers nationally, creating 2 out of every 3 new jobs.

7. They call it the neighborhood store for a reason.
Locally owned businesses contribute over double the revenue to charity that corporate chains do.

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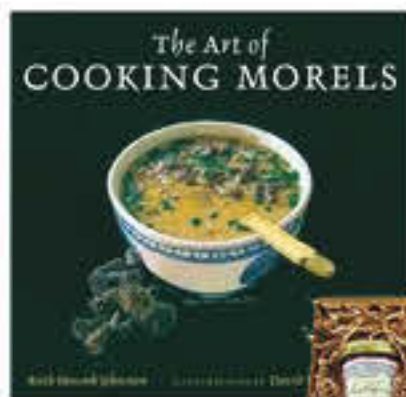
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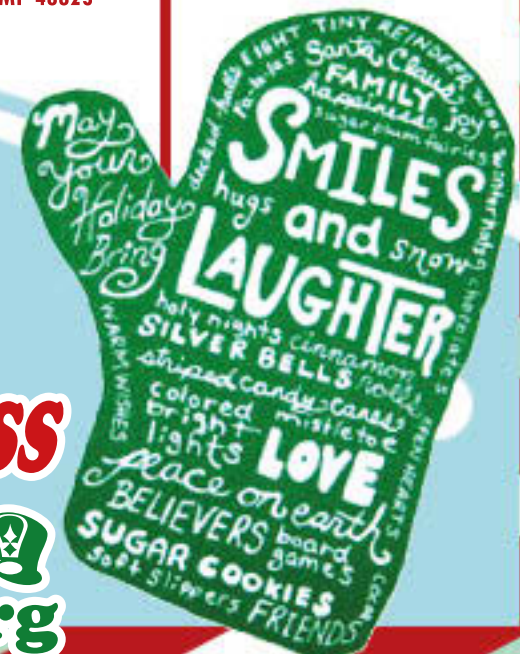
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Adventures in Karl Haas

Jeff Haas pays tribute, and talks back, to his father

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Sunday afternoon's tribute to the 100th birthday of Karl Haas, the urbane host of Detroit-based "Adventures in Good Music" who died in 2005, is no stiff retrospective. The Haas story, the good music and a few lingering father-son issues are far from finished.

Jeff Haas Quintet

Tribute to Karl Haas
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8
Wharton Center Pasant Theater
\$15-27
(800) WHARTON,
whartoncenter.com

issues are far from finished.

His son, Jeff Haas, is a Traverse City-based jazz pianist and composer who carries the torch

with love, respect and a more expansive idea of "good music" than his father's. Haas will bring his jazz quintet, recorded snippets from his father's show and bridge-building music that weaves classical, Hebrew and jazz threads in patterns that braid two very different spirits.

Karl Haas is the only classical music host to be inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame. He is one of only two broadcasters to receive more than one Peabody Award; the other was Edward R. Murrow.

"A week does not go by without at least two or three people telling me, 'Everything I know about classical music, I learned from your dad,'" Haas marveled.

But Karl Haas was blinkered when it came to other forms of music. Arriving in Chicago for the Hall of Fame ceremony in 1997, he saw banners honoring both



Courtesy Photo

Detroit-based classical music host Karl Haas (left) with pianist Van Cliburn in the 1960s.

him and Wolfman Jack. Haas said his father turned to him quizzically and asked, "Who is this Wolfman Jack?"

"Adventures in Good Music" was broadcast live on weekdays on WJR in Detroit from 1959 to 1974. It was syndicated worldwide to more than 600 stations, including 75 in Australia, with an estimated 3.5 million listeners a day.

In the 1980s, an Australian radio network threw a bumper sticker contest that drew more than 18,000 entries. The winner: "Bach Off — I'm Listening to Karl Haas," from a truck driver who slapped it on his 18-wheeler.

Tucked in a box of fan letters was a note from a farmer in Idaho who listened in the barn while doing his morning chores. "I don't have a clue what you're talking about, but I love the way you say

See Karl Haas, Page 18

— CONTRIBUTE TO — CityPULSE

Are you a Lansing-area writer or artist itching to have your voice heard?

If so, Lansing's alternative weekly newspaper is seeking contributors on a paid or for-credit basis. Below are a few opportunities for artists, writers with journalistic experience and students.

HUMOR ISSUE

City Pulse is calling on writers and artists to submit pieces for its upcoming humor issue. We're looking for humorous or satirical pieces about greater Lansing arts, politics, food, business, nature, sports — the possibilities are endless. And the work doesn't have to be limited to writing: We'll also accept drawings, cartoons, limericks and cover art, for example.

If accepted, stories will be paid **10 CENTS PER PUBLISHED WORD** (please keep to 800 words or less), **\$25 FOR A SINGLE-PANEL CARTOON** or drawing and **\$50 FOR THREE PANELS**.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, DEC. 18. Contact managing editor Andy Balaskovitz at andy@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5064 if you have questions or need guidance. Submit work to humor@lansingcitypulse.com.

FREELANCE

Freelance contributions for the News and Arts & Culture sections — as well as for cover artwork — are accepted on an ongoing basis. Pay varies based on word count, the amount of editing needed and whether photos are provided.

Freelance work is a mix of original story ideas and stories assigned by City Pulse editors.

If you're interested, contact managing editor Andy Balaskovitz at andy@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5064 with questions and at least three work samples.

INTERNSHIPS

Students interested in gaining writing, copy editing, photography, graphic design or video production experience are encouraged to apply for a semester-long internship at City Pulse. The positions are unpaid but can be for credit. Typically we require a 15-hour weekly time commitment based on what works for your schedule. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Students interested in interning at City Pulse should send a resume and at least three work samples to managing editor Andy Balaskovitz at andy@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5064.

HATE

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Karl Haas

from page 17

it," he wrote.

It took a long time for Haas to take a voyage around his father. When Haas was young, his father shut the door to his study and worked constantly to maintain

a man-killing daily schedule. Each program developed an original theme with carefully picked recordings and his commentary at the piano.

Haas inherited his father's passion for music and work ethic, but not his dogmatism. The long-running "Building Bridges With Music" program has taken Haas' jazz combo into hundreds of inner-city, suburban and rural Michigan schools to show them what a multi-ethnic lovefest looks like. They talk with the kids about bullying, prejudice and leaving room in their heads for all kinds of music.

