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December 14-20, 2011

GOVERNOR SNYDER

VETO THIS DAMN BILL

PAGE 4



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i love old town

A New Year for New Memberships!

The Old Town Commercial Association (OTCA) has worked for more than a decade to continue this revitalization as a member-based nonprofit organization consisting of a diverse group of businesses, residents, property owners and other community members united to continue the restoration and growth of Lansing's Old Town. As a Michigan Main Street community, the organization focuses on promotions and special events, improving the neighborhood's aesthetics, recruiting and retaining businesses and working with hundreds of volunteers on an annual basis.

We invite you to become a part of Old Town's revitalization by joining the OTCA. Membership includes many benefits for both individuals and businesses throughout the Lansing area. To become a member visit the OTCA website at www.iloveoldtown.org or call us at 517.485.4283

OTCA 2011 Membership Rates:

Business: Start-up Business (Less than one year in business in Old Town) \$50
Non-profit/Co-op Business \$100
Established Business (size based on number of employees*)

- 1-3 Employees \$150
- 4-10 Employees \$250
- 11-20 Employees \$500
- 21-30 Employees \$750
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Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Berl Schwartz, Editor and Publisher

CityPULSE



Editorial

Gov. Snyder, keep your word: Veto this bill

Gov. Rick Snyder's press secretary said last week that if a bill banning cities and public schools from offering domestic partner benefits such as health care cleared the Legislature, he'd only sign the measure if public universities weren't thrown into the pot.

Granted, there are plenty of reasons Snyder shouldn't sign HB 4770 — civil rights issues, forcing locals and schools to chase away talent, equality, unnecessary local mandate, etc.

But let's stick with Snyder's argument. Because whether this sop to the whacky religious right (which had nothing to do with his election, BTW) actually becomes law is entirely in his hands. And since it's unclear whether HB 4770 meets the standards Snyder himself laid out, he has no choice but to veto the bill.

Snyder's partiality to universities likely comes from their constitutional autonomy. But as a former CEO at Gateway, he should understand the importance of offering benefit packages that encourage the retention and hiring of the creative class.

Gateway not only offers domestic partner benefits but features the following slogan on their human resources page for perspective applicants:

"Diversity is the heart of Gateway. Diversity of ideas. Diversity of customers. Diversity of products. And, most importantly, diversity of people."

Why Snyder thinks this vision should stop at public universities is a subject worth pursuing, but let's stay on topic. Snyder doesn't want HB 4770 to apply to universities. So does it?

Snyder's own attorney told negotiators behind closed doors he didn't think so.

But the bill's sponsor, Rep. Dave Agema, says universities are still included. He said the bill's definition of "public employee" is consistent with the definition used in the Public Employment Relations Act, which does include universities. Agema's colleagues in the House Republican caucus had his back on this point.

Sen. Mark Jansen, R-Gaines Twp., the

bill chief advocate in the Senate, told the Grand Rapids Press, "When I read it. I thought it meant the public education arena, so I was thinking it included all of the education-type folks."

"At best, it is ambiguous," says the ACLU's Jay Kaplan.

This means that when Attorney General Bill Schuette or one of those off-base "family" groups sues universities for not following "the law," they can claim the legislative intent was to keep them in.

Snyder would be leading state universities into a trap if he signs this bill. At best, it'll needlessly cost the universities precious resources to fight the lawsuit. At worst, the universities will lose and Snyder will look like a double-crosser.

And for what?

The state and public entities aren't saving any real money by throwing Michigan families into turmoil. A new domestic partner benefit made possible through the Civil Service Commission and organized labor is costing the state under \$600,000 a year, a far cry from the \$10 million some were claiming originally.

Rather, Michigan's public entities are getting value by being able to draw from a wider pool of qualified candidates. It's a cost benefit that the old CPA must recognize.

Snyder bent over backwards encouraging foreigners to come to/stay in Michigan during his last special message to the Legislature.

See Veto Page 5

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

- 2.) Write a guest column:
 - Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

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Editor & Publisher
 Berl Schwartz



7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

State Representative Dave Agema

Joan Nelson of the Allen Street
 Neighborhood Center



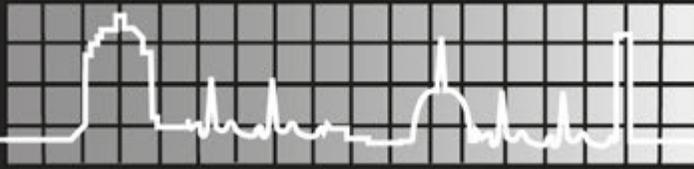
VETO by RACHEL HARPER

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

<p>FUN FACTS ABOUT NEWT GINGRICH <small>NOTE: QUOTATION MARKS DENOTE GENUINE QUOTES</small></p>	<p>VISITED FIRST WIFE IN HOSPITAL TO DISCUSS DIVORCE. CURRENTLY TRYING TO OBFUSCATE STORY BY DISPUTING DETAILS.</p> <p>I MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT HAVE A YELLOW LEGAL PAD!</p> <p>"SHE LATER HAD TO SUE HIM FOR UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT."</p>	<p>IN A 1992 NOTE TO HIMSELF, WROTE: "GIN-GRICH--PRIMARY MISSION, ADVOCATE OF CIVILIZATION, DEFINER OF CIVILIZATION, TEACHER OF THE RULES OF CIVILIZATION, AROUSER OF THOSE WHO FAN CIVILIZATION, LEADER (POSSIBLY) OF THE CIVILIZING FORCES."</p> <p>HAS ALSO REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS A "TRANSFORMATIONAL FIGURE."</p>	<p>IN '95, INDIGNATION OVER A SEAT ASSIGNMENT ON AIR FORCE ONE LED TO BUDGET IMPASSE WHICH SHUT DOWN GOVERNMENT.</p> <p>A DEFINER OF CIVILIZATION DOES NOT SIT AT THE BACK OF THE PLANE!</p>
<p>ACCORDING TO A FORMER MISTRESS, PREFERRED ORAL SEX BECAUSE HE COULD THEN DENY HAVING SLEPT WITH HER. ALSO TOLD HER:</p> <p>"IF YOU EVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS, I WILL SAY YOU ARE LYING!"</p>	<p>LED PERSECUTION OF BILL CLINTON FOR EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR WHILE HAVING AN EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR.</p> <p>"IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO--PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!"</p>	<p>HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BLAMED HIS NUMEROUS AFFAIRS ON THE INTENSITY OF HIS LOVE FOR AMERICA.</p> <p>"THERE'S NO QUESTION AT TIMES OF MY LIFE, PARTIALLY DRIVEN BY HOW PASSIONATELY I FELT ABOUT THIS COUNTRY... THINGS HAPPENED IN MY LIFE THAT WERE NOT APPROPRIATE."</p>	<p>WAS FIRST SPEAKER IN 208 YEARS TO BE DISCIPLINED BY HOUSE FOR ETHICAL WRONGDOING; PAID UNPRECEDENTED \$300,000 PENALTY.</p> <p>SEE? I AM A TRANSFORMATIONAL FIGURE!</p>
<p>BLAMED THE MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN BY THEIR MOTHER ON DEMOCRATS.</p> <p>"(IT) VIVIDLY REMINDS EVERY AMERICAN HOW SICK THE SOCIETY IS GETTING...THE ONLY WAY YOU GET CHANGE IS TO VOTE REPUBLICAN!"</p>	<p>CLAIMS TO BE BAFLED BY OUR CENTRIST, TECHNOCRATIC PRESIDENT.</p> <p>"WHAT IF HE IS SO OUTSIDE OF OUR COMPREHENSION, THAT ONLY IF YOU UNDERSTAND KENYAN ANTI-COLONIAL BEHAVIOR, CAN YOU BEGIN TO PIECE TOGETHER (HIS ACTIONS)?"</p>	<p>IN 1996 MEMO PURPORTING TO RESPOND TO THE "PLAINTIVE PLEAS" OF CANDIDATES WHO WISHED THEY COULD "SPEAK LIKE NEWT," COMPILED LIST OF TERMS FOR G.O.P. TO USE IN DESCRIBING DEMOCRATS, INCLUDING: ANTI-FLAG, ANTI-CHILD, ANTI-FAMILY, BIZARRE, PATHETIC, SICK AND OF COURSE, TRAITORS.</p>	<p>ACCORDING TO A RECENT POLL, IOWA VOTERS CONSIDER HIM "MOST APT TO BRING REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS TOGETHER."</p> <p>WHAT? WHY IS EVERYONE LAUGHING?</p> <p>BONUS FUN FACT: IN HIGH SCHOOL NEWT COULD NOT FIND A FOOTBALL HELMET THAT FIT BECAUSE HIS HEAD WAS TOO BIG.</p>

PULSE



news & opinion

Year-round market

East side warehouse will become Food Resource Center

It's sad to stand on bare asphalt where giant rutabagas once roamed, but this could be the last winter Lansing's east side will fend for fresh food without the Allen Street Farmers Market, on seasonal hiatus since Nov. 9. By this time next year, if an ambitious new warehouse renovation project goes as planned, the popular market will become a year-round affair and the east side's local food revolution will get another boost.

On Oct. 25, the Allen Neighborhood Center signed a 10-year lease for a 5,600-square-foot warehouse behind its office on Kalamazoo Street between Shepherd and Allen streets. The idle warehouse will become an energy-efficient, multi-purpose Food Resource Center, with a community kitchen, rentable food storage bins and a winter home for the farmers market.

Monday afternoon, the project's principals (project leader Hollie

Hamel, architect Mary Swanson, construction manager Carleen Davis and LEED consultant George Berghorn) huddled for the first time over the blueprints. The meeting ran late, but when it was over,



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Project manager Hollie Hamel visited the empty warehouse at 1629 Kalamazoo St. Monday and laid out plans to turn it into a Food Resource Center with a community kitchen, rentable food bins and a winter home for the Allen Street Farmers Market.

Hamel lingered in the chilly warehouse and envisioned a bustling community hub.

"Isn't this a great space?" her voice echoed. "Believe me, it's going get awful small pretty quick."

The warehouse has an address — 1629 Kalamazoo St. — but it isn't visible from Kalamazoo. It bulges into the parking lot behind the complex of offices that houses the Allen Neighborhood Center and several

businesses.

The complex is a gangly accretion of 18 add-ons, beginning with a grocery store owned by longtime

See Market Page 6

Carol Kennedy has a family history of breast cancer. She'll need to fork over \$5,000 out of pocket for an individual health insurance policy if her partner of 25 years, an Ann Arbor teacher, has her domestic partner benefits yanked.

Michelle Corwin is a diabetic with high blood pressure. Affordable health insurance isn't an option if her partner of 11 years, a Kent County child welfare supervisor, has her domestic benefits spiked.

If Michigan pulls away the welcome mat for these and other individuals, there are plenty of other places out of state eager to have them.

Domestic partner benefits are becoming more common than less common. As a successful businessman, Snyder must know Michigan is in no position to repel quality prospects, chase away quality employees and devastate families because a few Bible-thumpers are grossed out by gay sex.

For years, these same reactionaries have hidden behind Proposal 2 of 2004 for their bigoted positions, saying when voters agreed that marriage is between "one man and one woman" they were really declaring open season on gay and lesbians. That the state must go

out of its way to make special obstacles for gay couples and their families, is to treat them as second-class citizens in every legal way possible.

It's 180 degrees from what advocates of Proposal 2 said before the election. When they were courting voters, advocates claimed this didn't impact domestic partner benefits, that they just didn't want gay marriage in Michigan.

Oh, how the story evolves. Kind of like the language in HB 4770: This doesn't impact universities. We don't think it impacts universities. We don't know if it impacts universities. It may impact universities. It does impact universities.

Snyder can hop on gay bashers' well-worn corkscrew of deception. He can cheapen his message that improving Michigan's business climate by attracting quality talent is a top priority.

Or Snyder can be consistent. He can stand up to the bullies. He can veto HB 4770. He can send a message that scoring cheap political points on an historically oppressed population to the glee of an ever-shrinking pool of small-minded people isn't on his agenda.

If Snyder is a man of his word, he will do just that.

Eyesore of the week



Property: 3600 Dunckel Road, Lansing

Owner: F G & P LLC

Taxpayer: F G & P LLC

Assessed: \$555,700

Owner says: Unable to be reached for comment

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: The simple truth is this: the built environment is for people. For no other reason does it exist. Unoccupied buildings, particularly large buildings like the Waterford Estates Lodge at 3600 Dunckel Road, are unsettling — the absence of humanity in an environment explicitly meant for people. The obviously choice for this building is to restore it to its original use as a hotel. If prohibitive due to market forces, a more interesting option might be artist studios. Individual rooms with exterior entry are perfect and the main lobby would be an outstanding gallery space. Just imagine warm summer days touring open studios.

The lobby of the Waterford Estates looks almost inviting, as if waiting for the next round of guests to come inside and check into their rooms. Never mind the ivy slowly inching its way up the outside windows — the inside seems relatively well maintained.

The vacant hotel rooms tell a different story. Some of the sliding glass doors that lead into the rooms are boarded up. Some have clearly been transitioned to storage rooms and are piled high with mattresses, desks and chairs. However, all hope is not lost. Electricity appears to be connected since some of the rooms have lights turned on. Maybe they are on to complete the illusion that the building is ready for business again.

— Nyssa Rabinowitz

"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 Nyssa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.

Veto

from page 4

If Snyder wants the "best and the brightest" in Michigan, how can he talk about bringing in foreigners while pulling out a "Do Not Enter" signs for gays and lesbians.

Almost 60 percent of all Fortune 500 companies, one out of three employers — and 50 percent of employers with 5,000 or more workers — provides benefits to domestic partners of their employees. Twenty states and several hundred local jurisdictions extend benefits to their employees with same-sex domestic partners.

And this law would be cruelly canceling benefits that already exist. Real people will be harmed by this. Barbara Ramber of Kalamazoo has been receiving health benefits through her partner of 17 years, Jolinda Jach, who works for the city of Kalamazoo. If HB 4770 is signed into law, Ramber, who is going through treatment after being hit in the eye with a baseball and was recently diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, will be cut off of coverage.

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Market

from page 5

Lansing City Councilman Fred L. Kircher. When the warehouse's drop ceilings and half-walls are torn out, the supermarket's graceful barrel vault, hidden from the outside by steel siding, will again swoop over the interior.

"I love it that the building started out with food and it's going back to food," Hamel said.

Planners hope to have the warehouse ready for the farmers market by fall 2012, and finish the kitchen by the end of that year.

Joan Nelson, director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, estimated the project would cost "several hundred thousand dollars." So far, the team has raised \$100,000 from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., a

\$75,000 signature grant from Capital Area Community Foundation, and \$45,000 from miscellaneous grants.

This year, 16,500 visitors came to the Allen Street Market, peaking in late summer at 1,000 visitors in one day.

"That farmers market has been a de facto grocery store for a lot of people in this neighborhood for eight years," Nelson said. To fill the tables in wintertime, a growing number of hoop houses, including the nearby Hunter Park Greenhouse, have extended the growing season through the year, even in Michigan.

But Nelson, Hamel and the rest of the team have much higher hopes for the space than hosting a once-a-week event.

"It could be rented for showers, receptions, parties, especially with a commercial kitchen," Nelson said. "We could have neighborhood summits, dinners, fundraising events."

Six segmented food storage lockers will go against the west wall. Nelson expects a variety of users, from backyard gardeners to farmers and commercial purchasers, to rent them.

Ugly office cubicles on the warehouse's east side, last used by Big Daddy Taxi several years ago, will be torn out to build the community kitchen.

"We'll pop out original window sites and let in natural light," Hamel said.