At Sunday's concert, Haas will combine a loving tribute with his own expansive spirit. As a youngster, he spent a lot of time in the organ loft at Detroit's Temple Israel, where his father was organist. There he soaked up Jewish melodies Karl Haas brought from his years as an organist in southern Germany. By now he's turned several of these tunes, including "Sabbath Song," into richly textured vessels for jazz improvisation.

In Haas' bag of songs from his father there's a special place for "May the Words," a setting of the 19th Psalm and the only collaboration between father and son. Karl Haas wrote a melody for the psalm in the 1950s while on a family vacation at Walloon Lake. His son added a straight-up jazz middle section in the late '80s "without being asked."

"Whenever I play it, I'm struck with how organic the arrangement is and how natural it feels to play it," Haas said. People often tell him the section he wrote feels darker than his dad's. Shortly after he wrote it, he played the arrangement for his dad who liked it. "It was probably a pinnacle moment of him recognizing what I was trying to do in developing my own musical voice," Haas said.

But he still struggles to pin down his father's level of approval.



Courtesy Photo

Jeff Haas (second from right) leads his eponymous quintet in a tribute to what would have been his father's 100th birthday at the Wharton Center Sunday.

"He related to what we were trying to do," he said. "Let me rephrase that — he understood what we were trying to do." He stopped again. "Maybe even that's too strong. He began to recognize what we were trying to do in terms of the improvisation related to the melody."

Later in life, Karl Haas visited Traverse City and went to his son's jazz gigs. (He liked it when the combo played Tin Pan Alley tunes from George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and the like.) Father and son spent a lot of time together listening to music before Karl Haas' death.

"Even after he had his stroke and his memory wasn't the same, after he was dealing with dementia, we would sit on the couch and hold hands," Haas re-

called. "When he couldn't articulate it any more, he would squeeze my hand just moments before a key change, a tempo change or a modulation, as if to say, 'listen up.'"

Karl Haas' mellifluous voice will be heard throughout the tribute, via tape, sometimes to explain melody, harmony, or diminished chords, and, in one case, to enable his son to keep the dialogue with his father lively.

In one snippet, the elder Haas declaims, "Music must have a rhythmic component, but it needn't be too loud and too repetitive."

"I use that as an introduction to a tune that has a loud and repetitive rhythmic component," his son said.

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E got game

Local literary roundup, including talk by NYT bestselling author who's gone electronic

By BILL CASTANIER

A new short story has brought the writing career of New York Times best seller author Jodi Picoult full circle. The online publisher Byliner recently released "The Color War," a return to the form for the novelist: She got her start in the literary world when, as an undergrad at Princeton, two of her stories appeared in Seventeen magazine.

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series with author Jodi Picoult

11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9
Best Western Plus, 6820 S.
Cedar St., Lansing
\$30 lecture only (luncheon
tickets sold out)
(517) 349-2516

Holocaust, homosexuality and familial relationships. "The Color War," available only as a \$1.99 ebook, delves into racial issues between blacks and whites. It follows a 9-year old African-American inner-city kid who is sent to a summer Bible camp and becomes enamored with a white female counselor. Picoult will speak at the Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series at 11 a.m. Monday at the Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel. Print editions of her books will be available for sale at the event.

The leap to an electronic format was not a big one for Picoult. Like other major authors, she has gone over to the proverbial "dark side," selling as many books digitally as she does in print. The print version of her newest book, "The Storyteller," sells for \$10.98 on Amazon and \$16 in bookstores, while the ebook version is priced at \$9.99. However, it's unlikely anyone will ask Picoult to inscribe their Kindle version to Aunt Betty.

You can hardly blame Picoult, who is just responding to consumer demand;

more than 40 percent of the adult American public now owns an ereader, according to a recent USA Today poll. Since the Amazon Kindle was introduced in 2009, ebooks have grown to a point where they have siphoned off up to 40 percent of the traditional print book market. What the poll fails to mention is that, although ebook readers are roughly equal by gender, women are responsible for 70 percent to 80 percent of all new books sold. A recent report by Publishers Weekly said that through the first eight months of 2013, ebook sales were at \$872.2 million, and in a one-month period ebooks sold more than hardcovers, but less than trade paper books. And records keep breaking; prolific author James Patterson recently became the first author to sell 10 million ebooks.

Amazon has also made dramatic strides in becoming an originator of content, selling ebooks that are not available elsewhere with great success; it has exclusive rights to one out of six of the national best sellers. What's even more revealing is Amazon often does not share these books with libraries, opting instead to "loan" them to premium customers who pay \$79 a year to Amazon and join mostly for free two-day mailing.

Bath author/illustrator open house

One area of publishing that has remained mostly untouched from ebooks is children's books — but anyone who has "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on a touchscreen reader will tell you that can't be too

Hazel Ridge Holiday Open House

4-6:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday
Dec. 12-13; 11 a.m.-6:30
p.m. Saturday-Sunday Dec.
14-15
7409 Clark Road, Bath
FREE
(517) 641-6690,
hazelridgefarm.com

far behind. (The Pew Research Center cites research that shows 81 percent of the reading public still prefers print books when reading with a child.) Until then, you can wallow in children's book art and books at the annual Hazel Ridge Workshop and Gallery Holiday Open House next week at the bucolic Bath farm of Robbyn and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.

Each year, the van Frankenhuyzens,



Courtesy Photo

Author Jodi Picoult speaks at the Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series Monday.

who have illustrated and written a combined 30 books, open their Bath farm and artist's workshop to the public. The open house, which runs from Dec. 12 through Dec. 15, is free.

Most area fans know the Netherlands-born Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen (known as "Mr. Nick" in local elementary schools) for the work he has done for Sleeping Bear Press, including the tremendously successful "Michigan Legends" collection. Two of his most noted books are "The Legend of Sleeping Bear" and "The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell."

Gijsbert got his start in the children's market in 1987 when he designed the custom collectible Sesqui Bear for the Michigan Sesquicentennial. He has since created a growing number of illustrated children's books, including the "Farm" series, which he collaborates on with his spouse. His next book, "I Love You Just Enough," is due in 2014; it focuses on a wild duck that was raised by his daughter, Heather.

Verlander's parents take the mound

Fans of Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander will have an opportunity on Thursday to purchase signed copies of the new memoir, "Rocks Across the Pond: Lessons Learned, Stories Told," written by the Cy Young Award winner's parents, Richard and Kathy Verlander. The book, unsurprisingly, is all about raising a superstar baseball player, following the youthful Verlander as he grows into one of the game's most dominant pitchers. Richard and Kathy Verlander will appear at a signing at Schuler Books in Okemos.

Richard and Kathy Verlander, "Rocks Across the Pond"

4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5
Schuler Books & Music
1982 W. Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
FREE
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Tiger fans hope that the Verlanders will get the opportunity to update their book next season with an additional chapter about what it's like to win a World Series ring.

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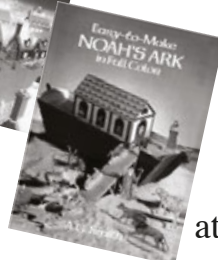
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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, December 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212. www.gallery1212.com.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

Together, Let's Jam! Drop-in music class. 6:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 366-7661.

Pagan Roots Discussion. Discuss Pagan influence on our religion and beliefs. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

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

EVENTS

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

"Stockbridge to Salth20." Student-made film about recovering the past. 7 p.m. \$5. Dewitt High School, 13601 Panther Drive, Dewitt. (517) 668-3169. dewittcreativitygroup.org.

109 Ladies (Day & Night Out). \$10 Tavern Trio. Glasses of house wine half off. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tavern 109, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2100. tavern109.com.

MUSIC

Sam Winterheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

The Saudades, Beards & Lauryn P. Indie alt folk pop concert. 8 p.m. \$5. Scene Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4-SUNDAY, DEC. 8 >> "WHITE CHRISTMAS" AT RIVERWALK THEATRE



The stage version of the 1954 holiday film classic featuring the music of Irving Berlin comes to Riverwalk for a two-week run. "White Christmas" follows Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, a successful performing duo who team up with a sister act, Betty and Judy Hanes. When the four of them discover that Wallace and Davis' former commanding general owns a failing lodge in Vermont, they decide to help. The show features beloved songs "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," "Happy Holiday" and, of course, the title song: "White Christmas." \$20/\$15 seniors. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 (sold out) & Thursday, Dec. 5; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 & Saturday, Dec. 7; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 (sold out). Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.



THURSDAY, DEC. 5 >> A MAGICAL EVENING WITH CRAIG MITCHELL SMITH

MSU's Friends of Theatre and Craig Mitchell Smith, the Lansing-based artist whose glass sculptures can be found in locations ranging from the Cooley Law School Gardens to the Disney EPCOT Center, have teamed up to help fundraise for the Summer Circle Theatre. The theater is moving from the soggy banks of the Red Cedar to the courtyard between Kresge Art Center and the Fairchild Theatre. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Summer Circle Theatre construction project. Call for reservations. (517) 355-6691. 7 p.m. \$30. Craig Mitchell Smith Glass, 1982 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos (inside Meridian Mall). craigmitchellsmith.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5 >> X IS FOR XENAKIS: THE LOGICAL VS. THE MYTHOLOGICAL

Iannis Xenakis, who died in 2001, was a Greek composer, architect and music theorist. He was an important influence in electronic music, and was known for creating music for specific spaces. Inspired by his career and in conjunction with the exhibit, "Lebbeus Woods, Architect," the Broad Art Museum and the MSU School of Music present a night of musical performances and architecture. This presentation was co-produced by the Broad and by Zac Brunell, a student of percussion. FREE. 7 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900, broadmuseum.msu.edu.



FRIDAY, DEC. 6-SATURDAY, DEC. 7 >> TORI SAVES CHRISTMAS, PART DEUX

In honor of his daughter, who died in June 2011, Jeff Croff began this project to make sure that kids in foster families have something to wake up to Christmas morning. This 24-hour event brings a bottomless Santa's bag full of fun and silliness. Throughout the event, people can see improv, live music, short plays, a trivia contest and more. Performances include comedy at 10 p.m. Friday, the Kiddie Ditties children's sing-a-long at 10 a.m. Saturday and the Habibi Dancers at 6 p.m. Saturday. All money benefits Child and Family Charities. \$10 donation, or pay what you can. 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Search for the Facebook event for more information.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6-SUNDAY, DEC. 8 >> "AS YOU LIKE IT" BY LCC THEATRE PROGRAM

Shakespeare's beloved comedy gets a 20th century update. Gender swapping, mistaken identity and conniving dukes plague the romance of Rosalind and Orlando, proving yet again that "All the world's a stage." 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 & Saturday, Dec. 7; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 411 Grand Ave., Room 168, Lansing on the campus of Lansing Community College. 10/\$5 students (suggested admission). (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/cma/events.

SUNDAY, DEC. 2 >> "LIFE WITHOUT FEAR" IN THE '60S

Ginny Luedeman, was a hard rocker who played with The Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. She's still on tour, only now she shares practical ideas for a Bible-based life. At her "Life Without Fear" speech on Sunday, she'll share examples of how Christian Science can help with issues such as out-of-control children, panic attacks and health challenges. 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. FREE. (517) 332-2117, christiansciencemidmi.org.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10-SUNDAY, DEC. 15 >> "GHOST THE MUSICAL" AT THE WHARTON CENTER



Never before has throwing pottery been so sexy. "Ghost The Musical," adapted from the Academy Award-winning hit film, follows Sam, a murder victim who refuses to "pass over" so he can protect his love, Molly. Desperate to communicate with her, he turns to a psychic who helps him protect Molly and avenge his death. And yeah, you'll probably have "Unchained Melody" stuck in your head afterward. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10-Thursday, Dec. 12; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13-Saturday, Dec. 14; 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14; 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. \$37-\$72 (\$25 students). Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



THU. DEC 12TH

WAY TO FALL AT MAC'S BAR

Thursday, Dec. 12 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, \$8 adv., 7 p.m.

Way to Fall, a local polished punk band, headlines Dec. 12 at Mac's Bar. Opening the all-ages show are Hometeam, Midwest Skies and Maybe Next Time. Way to Fall formed in 2008 when the band members were still in high school. Band members Seth Rentfrow (vocals/guitar), Kevin Vermillion (vocals/guitar), Alex Chelf (drums) and bassist Jayson Bechtol have musical influences such as Blink-182, early Fall Out Boy and New Found Glory, but are open to experimentation. "We're a pop/punk band at our core," Rentfrow said. "But I've gone back to the roots of pop music and find motivation from groups like The Mamas & The Papas, The Zombies (and) The Beach Boys."