The kitchen will look onto the central space, making it easier to hold cooking classes, throw parties and generally mingle over food.

"This will be an open, gregarious



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Hamel and Allen Neighborhood Center director Joan Nelson discuss plans to renovate an empty warehouse on Kalamazoo Street into a new Food Resource Center, including a winter home for the Allen Street Farmers Market.

spot," Hamel said. "People will define it for themselves."

Nelson said the kitchen will be rented to food entrepreneurs on weekends and evenings "to create value-added products."

Nelson and Hamel already have one such product in mind. Nelson wouldn't say what it will be, except that it will

See Market Page 7

PUBLIC NOTICES

RFP/12/049 REAL ESTATE MARKETING CONSULTING SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals 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 **JAN. 12, 2011**.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson CPPB at (517) 483-4128 or email: srobinso@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info .

The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, January 4, 2012**, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held on the appeal of Kevin C. Schoen requesting a variation for the property located at 1410 W. Saginaw Street, in the R-1, Low Density Single-Family Residential District, from the following requirements of Chapter 50 - Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing:

Article VIII. Section 50-815(3), to permit the addition of new driveway paving where all of the on-site parking and access facilities do not comply with all applicable Code requirements; specifically, there is only a 1.2 foot rear yard driveway setback from the property line where eight (8) foot is required and the rear yard parking coverage is exceeded;

Article VIII. Section 50-816(4), to permit the existing paving at the rear yard to remain 1.2 foot of the rear property line when eight (8) foot is required; and

Article VIII. Section 50-518(3), to permit 37% rear yard parking coverage which exceeds by 7%, the maximum coverage standard of 30%.

A portion of the nonconforming driveway was paved without a permit and the applicant is proposing to add a 16 x 20.5 foot paved pad for the purpose of turning vehicles around in the driveway.

2. A public hearing will be held on the appeal of Mike Zawacki requesting a variance from the Planning and Zoning Administrator's interpretation that the property located at 730 Grove Street is considered a single-family dwelling.

The applicant is proposing to license the property as a residential rental unit with occupancy of three persons. This would not be allowed in a single-family dwelling.

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

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-6-2011, 4314 S. ML King Jr. Blvd.
Special Land Use Permit - Church

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple Street (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider SLU-6-2011. This is a request by The Redeemed Christian Church of God - Freedom Hall, to utilize a suite in the plaza at 4314 S. ML King for a church. Churches are permitted in the "F" Commercial district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

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., Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at the City of Lansing Planning Office, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information concerning SLU-6-2011, call Susan Stachowiak at 483-4085.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE 1268

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 40-4 OF ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 40 - SUBDIVISIONS AND OTHER LAND DIVISIONS - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING.

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1268 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a regular meeting of the Council held on December 6, 2011, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO 1265

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

A zoning code amendment to allow parcels of commercial land 10 acres or less to be split under section 40-106 rather than require they be platted.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1268 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

Upcoming:

Dec. 14-21, 2011

Mobile Food Pantry

The City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Department is teaming up with the Mid-Michigan Food Bank to offer a mobile food pantry to needy residents and families. The pantry will provide free, fresh non-perishable food items. Seniors on fixed incomes, families or individuals with limited or low-income jobs are eligible to receive help. The pantry will be set up at the First United Methodist Church at 3827 Delta River Drive on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Attendees should bring a state ID or driver's license with them along with a bag or box to carry food. For more information, call the Lansing Human Relations and Community Service Department at 483-4477.

Open House and Dedication

Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, will host an open house and dedication on Saturday to celebrate the completion of its most recent project. The home is located at 3301 Danbury Crossroad St. The two-story, six-bedroom home has room for a family of 12. The homebuyers, the Kassim family, will be present at the celebration along with

members from local Lutheran churches. The open house starts at 2 p.m.

Restaurant at 1601 S. Waverly Road in Lansing Charter Township.

Breakfast with Bauer

State Rep. Joan Bauer will meet with constituents during her monthly "Breakfast with Bauer" event on Thursday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. Bauer will update attendees about what is going on in the Michigan Legislature and hear comments and concerns from community members. This month's event will be held at the Flap Jack

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
FAMILY DIVISION

NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO.
11-3077-GA

In the matter of Garrett Smith

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 01/05/2012 at 9:30 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Garcia for the following purpose(s):

Hearing for guardian.

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date: 12/12/2011
Deann Moreno
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48909
(517)-887-9664

Lansing Community College: Tax-payer Funded, Irresponsibly Managed

The current administration at LCC has raised tuition, raised fees, cut programs, cut staff positions, made it harder for students who receive financial aid, and refused to bargain with LCC workers unions.

Yet they have money to buy an aircraft hangar to settle a lawsuit, pay large dollar settlements to former employees to avoid other lawsuits, offer \$2.5 million for an unneeded building just to keep Davenport University from getting it, pay over \$20 million for unnecessary remodeling and redecorating of campus buildings and grounds, and pay over one half million dollars to a law firm to stonewall worker contracts.

Conclusion: The LCC administration has no respect for LCC students and workers, who it views as revenue sources and slaves, and no respect for Lansing area tax-payers who pay millions of dollars to support the college.

The LCC Board of Trustees is the elected body responsible for oversight of the LCC administration. To express your opposition to the skewed priorities of the administration and your support for students and workers, contact:
(517) 483-5252, or visit
http://lcc.edu/trustees/contact_us.aspx

Paid for by:
Lansing Workers Center
POB 15099
Lansing, MI 48901-5099
(517) 342-6435

Market

from page 6

be a "signature" food from Lansing's east side, it will be aggressively marketed "as widely as possible," and it won't be a doughnut.

There's a grand design behind all of this fooling around in the kitchen. Between rental of kitchen space and food bins, income from the farmers market and proceeds from the mystery "signature product," Nelson hopes the Food Resource Center will make enough money to become self-sustaining in three years.

Nelson and her colleagues have spent the last 10 years weaving a web of programs meant to bring affordable local food to isolated residents of Lansing's east side, from the Breadbasket program to the farmers market to gardening classes and children's programs. As belts tighten in the nonprofit world, Nelson wants the Allen Neighborhood Center to move toward social entrepreneurship, where non-profits make money to support their operations.

Since 2008, Nelson said, there's been a 40 percent drop in nonprofit funding. "Most nonprofits took a hit in recent years," Nelson said. "We're having to be literally more enterprising in finding ways to meet our mission."

—Lawrence Cosentino

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

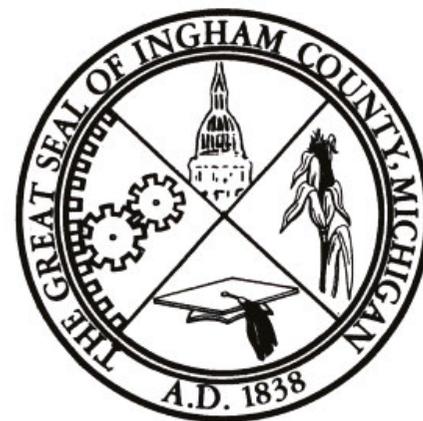
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Two-headed chief

Lansing, meet your next fire chief, Randy Talifarro, whom the city will share with East Lansing, where he is already in charge. An experiment in regionalism.

For the man who is about to take the unprecedented job of leading both the Lansing and East Lansing Fire departments — in what could be described as an experiment in regionalism — one question looms: Do the similarities outweigh the differences of the two communities?

“That’s the ten-thousand-dollar question — or perhaps the million-dollar question,” Randy Talifarro said in an interview Monday. “And can you still get efficiencies for both communi-

ties? Can you enhance services in both communities?”

For Talifarro, similarities between the two cities — each with its own identity — would make for a more seamless management in terms of what level of service is expected and can be provided and the day-to-day operations of each department’s organization.