MIDNIGHT GHOST TRAIN AT THE AVENUE



WED. DEC 4TH

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing \$5, 9 p.m.

The Midnight Ghost Train, a Topeka-based heavy-blues band, headlines an evening of sludgy hard rock tonight at The Avenue Café. The band's sound echoes old-school bluesman like Blind Willie Johnson as well as ZZ Top and Blue Cheer. The band includes Steve Moss (guitar/vocals), Brandon Burghart (drums) and bassist Mike Boyne. Known for its intense live shows, Midnight Ghost Train spends 10 months a year touring, playing over 300 shows per year since it formed in 2007. Karate Body Records released its second album, "Buffalo," in 2012. Heavy Planet, a "stoner rock blog," named it the Greatest Stoner Rock Record of 2012. Opening is the Lansing-based hard-blues outfit Jackpine Snag and the experimental local sounds of Hordes.

WHISKEY PICKERS AT MAC'S BAR



FRI. DEC 6TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$7, 9 p.m.

The Whiskey Pickers, a local four-man acoustic band, headlines a rustic night of Americana Friday at Mac's Bar. Opening the show are Dragon Wagon (bluegrass/folk rock from Ann Arbor), The Oarsmen (pop/folk from Beaver Island) and The Bard Owls (East Lansing-based folk). The Whiskey Pickers are recording an album at Elm Street Recordings; the band's lineup consists of Roger Tijerina (guitar, vocals, harp), Harp Brian Bienkowski (mandolin), Brian VanAntwerp (fiddle) and Sam Winterheimer (bass). "We've been adding a lot of new songs to our set lists, mostly traditional bluegrass songs," Tijerina said. "We've been working on our live sound and starting to incorporate a more jam-band approach, to bring more dynamics to our live performances."

LUVS CHRISTMAS SHOW AT 'THE FIDDLE'



FRI. DEC 6TH

Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. All ages, \$10, \$5 students. 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, a local 15-piece musical theatrical folk ensemble, performs a special Christmas-themed concert Friday at the Creole Gallery in Old Town. The show, hosted by the Ten Pound Fiddle, will feature "our own take on classic Christmas tunes," said LUVS front man and chief songwriter Dylan Rogers (vocals, ukulele, kazoo). "It's nothing too bawdy. It's family friendly with new costumes, a puppet show, new props and the audience is invited to sing along." The Ten Pound Fiddle website also promises that "songs, skits and stunts await." LUVS sold out its fall 2012 Creole Gallery show, so this time there are two back-to-back shows, one at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

DECEMBERSONGS '13 AT PUMPHOUSE



WED. DEC 11TH

Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. All ages, \$20 suggested donation, 7 p.m.

The holiday-folk group Decembersongs returns Monday to the Pump House. Decembersongs is a touring group made up of four singer/songwriters performing seasonal tunes. The fourth annual East Lansing show features a different lineup of critically acclaimed performers from last year: Amy Speace, Rod Picott and Doug & Telisha Williams (of Wild Ponies). The group will play in the round, accompanying each other on classic holiday pieces (such as "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas") and original works ("I Won't Be Home For Christmas"). One of Speace's followers is songwriting legend Judy Collins, who said, "Amy Speace is a remarkable artist, writer, singer and performer ... I am a total fan."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	The Midnight Ghost Train, 9 p.m.	Fat Boy & Jive Turkey 9 p.m.	Tori Saves Christmas, 6 p.m.	Tori Saves Christmas, 6 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Band 5 x 5, 9 p.m.	DJ JIMMY, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.	The Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.
Gonnxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.	Alex Thomas, 8 p.m.	Tim Kidd, 8 p.m.	Tim Kidd, 8 p.m.	Tim Kidd, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Stu Vosberg, 9 p.m.	Open Mic, 8 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Ladies Night with DJ Victor, 8 p.m.
Harem, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		DJ Thor, 8 p.m.	DJ SKITZO, 8 p.m.	DJ Elemnt, 8 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.				The Getout, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Whiskey Pickers, 9 p.m.	
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 10 p.m.	The Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9:30 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9:30 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Floyd Trivia, 8 p.m.	Scott Martin, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.	Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Billy Sloan, 9 p.m.

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

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

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

Out on the town

from page 20

THEATER

"White Christmas." Musical based on Irving Berlin's classic. 7 p.m. \$20, \$18 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Fall Writing Series: Ann Pancake. Theme: Fiction. Room C20. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. events.msu.edu.

Thursday, December 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays (except holidays). 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. newhopehaslett.com.

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

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

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

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

Okemos Employment Event. Workshops, presentations and open networking. 4:45-8 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 332-8044. pinkslipmidmichigan.org.

Family Education Day. Crazy for cranberries. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

EVENTS

Pinterest Craft Party. Ages 18 and up. Call to register. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District

Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

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

Michigan Beer Show Podcast: Tap Takeover. Tap Takeover with home brews, open to public. 8-9 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

MSU Film Collective: "Winter's Bone." Room B122. 8 p.m. FREE. MSU Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-4441. filmstudies.cal.msu.edu

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

Capital Area Audubon Society. Martineau brothers Fenner birding camp and project. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. capitalareaaudubon.org.

Martha Aladjem Bloomfield and Susan Cancro. Talk and discussion about homelessness in the Greater Lansing Area. NorthWestminster Presbyterian Church, 743 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 485-4722 ext. 375.

MUSIC

Live Music at P Squared. Live music every Thursday, 8 p.m. FREE. P Squared Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074.

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

THEATER

"White Christmas." Musical based on Irving Berlin's classic. 7 p.m. \$20, \$18 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Friday, December 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Teen Gingerbread Houses. Holiday craft-making. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Polar Express Storytime. Polar Express story time and pajama party. 7 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.

Green Friday. Discounts at select shops in downtown East Lansing. Retail Hours, FREE. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing. (517) 319-6877. cityofeastlansing.com/greenfriday.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner/WLNZ 89.7. Featuring The Savior's Army and Calibogi Road. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

The Square Pegz. Live 80s cover band at Harper's. 10:30 p.m. FREE. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040. harpersbrewpub.com.