As part of an agreement approved by the East Lansing City Council and soon by Mayor Virg Bernero, Talifarro will be in Lansing “on an as-needed basis,” the agreement says, which Talifarro expects will be 40 percent to 60 percent of his time. The agreement is on an interim basis and will last a year. Lansing would agree to compensate East Lansing monthly for the time Talifarro puts in at Lansing for salary, benefits and taxes based on payroll. Talifarro will remain an East Lansing employee and not of the city of Lansing,



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

East Lansing Fire Chief Randy Talifarro in his office on Abbot Road at East Lansing’s Fire Station No. 1. Talifarro is on course to be the fire chief of Lansing’s and East Lansing’s departments, following the retirement of Lansing Fire Chief Tom Cochran.

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according to the agreement.

Talifarro will settle into retiring Lansing Fire Chief Tom Cochran’s office in mid-January after Bernero signs off on the agreement. “I don’t intend to move a lot of stuff and personalize it,” Talifarro said.

A Flint-area native, Talifarro graduated from the University of Michigan, Flint after spending time at the school’s Ann Arbor campus. His degree is in public administration, and he said he also did paramedic training there. Talifarro, 51, took an early retirement from Flint’s Fire Department, where he had been for 17 years and left as assistant fire chief, before coming to East Lansing in 2001.

“There were probably only a few departments I would have retired early for,” Talifarro said, East Lansing being one of them. He added that his Flint job had “security, seniority — it was a risk to leave early.”

In Flint, Talifarro said he “did a little bit of everything,” including in the fire prevention and paramedic units as sergeant, lieutenant, captain and training chief. And if there’s any place to cut your teeth in the fire business, Flint is a good start.

“That is a high fire district, a lot of runs,” Talifarro said. “Experience is your best teacher, I guess. ... Obviously there’s budget challenges with that.”

The announcement of East Lansing and Lansing sharing a chief is the latest example of a regionalism concept in the area, and it’s set against the backdrop of a forthcoming six-department wide study about how the area could share its fire and EMS services.

Bernero said Monday that the administration is looking to “get the most bang for its buck” and that the idea of sharing a fire chief has been “ongoing.”

Chief

from page 8

"Times demand that we consider things that maybe we would have dismissed in the past. If we have to shuffle the deck, it should be about quality of service," he said, adding that it's "getting damn difficult to maintain the standard of quality" with sinking property tax and state-shared revenues.

But as for East Lansing and Lansing's separate identities, and how that might factor into the difficulty of Talifarro's job, Bernero said, "I don't think Lansing or East Lansing could be fairly called low tax communities," meaning people are willing to pay more for certain services. He pointed to Potter Park Zoo, parks and Lansing schools' site sinking fund millages as examples in the city. "I would say both communities show a proclivity for higher taxation. I think both are used to a high level of service. I think there's a lot of similarities."

Lansing voters approved a property tax increase in November that will go for public services, including firefighting.

Bernero called Talifarro "exceptional, an outstanding professional who is a visionary." He said Talifarro would "help both departments transition to what we need to be." But he stopped there when asked what it is "we need to be": "I don't have a preconceived notion about where we will end up. This is a transitional phase. I don't know the end product. I know this: Our budget challenges are not over."

Aside from pondering the nebulous concept of regionalism, there's the fact that Talifarro will be doing a lot more work and will put in more time. "Without a doubt," Talifarro said he'd be increasing his weekly hours.

And he has other concerns. For instance: "The expectation could be high in terms of cost savings; apprehension of having to get to know a department more intimately and what their challenges are; how employees feel about the change; morale issues that have nothing to do with leadership but a lot to do with the pressure of the current economy."

Bernero gave assurances that Talifarro would be paving the way: "Having a foot in each organization" is "going to give him a unique perspective to whatever the next step is. ... Hopefully this configuration takes the nebulous and amorphous and turns it into specifics. I don't think anyone has given him marching orders beyond see what can happen and report back. It's his thing, and to me it's very exciting."

— Andy Balaskovitz

Doctor ordered

Shannon Wiggins pleads no contest to neglect and incompetence charges, keeps her license with fine and probation

A Lansing doctor has received a \$5,000 fine and two years' probation but will keep her osteopathic medicine license following a complaint by the state Attorney General's Office that she overprescribed pharmaceuticals.

Shannon Wiggins, who owns and operates two offices in Lansing, pleaded no contest Nov. 7 to eight separate counts of neglect and incompetence for violating parts of the state's Public Health Code. Eight other charges that Wiggins' conduct "constitutes selling, prescribing, giving away or administering drugs for other

than lawful diagnostic or therapeutic purposes" were dismissed by the state Board of Osteopathic Medicine & Surgery.

The state Attorney General's Office filed a complaint against Wiggins Feb. 28 on behalf of the state Department of Community Health's Bureau of Health Professions. It listed eight counts of instances when Wiggins allegedly overprescribed pain medication to patients, ranging from February 2006 to May 2010. One instance involved an accidental overdose.

A consent order was agreed upon Nov. 7 in which Wiggins pleaded no contest to the incompetence and neglect charges. The order defines incompetence as a "departure from, or failure to conform to, minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice for a health profession whether or not actual injury to an individual occurs."

Some of the medications Wiggins was alleged to have overprescribed are Vicodin, Xanax, Fentanyl, Valium, Oxycontin,



Wiggins

hydrocodone and methadone.

As a result, Wiggins was given two years' probation and a \$5,000 fine last month. She will have to meet with an Osteopathic

Medicine & Surgery board member every three months and patient records will be reviewed as part of her probation.

By pleading no contest, Wiggins "does not admit the truth of the allegations but agrees that the Disciplinary Subcommittee may treat the allegations as true for resolution of the Complaint and may enter an

See Doctor Page 10

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Doctor

from page 8

order treating the allegations as true," the consent order says.

Wiggins and her attorney, Sal Gani, could not be reached for comment.

In her initial response to the allegations, Wiggins denied all of the charges. Wiggins' response, dated April 28, also says that she can provide documentation that she "rejects, cancels and terminates treatment



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

One of Wiggins' businesses, on Michigan Avenue on Lansing's east side, before the medical marijuana sign was removed.

of many patients that appear to request drugs without having the medical need. ... (Wiggins) can substantiate by documentation that she has discharged patients for any suspicion that they are selling dispensed drugs, seeing multiple doctors, drug seeking behavior, misuse of narcotics, abusing narcotics, use of street drugs, verbal abuse of staff for refusal, exhibit erratic behavior, abuse of emergency room treatment, witnessing patients come in and complain about excessive pain demanding refills and then viewing the patient walking outside the office without pain or use of the walking aid, excessive claim of lost drugs and many other reasons."

The board dismissed the charges of selling, prescribing, giving away or administering drugs for other than lawful diagnostic or therapeutic purposes for five reasons, the order says: Wiggins has had no disciplinary action taken against her license since it was issued in 2000; Wiggins "cooperated fully with the resolution of this matter"; at a June 7 compliance conference, Wiggins showed the board "sufficient justification for the medications she prescribed to her patients at issue, and demonstrated a basic understanding of the proper procedures for prescribing controlled substances to patients with chronic non-malignant pain"; Wiggins attributed the allegations against her to "over extending herself" and since the complaint was filed, she "stopped providing medical care to residents of three nursing homes and rendering on-call coverage at a local hospital"; and since the complaint was issued she "developed a

new pain management contract with her patients" and "implemented new practice rules for her clinic staff physicians and physicians assistants."

City Pulse reported on the allegations in May as Wiggins was trying to open a clinic in Meridian Township partly for medical marijuana referrals. A conspicuous sign that hung outside of her business East Michigan Family Care, 2310 E. Michigan Ave., displaying the medical marijuana recommendation services is gone. The website for the business, Alternative Choice Clinics, has been taken down.

Wiggins sought to open an office partly for medical marijuana recommendations at 4133 Okemos Road last spring, but was met with opposition because opponents feared it would be too close to a school. A zoning discrepancy prevented Wiggins from opening immediately, but a Meridian Township planning official said in May that Wiggins could have applied for a special permit in the interim to open. The township Board of Trustees voted to place

the property rezoning on August 2012 ballots after a successful petition drive prevented the board's initial affirmative vote on the rezoning. It is unclear if Wiggins still intends to open a third office there.

The most serious allegation against Wiggins in the complaint says she treated a 45-year-old woman for chronic back and ankle pain between April 27 and Oct. 19, 2007, with Xanax, Vicodin, Percocet, Fentanyl and Valium. The patient was involved in motor vehicle accidents in 1979 and 1982, the complaint says. However, an orthopedic surgeon wrote to Wiggins a month after Wiggins started treating the patient that said "pain behavior is way out of proportion to her time from injury," the complaint says. On Oct. 19, 2007, the patient was found dead from what former Ingham County Deputy Medical Examiner Dennis Jurczak identified as "an accidental fatal mixed drug intoxication of fentanyl, alprazolam, carisoprodol, hydrocodone and acetaminophen," according to the complaint.

The complaint alleged Wiggins did not adequately monitor for "drug dependency or diversion, implement a pain management program, nor did she verify the efficacy of the long-term use of controlled substances."

Wiggins faced seven other counts of negligence, incompetence and administering drugs for unlawful purposes as part of the complaint. All the counts allege Wiggins' documentation of treatment did not justify the long-term prescribing of controlled substances.

—Andy Balaskovitz

Michigan Ave. study has potential

GUEST COLUMNIST



ROB SOUTH

(Rob South is a reporter who's covered municipal governments for 20 years.)

An ambitious, years-long study of a heavily traveled stretch between Williamston and Downtown Lansing will get

underway soon. The Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability will take a detailed look at housing, transportation, education, economic development, infrastructure and energy use along the Grand River Avenue-Michigan Avenue corridor.

Supporters hope the study will give regional planners a better idea of how the area should change given declining incomes and population in the region. They also hope it will act as a new model for regional planning by addressing the needs of the community regardless of political boundaries.

But the study's scope and breadth would make it a challenge to compile and may doom it to dusty shelves lined with similar well intentioned planning schemes.

It's not that this is a bad idea. The region needs a better plan of action than the suburban/subdivision model that's been driving growth for the last four decades. It's that Mid-Michigan is a community with deep divides and strong-held territories governed by people with their own political and economic agendas. What could doom this study is leadership's failure to act.

The study itself holds a great deal of promise. As a tool for regional planning, it would give invaluable data on population changes, infrastructure use and economic development.

Housing for all

Part of the study will focus on affordable and fair housing needs in Mid-Michigan. The greater Lansing Housing Coalition's Katharine Draper says it would be the region's most comprehensive affordable housing study in 35 years. As the population of the greater Lansing area shrinks and incomes decline, affordable housing may be in more demand than ever before.

But one man's affordable housing plan is another man's Cabrini Green. And even though we've come a long way since the days of high-rise ghettos, the stigma of being poor is a hard one to shake. It's not unthinkable that richer communities like Meridian Township and East Lansing would discourage those developments.

And they might make a good argument that their ability to attract students and young professionals would qualify them as meeting whatever suggestions are laid before them in the study. At the risk of being called out as a bigot, however, there is a big difference between poor students and young professionals, and the kind of chronic poverty which plagues rural areas and many

inner-city neighborhoods.

It has to go somewhere, right?

Another long-overdue study would look at storm and waste water control. This is certainly not a sexy topic unless you're a planner or a politician. Getting this right is important, however. Not only does it ensure clean rivers lakes and streams, but a poorly planned sewer system can make even most well-intentioned development dead in the water.

This literally pits the haves and the have-nots against each other. For the record, East Lansing and Lansing have their own wastewater treatment facilities. Meridian Township and Lansing Township do not. Without wading too deep into the politics of poop, disagreements over new development can get played out in the sewer. Development delays costing thousands of dollars are not unheard of in Mid-Michigan. Maybe this study could clear the air.

You can get there from here, but you'll have to drive

Once you've developed the optimal housing environment, you have to get people around. Another aspect of the study will focus on transportation. Since this project is being spearheaded by the Mid-Michigan Environmental Council, it's not too surprising to see an emphasis on mass transit and other alternatives, like walking and biking. Mid-MEAC Executive Director Julie Powers says the Michigan/Grand River corridor carries 1.7 million transit trips each year. With dwindling tax dollars, keeping the roads and bridges drivable will become an increasingly difficult task. Adding more bike lanes and bus routes could be the answer.

But, even though the auto industry is only a whisper of its former self in the region, we still like our cars. While some people are happy with a three-bedroom house with attached garage, we Michiganians like our three-car garage to come with an attached house. Walking and biking may be fine on those clear days with moderate temperatures, but when things get a little too hot, a little too cold or a little too wet, you can bet our bike chains are going to get rusty.

Regional politics may get in the way here as well. I can't think of too many issues that get people as worked up as bike lanes and sidewalks. Even the simple and cheap option of restriping roads to add bike lanes is enough to get some people's differential out of place.

No room for negotiation

Whatever the outcome, the community should have a decent idea of how the corridor could adapt to Michigan's ever-changing socio-economic climate. Michigan State University is even getting involved by putting together a tool-kit to help communities develop their own Sustainable Corridor Design Portfolio. But its implementation will be up to the people holding the local purse strings and their desire to be more cooperative. It will also be up to you and me and our desire to change deeply ingrained habits and beliefs.

I wish them the best of luck.

Arts & Culture

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Suitable for framing

Absolute Gallery owner Kathy Holcomb discusses art, ghosts and the dynamic in Lansing

By CARLEE SCHEPELER

"I dream in picture frames," said Kathy Holcomb, owner of Absolute Gallery, while sitting in front of the frame-covered corner of her store in Old Town.

When she was a student in Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University, though, her dreams were very different.

"I wanted to go to veterinary school," she said. "My grandfather was a professor of veterinary medicine, so it was in my blood."

But when she was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and general anxiety disorder, she struggled and began considering other paths.

"I needed some custom picture framing done, and I said, 'I can do that,'" she said.

Absolute Gallery

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So I did it professionally at a gallery in Okemos, and I decided this is really what I want to do with my life.

When an opportunity came up nine years ago in Old Town, (my family and I) jumped at it."

It seems to fit her perfectly. "When you work retail in a small area," she said, "all you see is the good in people, and it just reassures your faith in people."

Today, Holcomb has about 8,000 framing choices at her disposal.

"That's my love," she said. "Every piece of art has a perfect frame out there, and I like to be able to try to match that frame to that piece of artwork."

Custom framing is about 50 percent of her business, which also includes original art, jewelry and classes. As part of the heart of Old Town's art district, she also strives to improve the overall culture of the area.

"We try to figure out how to get more people down here from a retail perspective



Courtesy Photo

Kathy Holcomb opened Absolute Gallery in Old Town in November 2004. "When you work retail in a small area," she said, "all you see is the good in people, and it just reassures your faith in people."

any colors the people like? And you can start narrowing it down, and you can get a good idea of what somebody might like that way," she said.

She's also exploring other interests. Earlier this year she held Old Town's first ghost tour, which attracted about 60 people.

"When I came into this business, I didn't believe in ghosts. But I know how gravity works," she said, recalling the day she saw a picture move sideways across her store's wall instead of falling straight down. She also had price tags mysteriously go missing from her inventory. She says two ghosts live in Absolute Gallery: a man named George and a small child, who were both involved in a train accident, Holcomb said.

When she decided to open the gallery, she got two tips for coming up with the name.

"I was told to never name it after myself, and to name it so I'd be first in the phone book. So I wanted something that was positive and first in the phone book. I didn't want Aardvark, and Absolute came to me — and I just really liked the way it flowed."

Phone books may be on their way out, but Holcomb's business isn't going anywhere.

"We're in it for the long run," she said. "My nieces know that they're going to inherit the store, and we're going to be here. I want them to be able to look back and say, 'I remember when.'"

and to support the arts," she said. "I've been working on what we need to do to make First Sunday (Gallery Walk) a more effective event. We have the same people every month, but we want to get new people out appreciating art. I'm trying to figure out what we have to do to change the dynamic in Lansing."