MSU Jazz Orchestra I, II, III. "Nutcracker Swings." 8 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE Students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Steiner Chorale Concert. With guest Richard Fracker. 7 p.m. \$10. St. Martha Catholic Church, 1100 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. steinerchorale.org.

Absolute Music Chamber Concert. Featuring works of Barber, Copland and Bernstein. 8 p.m. \$15, \$16 online, \$5 students. Absolute Gallery, 307 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 281-2851.

Capital City Ringers. 30th annual handbell holiday concert. 7 p.m. Donation. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Highway, Lansing. (517) 321-3221. capitalcityringers.com.

THEATER

"A Christmas Carol." Adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic. 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686. mmft.net.

"White Christmas." Musical based on Irving Berlin's classic. 8 p.m. \$20, \$18 for seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, December 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Magazine Racket"-
-we've got some
issues.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 La Jolla campus, briefly
- 5 Glasgow citizen
- 9 Better qualified
- 14 A or E, or an IOU for that matter
- 15 "American Gothic" setting
- 16 Divide the pie
- 17 "___ do better than that!"
- 18 Handlebar feature
- 19 1980's White House name
- 20 Magazine that summarizes the contents of some cookies?
- 23 "Upstairs at Eric's" duo
- 24 Electronic surveillance gp.
- 25 Noah's project
- 26 Pelican State sch.
- 27 Captain Kirk's journal
- 29 Job in "The Santaland Diaries"
- 32 Magazine that stops you from dancing to a Madonna hit?
- 38 First words of "Baby Got Back"
- 39 Plumb of "The Brady Bunch"
- 40 "What now?!"
- 41 Magazine that shouldn't try to fit into an elevator?
- 44 Do some quilting
- 45 "Licensed to ___" (Beastie Boys album)
- 46 "Solve for x" subj.
- 47 Blind rage

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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					53	54				55	56	
58								59				60
61								62				63
64								65				66

- 49 Olive ___ (Popeye's lady)
- 50 "Blueberries for ___" (kiddie lit classic)
- 53 Magazine that draws readers to it 52 times a year?
- 58 Earth tremor
- 59 ___-Seltzer
- 60 Cold War org.
- 61 1983 comedy with the line "Kenny, don't paint your sister!"
- 62 Factual
- 63 "Let's Get ___"
- 64 Not all there
- 65 Programming language designed by Larry Wall
- 66 Book-lined retreats
- Down**
- 1 Bring into one
- 2 Drink with marshmal-
- 3 Cable movie channel that used to have an exclamation point
- 4 Body shop concern
- 5 Enlists
- 6 Chick of jazz
- 7 Boo-boo
- 8 "Lights out" music
- 9 Ed who voiced Carl in "Up"
- 10 Not the best bedmate
- 11 "The Mod Squad" role
- 12 "Behold!" to Caesar
- 13 King: Sp.
- 21 Invisible
- 22 Herb in poultry rubs
- 26 "Idiocracy" actor
- 27 Video game segment
- 28 Tandoor, for one
- 30 ___ Bizkit
- 31 Baby horse
- 32 ___ for "victory"
- 33 Cheers at a bullfight
- 34 Cave in
- 35 Movie holder
- 36 Uma, in "The Truth About Cats and Dogs"
- 37 180 degrees from SSW
- 42 Arena section
- 43 Feature of subscription-only websites
- 48 Gin game
- 49 Liam's "Schindler's List" role
- 50 Footwear for a frozen lake
- 51 "Good Eats" host Brown
- 52 City on the Rhone
- 53 Prefix with nautical
- 54 Long ride?
- 55 "Deadwood" lawman Wyatt
- 56 "Gold" getter in a 1997 film
- 57 City west of Tulsa
- 58 T-shirt size lineup, for short

SUDOKU

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

INTERMEDIATE

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.

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 25

Out on the town

from page 22

FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

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

EVENTS

Gingerbread Houses. Family fun. Register by Dec. 3. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.
Warren Miller Movie. Door prizes, ski vendors. \$10 in advance. 7 p.m. \$15. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 663-1854. elps.k12.mi.us.

Celebrate the Season: Christmas. Live music, crafts for the kids and more. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

Winter Glow. Santa and Mrs. Claus, ice carving and much more. 3-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing. (517) 319-6927. cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow.

Winter Farmers Market. Food and baked good vendors during winter months. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 712-2395. meridian.mi.us.

Brigid's Photo Exhibit. Teenager Brigid Ashley-Grose photo gallery. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 628-2301.

Williamston Light Parade. Annual event with floats, marching band, animals and more. 6 p.m. FREE. Downtown Williamston, Grand River Avenue, Williamston. (517) 655-1549. williamston.org.

Educator Holiday Shopping Day. Save 25 percent with your educator discount card. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.

Green Saturday. Discounts at select shops in Downtown East Lansing. Retail Hours. FREE. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing. (517) 319-6877. cityofeastlansing.com/greenfriday.

Holiday Appetizer Sampling. Appetizers, craft beer and wine for holiday parties. 1-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 708-2030. vineandbrew.com.

Holiday in the Log Cabin. Holiday open house at the nature center. 3-5 p.m. FREE for members, \$3 for non-members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Nokomis Art Market. Annual traditional Native American arts and crafts. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

MSU Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. Crafts from aromatherapy to pottery. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-3354.

Holiday Open House. \$25 adoptions, \$15 microchipping, tours and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, 600 Curtiss St., Mason. (517) 676-8370. ac.ingham.org.

Tavern Light Parade Special. Free hot chocolate during Williamston Light Parade, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tavern 109, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2100. tavern109.com.

Holiday Arts Market. Creative and affordable art: one-of-a-kind items. Noon, FREE. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 482-6656.

MUSIC

MSUFCU Showcase Series: MSU's Home for the Holidays. Christmas music. 8 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$10 students with ID. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

Betty Baxter and Doug Fritch. Holiday and variety

music. 11 a.m-1 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 481-5209.

Grand River Band Concert. Folk, country, rock, Americana, traditional and more, 6-8:30 pm, FREE. Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee, 134 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. (517) 505-2809. grandriverband.net.

THEATER

"White Christmas." Based on Irving Berlin's holiday classic. 7 p.m. \$20, \$18 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

"A Christmas Carol." Adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic. 3 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686. mmft.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Story Circle. Ages 2-5. Adults attend for free. 11 a.m. \$5. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559. michigan.gov/museum.