Every Saturday in December, at least one artist will be at Absolute Gallery to chat with the customers. Last month, Holcomb hosted the third annual Art of Gift Giving event, complete with decorations, food and one-on-one interactions with customers. She prides herself on being able to guide a holiday shopper in the right direction when looking for art.

"You start asking them questions. What do they know about the people? What is the house like? Where do they live? Are there

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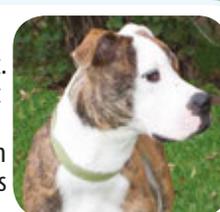
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'Jazzy Little Christmas' gets a little bigger this year



Courtesy Photo

Native New Yorker Marion Cowings turned to jazz in the mid-1980s after stints with rock bands and R&B groups.

Tenor Richard Fracker, soprano Melanie Helton and renowned jazz singer Marion Cowings are among the guest artists

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Ding-dong! Now who could that be? With a casual mix of Michigan State University's top-drawer classical vocalists, New York jazz singer Marion Cowings and the MSU Professors of Jazz, this year's "Jazzy Little Christmas" harks back to radio and TV specials of yore.

You know the formula. A star like Frank Sinatra or Judy Garland would open the door and welcome an "unexpected guest" to the crackling fire, where they would

brush the fake snow off their shoulders and break into song.

Rodney Whitaker, head of MSU's Jazz Studies and organizer of the concert, misses the eclectic musical spirit of those old network specials where pop, classical, country and jazz musicians met on the common ground of holiday classics.

"I love that clip from the 1970s with Bing Crosby singing with David Bowie," Whitaker said. "People don't get exposed to the artistry of what America has to offer on TV anymore."

A lot of the fun at this year's MSU concert will come from seeing MSU's classical vocal faculty members loosen up and jam with the Professors.

Tenor Richard Fracker, a frequent Metropolitan Opera singer, will park the Puccini and sing "Silver Bells" and "There's

No Place Like Home for the Holidays." Soprano Melanie Helton will ditch the Verdi and Wagner to vamp through "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and warble the exquisite Italian carol "Gesù Bambino."

Also on the slate are baritone Peter Lightfoot, MSU's newest voice faculty member, and soprano Molly Fillmore, who is doubtless ready to party after her debut last month at the Met in Philip Glass' solemn "Satyagraha."

A surprise guest — my goodness, who can that be? — is hard-swinging New York jazz vocalist Marion Cowings, a protégé of the great lyricist and scat-singer Jon Hendricks.

"He can do anything I can do," Hendricks told Charlie Rose on Rose's show. Leading jazz critic Ira Gitler wrote that Cowings sings with "the perfect combination of sadness and hope."

Whitaker connected with Cowings last summer while teaching at a summer program at the University of Massachusetts, where Cowings in on the staff. He was so impressed that he approached Cowings and asked him to come to MSU. (It's usually the other way around; most singers beg Whitaker for gigs.) Cowings will return in the spring for a teaching workshop.

The full slate of singers, including Whitaker's daughter, Rochelle, will be backed by the dream house band of Whitaker on bass, Michael Dease on trombone, Diego Rivera on saxophone, Etienne Charles on trumpet and Randy Gelispie on drums. Detroit pianist Mike Jellick will sit in on piano. Whitaker also promised an opening and closing jam featuring the

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See Jazzy, Page 14



Courtesy Photo

Molly Fillmore is an assistant professor of voice at Michigan State University.



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Jazzy

from page 13

Professors.

When it's over, Whitaker will be ready for a real family shindig on Christmas, with feasting and cards until the wee hours of the morning.

"It's that time for the fuzzy feeling and getting together," he said. "I don't mind."

Whitaker enjoys champagne and orange juice with his three grown kids, but Christmas doesn't rally start until somebody pops "A Charlie Brown Christmas" into the DVD player.

"That show put jazz in the psyche of most American folks," Whitaker said.

In between, there are ritual viewings of two family dramas: "The Family Stone" (about the travails of a white family) and "This Christmas" (about the travails of a black family).

And it's not over until another family drama, "The Godfather" epic, has run its course. After all, the Tattaglia family hit Vito Corleone during the holidays, right? Gesu bambino!

It's not always a good idea to answer the door on Christmas.

Professors' picks from Whitaker and Charles

Seasonal favorites from Rodney Whitaker, bassist, head of MSU Jazz Studies:

"**Three Suites,**" including the "**Nutcracker Suite**" by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn — "That one has to be my favorite. Duke Ellington took those beautiful melodies and made them his own."

"**Charles Brown's Cool Christmas Blues**" (Charles Brown is a classic blues singer, definitely not to be confused with Charlie Brown) — "My parents used to burn that up at Christmastime. That's all they played 24-7."



"**Motown Christmas**" — "The Temptations, Michael Jackson — It's not Christmas until I hear those."

Holiday picks from Etienne Charles, trumpeter:

"**Oscar Peterson Christmas**" — "One of the first records I heard combining OP with an orchestra — (trumpeter) Jack Schantz is great too."

Panazz Players - "**Wrap it Up**" — "A great steel pan group from Trinidad playing Christmas classics with a choir and one of my mentors, Arturo Tappin, on saxophone."

Wynton Marsalis - "**Christmas Jazz Jam**" — "This record swings from top to bottom. You'll be singing along for sure."

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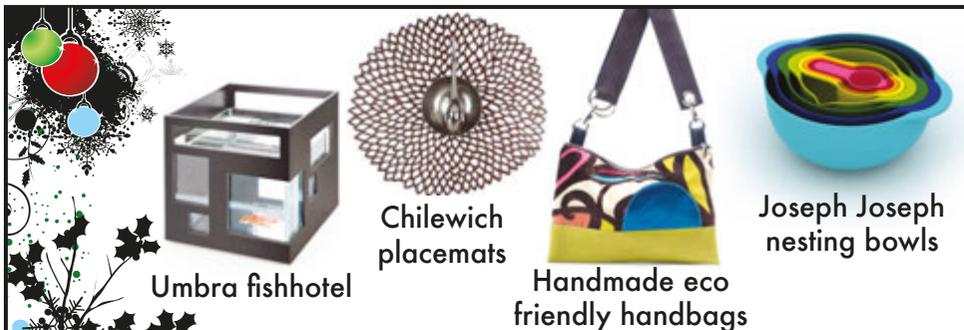
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THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

Charlize Theron is great at being grating in 'Adult'

Chances are you know someone like Mavis Gary, the woman Charlize Theron portrays in director Jason Reitman's scalding comedy "Young Adult." She's been out of high school for 20 years, yet she still hungers for the days when she was idolized by her peers, worshiped by her friends and — more to the point — lusted after by guys like Buddy, her former flame (Patrick Wilson).

But this former teen queen is no longer much of a role model. Mavis has turned into a hard-drinking, acid-tongued basket case who ghost-writes "Sweet Valley High"-style teen novels, eavesdrops on actual teenagers to get juicy material, dodges calls from her impatient editors, keeps up with the Kardashians round the clock and pretends to be happy in her messy Minneapolis high-rise apartment.

So how does a thirtysomething under-achiever regain her confidence? Naturally, she makes a trip back to her old stomping grounds, hoping to once again walk all over the people who once envied her and, hopefully, to pick up Buddy

'Young Adult'

Opens Friday at Celebration Cinema Lansing and NCG Eastwood Theatres.

along the way. "Young Adult" is the second collaboration between Reitman and screenwriter Diablo Cody, following their Oscar-winning box office hit "Juno," and it's a suitably sassy follow-up.

Cody doesn't create heroines that are easy to love, and Theron doesn't exactly make the job any easier. Mavis is surly, condescending and completely delusional as she bulldozes her way through her hometown of Mercury, Minn., dragging along her former classmate Matt, wonderfully played by Patton Oswalt.

"You can't keep dwelling on the past," Mavis tells Matt — but that's precisely what she's doing on a daily basis.

You may not like Mavis, but you'll be

delighted by Theron's sensational performance, which combines the slinky moves of Sharon Stone, the edgy elegance of Michelle Pfeiffer and the flawless comic timing of Carole Lombard.

Although Mavis may still be capable of brushing on enough makeup to hide her battle wounds and slipping into fashions that show off her still-shapely figure, she's far less capable when it comes to getting a grip on reality. Even though Buddy is married with a baby, Mavis sees that as little more than a speed bump on her highway to happiness. In her muddled mind, he's still Mr. Right and, even though the more sensible Matt tries to make her face reality, Mavis



Courtesy photo

Charlize Theron in "Young Adult."

plans a full-scale seduction of Buddy, using everything from cheap beer to the old mix tape he made for her two decades ago.

The cruel joke of the movie is that Buddy is barely worth the trouble. He seems nice enough, but there's nothing dazzling or irresistible about him: Wilson effectively turns down his natural charisma to play Buddy as a blandly benevolent suburbanite, no more or less appealing than anyone you'd find at the neighborhood block party.

As Mavis writes in one of her terrible books, "Sometimes, in order to heal, a few people have to get hurt." Of course, she's hoping the victim will be Buddy's warm-hearted but plain-Jane wife, Beth (Elizabeth Reaser).

Like "Juno," this caustic character study finds its laughs in some unlikely places. When was the last time you saw a movie that made jokes about hate crimes? Yes, Cody goes there.

If you're willing to go along, "Young Adult" pays off with plenty of bitter humor and snappy one-liners. And the next time you see your own Mavis Gary hanging around the high school reunion, reliving her glory days — well, you'll still want to run for cover.

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Celtic Woman's recent PBS special titled "Believe" previewed some of the material that will be on the group's "Believe" CD and DVD, which go on sale next month.

A Christmas celebration, Emerald Isle-style

Celtic Woman raises spirits with help from a symphony

By **CRISTINA TOSCANO**

For 22-year-old Celtic Woman singer Chloe Agnew and her group, Christmas is the time to try something new. Instead of the usual six-piece band that accompanies their shows, the four-woman ensemble has brought along a 45-piece symphony orchestra to support them for "A Christmas Celebration — The Symphony Tour."

Agnew, whose parents were in the entertainment business in Ireland and who grew up around theaters, isn't worried. As a child, she said (in a phone interview), "I was constantly surrounded by different music productions and concerts so it's very natural to me."

If the group has temporarily changed its style, it hasn't ignored what people expect to hear at a holiday concert. The program includes "Carol of the Bells," "White Christmas," "O Holy Night," "The Little Drummer Boy" and "O Come All Ye Faithful," as well as some Celtic Woman favorites, such as "You Raise Me Up."

Celtic Woman: 'A Christmas Celebration — The Symphony Tour'

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Although the concert is grander than fans might expect, according to music critic Rachael Recker of Southwest Riverside News Network, it also gives Agnew and her sister songstresses a chance to show their personalities.

"The lack of pomp and circumstance seemed to allow the vocalists a stage on

which to be a little freer with their words and audience interaction, which was a nice change to their typically ultra-polished concerts," Recker wrote of the group's appearance at Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula, Calif., earlier this month.

Celtic Woman continues to have mainstream success without the help of radio or video airplay. The quartet has succeeded by connecting to fans through PBS specials (their latest, titled "Believe," premieres on stations nationwide this month) and a series of CDs that have topped the Billboard World Music charts, including "The Greatest Journey" and the recent "Lullaby."

According to Agnew, touring the United States in December is actually quite a lot of fun. "Americans really know how to celebrate the holidays," she said.

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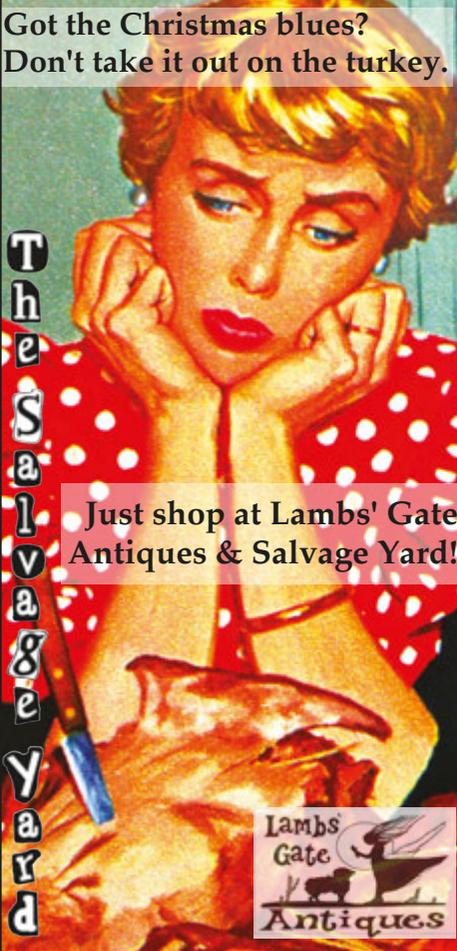


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Lansing offers a variety of outlets for book bargains

By **BILL CASTANIER**

There's an old saying that when you stop believing in Santa Claus you get books.

Why didn't someone tell me sooner?

The good news: The Lansing area never had a Borders, so we don't have to drive across the state to find a bookstore. Two Schuler Books and Music locations easily take up the slack in the new book department and, with little fanfare, they have built up an excellent inventory of used books.

Schuler locations restock the used books daily, with a steady parade of sellers offloading their recent reads. Bargain-hunters are likely to find great deals like Stephen King's "11/22/63," which was on the used shelf last week at less than half the price of a new copy.

The downtown East Lansing Barnes & Noble store closes its doors after the holiday. But until then it's still the place for mainstream fiction, and it has an excellent children's section in the basement.

Also in East Lansing, Ray Walsh holds court at two more traditional used bookstores, Curious Book Shop and Archives Book Shop. It's easy to lose track of time

wandering the aisles. Although the stores attract the serious collector (I had my eye on a Jack Kerouac first edition last year — but while I was eyeing it, it slipped out the door), they are also stocked with reasonably priced books in all genres. The shelves of Archives and Curious are stuffed with non-fiction offerings that make buying a gift for that architect or circus buff in the family easy.

During this past year, World Mission Thrift in Lansing has turned a 1,500 square-foot corner of the store into a used bookstore with thousands of volumes in all genres. Books are displayed in a similar fashion to a traditional bookstore and, as you might expect in a thrift store, there are incredible bargains, with the majority of books priced at a dollar or less.

Store manager Cindy Pattison and her son, Joseph, have turned the area into a delightful find for book lovers, book collectors, resellers and readers. On a recent stop I found "Tomato Red" by noir writer Daniel Woodrell, whose "Winter's Bone" was made into an award-

winning movie.

But it's more common to find a great selection of James Patterson or Michael Connelly at World Mission Thrift. Part of

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Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Cindy and Joseph Pattison oversee the used book department in World Mission Thrift, which adds approximately 300 titles to its inventory every day.

the fun of a used-book store is its hit-or-miss feeling. What you see depends on what comes in the door, and Joseph Pattison says he adds about 300 volumes to the inventory every day. Cindy Pattison said the Lansing store sells as many books as the other four World Mission Thrift stores in Michigan combined.

In addition to traditional genres, World Mission has a wall of Christian titles — both fiction and non-fiction — which are generally tough to find in used-book stores. The store-within-a-store also has an extensive stock of used children's books, most of them priced between 25 and 50 cents.

Joseph Pattison said he's focused on creating an atmosphere in which customers "will enjoy looking for books rather than it being a chore."

The Museum Gift Shop in the Michigan Historical Museum is another unlikely source of books, especially volumes focusing on Michigan history and themes. Along with books on Native Americans, Michigan natural history, Detroit, automobiles, sports and mining, the gift shop carries back issues of Michigan History magazine and an extensive array of children's books by Michigan authors, many featuring Michigan themes.