Sunday, December 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE.

Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar with restrictions. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Jeff Haas Quintet. Celebrating Karl Haas. 3 p.m. \$27. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Join the Time Bank. Exchange hours of time instead of money. 3 p.m. \$10. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 862-0422. midmichigantimebank.org.

Art for the Soul. Original art made by local artists. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. 6177 Zimmer Road, Williamston.

Greater Lansing Vegan Meet-up. Potluck dinner with vegan dishes. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Clerical Technical Union, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. meetup.com/VegMichigan-Greater-Lansing.

International Human Rights Day. MSU Humphrey Fellows comment on human rights. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 669-6017. GLUNA.org.

MSU Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. Crafts from aromatherapy to pottery. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-3354. uabevents.com.

Christmas In The Village. Visit Santa and tour Meridian Historical Village. 1-5 p.m. FREE. Meridian Township Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

See Out on the Town, Page 24

City Pulse Classifieds

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

2001 Isuzu VehiCross Very rare & unique performance sport ute. Must sell this week at half book value - dog needs surgery... Needs some work to be top notch. \$4800 or best reasonable offer. Comes with official dealer service DVD. Come see and make offer. 517-575-5599

Now Accepting New Donors Earn CASH TODAY. Talecris Plasma Resources. Call:517-272-9044

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Dec 4-10

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Thinking inside the box will be a crime against your nature in the coming weeks. The last place you want to be is in a pigeonhole. I advise you to stay far away from tight squeezes, claustrophobic "sanctuaries," and "convenient" confinements. If you're in a one-size-fits-all situation, you simply won't be able to access your highest intelligence. So then where should you be? I am rooting for you to wander into the wild frontiers where unsanctioned wonders and marvels await you. I'd love for you to find virgin terrain and uncharted territories where the boring old rules don't apply.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Mike Finnigan is a veteran keyboardist and blues vocalist who has toured with more than 20 major acts, including Jimi Hendrix, Etta James, Leonard Cohen, and Los Lonely Boys. There's a primal quality to his singing. It's gritty and fluid and tempestuous, almost feral at times. I understand perfectly why Bonnie Raitt has called him a "tall drink of bacon." The sound he makes with his voice is that lush and tasty. Can you guess his astrological sign? It's Taurus, of course. I'm naming him your patron saint this week because you yourself are as close as you have ever come to being a tall drink of bacon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): French painter Henri Matisse thought highly of his own work. He tended to ignore critics because he didn't think they understood his art well enough to produce intelligent critiques. There was one person whose opinion he was willing to heed, though; a single colleague who he said had earned to right to evaluate and assess his art: Pablo Picasso. I encourage you, Gemini, to come up with your own short list of people whose judgment you totally trust and respect. It's a good time to seek out their feedback on how you're doing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): How is it possible that you have come so far and worked so diligently only to be resigned now to hanging out in limbo, waiting around for the lucky break that may or may not ever arrive? I'm here today to escort you out of this infernal place. If you resist, my assignment is to drag you out. Why am I so adamant? Because I am sure it's a mistake for you to be passive and hope for the best. You need to resume working diligently, focused for now on what's right in front of you without worrying too much about the big picture. In my opinion, that approach will lead you to unforeseen help -- and a clarification of the big picture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your levels of personal magic are high. The radiance beaming out of your eyes is extra sparkly. There's an artistry to the way you are expressing yourself. Without even trying, you're exuding natural charisma and animal magnetism. In light of all these advantages, I suspect you will have an elevated capacity for both giving and receiving pleasure. In fact, I predict that your ability to feel really good and make other people feel really good will be at a peak. I hereby designate this the Week of Supreme Bliss.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The BBC reported on an expert who combs Switzerland's Risoud Forest to find the spruce trees whose wood can be made into the highest quality violins. After years of experience, Lorenzo Pellegrini knows which few trees will produce instruments with the most resonant tones. They grow slowly and have few knots. They need to have had enough water to grow strong, but not so much water that they're mushy. Your task in the coming weeks, Virgo, has a certain resemblance to the master tree-picker's work. It's time for you to start selecting and gathering the raw materials you will use to craft your own lyrical story in 2014.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here's the bad news: For all of us, including you, there is a gap between our intentions and our actual effects. Here's the good news: Now is your special time to narrow that gap. More bad news: All of us, you included, are periodically guilty of send-

ing out mixed messages. We confuse people with our ambivalence; what we say is sometimes different from what we feel. More good news: Now is your special time to reduce your mixed messages to as close to zero as possible. One more taste of bad news: Like all of us, you are a bit hypocritical. You engage in behavior that you criticize in others. You don't practice what you preach. One last piece of good news: Now is your special time to work on being forthright, genuine, and consistent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "I am very fond of strawberries and cream," said author Dale Carnegie, "but I have found that for some strange reason, fish prefer worms. So when I went fishing, I didn't think about what I wanted. I thought about what they wanted. I didn't bait the hook with strawberries and cream. Rather, I dangled a worm or grasshopper in front of the fish." That's a good teaching story for you, Scorpio. In order to get your desires fulfilled by the people who have the power to do that, you should give them what they actually long for -- not what you long for, nor what you wish they would long for. This is always true, of course, but it's especially applicable to what's going on in your life right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Touted as a prime source of "kick-@ss spirituality," author Danielle LaPorte has advice that's good for you to hear. "You will always be too much of something for someone," she says, "too big, too loud, too soft, too edgy." But that's exactly as it should be, she adds. It would be a mistake to "round out your edges," because then you would "lose your edge." And I'm here to tell you that you need all of your edge right now, Sagittarius. It's time to ignore people's mediocre expectations and push past their limits. To be true to yourself, you will probably have to be too much of something for several someones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Going into my spiritual mentoring session with the priestess, I had the intention of discovering truths about myself I didn't know before. That meant stirring up revelations about my ignorance as well as my potentials. I wanted assistance in facing my flaws as well as in tapping into my dormant powers. It worked. Her guidance was a potent catalyst. I was able to shed the debilitating nonsense stories I'd been telling myself about who I am. I awakened strengths that had been asleep. What I wish for you, Capricorn -- indeed, what I *predict* for you -- is a comparable experience. To expedite matters, go out in search of a person, adventure, or breakthrough that can help provide you with the kind of prod I received.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I bet people will be gossiping about you more than usual. Is there anything you can do to ensure that it's mostly benevolent gossip? Yes, there is. First, make sure that when you gossip about others, you are unfailingly positive in your comments. If you don't have anything good to say about someone, don't say it. Second, be on your best behavior. Communicate clearly and don't even think about taking unethical shortcuts. Finally, contribute more inspirational energy than usual to every group you're part of. Be an effervescent team player.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Maybe your ego isn't big enough. I'm serious. Is it possible that you could benefit from being more proud of yourself? Would it be healthy for you to give yourself more credit for the struggles you have weathered and the skills you have mastered and the beauty you have managed to forge out of the chaotic raw materials that life has given you? I've got a good feeling about this, Pisces. I can imagine you summoning the playful courage you will need to express more confidence. I can even picture you beginning to fantasize about embarking on certain stirring adventures you've never believed you were strong enough to try before now.

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

Out on the town

from page 23

(517) 347-7300. meridian.mi.us.

Nokomis Art Market. Traditional Native American arts and crafts. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

MUSIC

Capital City Ringers Concert. 30th annual holiday concert. 7 p.m. Donations. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos. (517) 321-3221. capitalcityringers.com.

MSU Wind Symphony and Spartan Youth Wind Symphony. Featuring music by Shostakovich and Moussorgsky. 3 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com.

Boisterous Brass. This series showcases artistry of LSO musicians. 3 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along. Proceeds benefit MSU Choral Society. 3 p.m. \$10. Edgewood United

Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"White Christmas." Based on Irving Berlin's holiday classic. 2 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

"A Christmas Carol." Adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic. 3 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686. mmft.net.

Monday, December 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Recipe Club. Share a favorite holiday dish. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion, 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 883-3414.

Zumba Gold. For seniors or beginners. 11 a.m.-noon, \$8 drop-in rate, \$35 five-visit punch card, \$65 10-visit punch card. Kick it Out! Dance Studio, 1880 Haslett Road, East Lansing. (517) 582-6784.

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Pre-registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

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

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

ASG Lansing Clippers' Meeting. American Sewing Guild holiday party. 6:15-9 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 699-8062. lansingclippers.com.

EVENTS

Monday Morning Movie. Popcorn and a movie. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

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

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

Club Shakespeare. Rehearsing "Scenes of Shakespeare." 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

Join the Time Bank. Exchange hours of time instead of money. 3 p.m. \$10. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 862-0422. midmichigantimebank.org.

Lansing Town Hall Series: Jodi Picoult. Lecture and lunch. 11 a.m. \$30 lecture/\$20 optional lunch. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 South Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 349-2615.

MSU Community Music Holiday Caroling. Holiday songs for shoppers. 5 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band or spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

FIREHOUSE SUBS/ SAWYER'S PANCAKES

Alan I. Ross/City Pulse
Firehouse Subs,
a national
chain based in
Jacksonville,
Fla., opens its
newest location in
downtown Lansing
on Jan. 6.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Work is underway on a second local location for **Firehouse Subs**, which is set to open Jan. 6 at 200 S. Washington Square in downtown. The space was formerly used for state offices. The restaurant is part of a national chain that boasts "700 locations and counting," but owner Sam Shango was simply taken with the product.

"The meat is steamed, not grilled, which gives it a completely different taste," Shango said. "Deli meat is usually processed with a lot of salt, and if you add water, the salt comes out. This is the big trick at Firehouse — you get to taste more of the meat."

Shango owns two convenience stores in mid-Michigan, including **Rainbow Party Store** on Lansing's north side. He said he has plans for more stores in Lansing as well

as additional Firehouse locations. However, he has no relation with the one that opened in East Lansing in August. Shango estimates it will cost about \$375,000 to fix up the space, which will include new or upgraded HVAC, water and electric work.

Firehouse Subs is a fast-causal restaurant started in 1994 by two Jacksonville, Fla., brothers. A portion of proceeds collected from the stores nationwide are donated to a firehouse near one of the locations. Shango said if his store gets the money, up to \$20,000 in grants could go to the Lansing Fire Department.

Sawyers pancakes coming back (sort of)

Jake Sawyer, whose family owned the **Sawyer's Pancake House** that closed in late 2011, has partnered with family members to launch a new venture: **Sawyer's Gourmet Foods**. Although it's only an online

store, Sawyer said he and his partners hope to use the popularity of the site to open a new restaurant soon.

"If this goes well, it's definitely going to propel us in that direction," Sawyer said. "I hope to launch a (crowdsourcing) project within the next few months to either open a new place or even just a food truck."

The only product sold at the site is Sawyer's Gourmet Buttermilk Pancake Mix for \$7 per bag (each bag makes a quarter gallon of batter, which is about 20 pancakes), but Sawyer wanted to add his family's homemade barbecue sauce and syrup soon. The batter is made from local organic ingredients, which he says makes for lighter, fluffier pancake.

"It's our family recipe, and for people who used to come to our restaurant, they're the same pancakes you could get there. I'm biased, but they're the best pancakes I've ever had."

THEATER

"The Great Pirate Adventures." Auditions for two one-act plays. 6:30-8 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145. mmft.net.

Tuesday, December 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Coupon Swap. Share coupons and strategies. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Intro to Computers. Learn from professionals. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Healing Hearts. For those who have lost a loved one. 4-5:30 p.m. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group.

For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

Water-media class. All skill levels, with Rebecca Stafford. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517)999-1212. gallery1212.com.

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Today's Special Program. Sprout more heart-healthy habits. 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

EVENTS

Tea & Talk. Salon-style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple

Out on the town

from page 24

Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3414. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

Social Media is a Party. Holiday party, panel discussion and dancing. 5:30-9 p.m. \$15 for members, \$35 for non-members. Whisky Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St. Lansing. (517) 351-5690. wepay.com/events/smamiorg.

Bible and Beer. Discussion of Scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600. bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

"A Holiday Hodgepodge." With MSU Children's Choir. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Holiday Party. Refreshments, games and prizes. 4-7 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Animal Control Outreach Center, 826 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 367-0676. ac.ingham.org.

MUSIC

Betty Baxter and Doug Fritch. Satin Sounds brings vocals and guitars. 1 p.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-2031. meridianmall.com.

THEATER

"Ghost the Musical." Part of the MSU Broadway at Wharton Center Series. 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$72/\$25 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"The Great Pirate Adventures." Auditions for two one-act plays. 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517)

339-215. mmft.net.

Wednesday, December 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

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

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

The Gospel of Mary Discussion. Mary controversies, Gnostics and biblical women. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First

Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.

EVENTS

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

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

THEATER

"Ghost the Musical." Part of the MSU Broadway at Wharton Center Series. 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$72/\$25 Students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"White Christmas." Based on Irving Berlin's holiday classic. 7 p.m. \$20, \$18 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

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From Pg. 22

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From Pg. 22

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5	8	1	4	3	9	7	2	6
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Michael Brenton/City Pulse

The 2013 Beaujolais Nouveau selections arrived just before Thanksgiving.





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Club Nouveau

Annual arrival of French specialty wine a treat for both newcomers and connoisseurs

By MICHAEL BRENTON

The anticipated annual release of Beaujolais Nouveau has arrived. Beaujolais Nouveau is always the first press from the annual French harvest, and by French law, it cannot be released until the third Thursday of November. For decades, the release has been celebrated with parties and dinners across the globe, as the wine is jettied to destinations around the world. It has been an amazing amount of hoopla for a wine that is really just simple and fun, not intended for aging, and extremely inexpensive.

The wine comes from the Beaujolais region of France, located at the south of the Burgundy region, near the Rhône.

While Burgundy is known for growing some of the finest Pinot Noir grapes in the world, Beaujolais Nouveau is 100 percent Gamay, a thin-skinned red grape variety low in tannins and high in acids. It is created using a process called carbonic maceration, in which the grapes are tossed into vats for fermentation in whole clusters, without crushing, and allowed to ferment in a sealed carbon dioxide rich environment. This creates a low tannin, fruity wine meant to be drunk almost immediately and certainly not meant to be aged. If 2012 Beaujolais Nouveau is in your cellar, drink up.

For serious wine drinkers, Beaujolais Nouveau is considered a Kool-Aid of wine. For others it is a refreshing, inexpensive indoctrination into the world of red wine — a bit of a gateway wine for white wine drinkers. And its release just prior to Thanksgiving is a bonus. Nouveau wine is a reasonable choice to put on the holiday dinner table, to be sampled by friends and family with varying wine preferences.

See *Uncorked*, Page 27



TIM BARRON

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Uncorked

from page 26

This year's harvest is down from previous years due to weather-related issues, including crushing hailstorms, although growers proclaim they are happy with the fruit. Beaujolais Nouveau seemingly would be a perfect wine for simple screw-cap closures, but bottles continue to be released with corks; the French are slow to change tradition. Besides, there isn't much likelihood that a sommelier will be delivering a bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau at a fine restaurant and pulling the cork with ceremony and flourish.

The wine is released under numerous labels, but the dominant one is Georges Duboeuf, the eponymous label of the marketing genius who really put Beaujolais Nouveau on the worldwide map. Most are released simply with the Beaujolais Nouveau label designation, and some juice is released as Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau, made from grapes sourced from villages reputed to produce higher quality fruit.

Albert Bichot Nouveau had perhaps the biggest and prettiest bouquet of the four wines tasted. A strong, fruity nose exuding bright, red berries was followed by a very soft and fruit forward mouthfeel. Light-bodied and short on the finish, the wine seems to evaporate on the palate. There were no noticeable tannins. This would be perfect for a wine drinker transitioning from whites.

The **Georges Duboeuf** was less fruit-forward and more delineated, with the tingle of acids showing on the palate. Light tannins appeared in this wine and, again, a short finish and light body.

Albert Bichot Beaujolais-Villages, harvested from more northerly vineyards and harvested earlier than the non-Vil-

lages wines, showed a tiny bit of banana ester overtone, not uncommon with Beaujolais-Villages wines. It is far more delineated than the entry-level Albert Bichot, exuding an entirely different flavor and mouthfeel profile. Light tannins, crispness, light body, and bright berry fruit quickly dissipating in the finish are characteristics of this wine.

My personal favorite was the **Antonin Rodet Beaujolais Nouveau**. The nose is a bit more subdued than some of the others, but the wine presents with more intense flavor and is seemingly more concentrated. It is less fruit forward than the entry-level Bichot and displays more fruit than the Duboeuf. To my palate, this wine showed the best balance.

Certainly, the uncorking of a Beaujolais Nouveau sparks tradition for many December get-togethers, but what about other potential candidates for the holidays? The rich fruit and concentration of a California Zinfandel is always a good companion to the rich and varied flavors of turkey dinner with all the accouterments. Selecting a favorite Pinot Noir is also an excellent choice. Dry white wine drinkers might want to consider a favorite Chardonnay, either unoaked or lightly oaked. White wine drinkers who prefer a bit of sweetness should consider a Semi-Dry Riesling, or even a Gewürztraminer (although experimenting with Gewürztraminer as the only white wine selection might not be a good idea if the host isn't confident that all guests enjoy this particular wine — it has a very strong flavor profile). Don't forget to include Michigan Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling or Gewürztraminer when making selections.

Happy Holidays, all. Be safe!

In Vino Veritas

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintner's Club. His column appears monthly. You can email him at brenton@lansingcitypulse.com.)



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by Joe DiPietro

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Meet Lea.

She is in her senior year at the Collège Français in downtown Toronto, works not too far from there at our Flea Market on Spadina, and lives near Little Italy in her childhood home. Her dad is an interior designer from the UK and her mom is a francophone from Winnipeg whose job at Air Canada has allowed them to travel the world. Lea's been to Beijing, Shanghai, Turkey, Budapest, Croatia, and France, but her absolute favorite spot is Puerto Vallarta. As a kid Lea wanted to become famous – like Britney Spears. But as the teen idol “fell from grace,” Lea decided maybe it'd be a better idea to pursue a career where she could help troubled teens. She is now looking to go into Ryerson's Criminology program. Sometimes nicknamed Kobe for her height (that is, if you think 6'2" is tall), Lea is pretty hard to miss; when she's not busy with school or work, you'll most likely find her painting, drawing, or enjoying a plate of moules-frites. She's pictured here wearing the Cropped Fisherman Pullover, Easy Jeans and the Flannel Cap.

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