Everything Michigan is on display, including an extensive offering of Michigan Notable Books and lesser known books,

such as "The Assassination of a Michigan King," "Birchbark Canoes in the Fur Trade" and "Negroes in Michigan History."

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Q: I'm starting to have feelings for this guy friend I've been fooling around with, but I'm worried he isn't feeling the same way. He's stopped short of having full-blown intercourse with me, which I find odd, although I don't want to have sex yet because I have genital herpes and I'm not ready to tell him. (I take an antiviral drug for this daily, and I'd have him wear protection during intercourse.) Do you think he knows I have herpes? Maybe he just isn't interested in me romantically and doesn't want me getting too attached.

—Puzzled

A: When you start to care about somebody, it's nice to give him little romantic gifts — flowers, a gourmet cupcake, a sweet card, weeping genital sores.

Surely you'd tell the guy pronto if you had a cold: "Hey, don't get too close, because you could catch this and have an unpleasant few days." But colds go away. Herpes is forever. Yeah, I know, so are diamonds. But, unlike a mammoth rock on a girl's finger, a big genital pustule isn't anything you want to be showing off to the crew at the office: "Look at it gleam under the fluorescents!"

Genital herpes hasn't always been such a big stigmatized deal — to the point where it's led to the tanking of countless potential relationships. Until the late '70s, it was seen as "cold sores down there" and often not even worthy of a visit to the doctor. Except in rare cases, the physical symptoms are relatively minor. At the first outbreak, especially, it feels a bit like the flu, with fever, headache, and muscle aches. There's also tingling and itching, and there can be pain, burning during urination (and don't forget the yucky sores!).

So, what led to all the stigma? The sexual revolution, for starters. In the mid-'70s, with lots of people having lots of sex, genital herpes spread (as probably did the common cold). In 1979, the CDC, seeing the herpes stats rising, got a little hysterical and announced an "epidemic" (of cold sores!), and the media ran with it. In 1980, Time magazine declared herpes "The New Sexual Leprosy," and in 1982, The Miami Herald called it a "cruel disease." "Cruel disease"? Multiple sclerosis is a cruel disease. But, an infection that gives you the itches and makes you walk funny for a few days? As herpes simplex expert Dr. Adrian Mindel told The Independent in 1987, "For the majority of people herpes is ... nothing more than an occasional nuisance."

The thing is, if you're having an outbreak of your "occasional nuisance" and your naked parts are rubbing against somebody else's naked parts, you could infect him. The risk of transmission may be reduced by daily antiviral treatment and condom use — provided there are no contagious areas outside the condom zone. But, you can be in a contagious stage and not know it. Of the approximately 1 in 6 U.S. adults ages 14 to 48 who have genital herpes, 80 percent don't show visible symptoms, says herpes researcher Dr. Anna Wald. Research by Wald and her colleagues found that even when herpes carriers showed no symptoms, they were contagious 10 percent of the time. Of course, that's on average. Wald explained to me that there's a range: "Some people may be contagious 1 percent of the time, and others 30 percent, but we don't have a good way to predict who is who."

Putting this guy at risk for herpes without giving him any choice in the matter was not only unfair but pretty dumb. For many people, the betrayal is the biggest problem. If you tell somebody *before* he fools around

with you and maybe pull a fact sheet off the Internet to allay his fears, he'll be less likely to ditch you, and he won't have the rage he would at being unwittingly exposed. To launch the conversation, maybe say something like "Ever gotten a cold sore? I get them sometimes...but not on my lip!" And then, as DatingWithHerpes.org advises, don't say "I have herpes," which makes you sound like you're having an outbreak right then. Instead, say "I carry the virus for herpes" and explain how often you have outbreaks...which should make it sound more like a manageable annoyance than the guy's ticket to a lifetime of Crusty Pustules Anonymous meetings.

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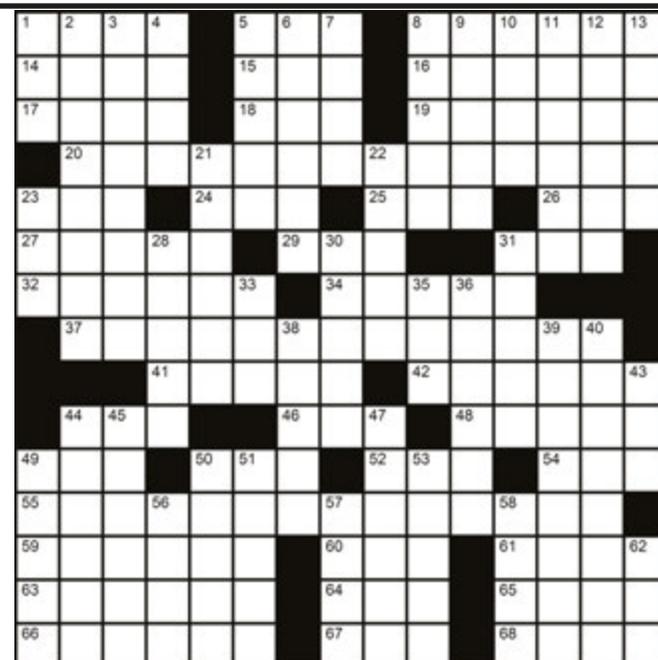
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"I'll Go Last" —you can thank me later.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Air kiss noise
5 Invoice no.
8 Flash a quick smile to
14 Hawaii's "Valley Isle"
15 ___ Tzu
16 Bela in old horror movies
17 They may get patronized
18 Prefix before -mance
19 Head of a bowling group
20 Phrase telling off a blood-sucking bug?
23 They stop the band to sing "Leonard Bernstein"
24 Letters on aircraft carriers
25 Stimp's amigo
26 Lean-___ (makeshift shelters)
27 Montana neighbor
29 Donkey Kong, for one
31 "seaQuest ___" (1990s sci-fi TV series)
32 Turn a different way?
34 "Pardon," in Parma
37 Punishment of having to wear a paper sign on your back?
41 Org. with a common interest
42 Puts up
44 Obnoxious person
46 "___ died and made you king?"
48 "It's ___!" ("Easy!")
49 Toward the stern
50 Wilberforce University's affiliated denom.
52 Back-to-school mo.
54 ___ Khan
55 Time-sensitive de-



- mand on a dirty car?
59 "Here We Go Again" singer Demi
60 Dust cloth
61 Bring in
63 It's hardly four-part harmony
64 100%
65 Length times width
66 Takes the helm
67 Sault ___ Marie, Mich.
68 Word used in telling time

Down

- 1 UFC fighting style
2 Got the audience started
3 Add machines and conveyer belts
4 Rattler's noise
5 Professor Dumble-dore's first name
6 Actress Tomei
7 Make steam whistle noises
8 Ball in a classroom
9 Unpleasant interaction
10 "___ that a lot"
11 Stipulation of some leases
12 "The Solar System and Back" author Isaac
13 Fork pokers
21 Minimum goals to be met
22 Hoover competitor
23 Crater edge
28 Tennis star Mandlikova and namesakes
30 "You thought I'd give it to you, didn't you?"
31 Dutch blockers
33 Golf pro Ernie
35 Midstreet maneuver
36 Cancels
38 Record store whose physical locations

- closed in 2006
39 Former Secretary of Defense Robert
40 Shelves for knick-knacks
43 Place for cardio and detox
44 Put on ___ (be phony)
45 Wonder or Nicks
47 Actor and stand-up comic Patton
49 Great grade
50 Early tycoon John Jacob ___
51 Atomic particles
53 Two under par, on a golf hole
56 Enclosure inside an enclosure, for short
57 Bullpen numbers
58 Pile of laundry
62 The Naked Brothers Band singer Wolff

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Answers Page 24

OUT on the TOWN

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Jessica at (517) 999-5069. E-mail information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

Dec. 15-17

The Greater Lansing Ballet Co. dances again



Courtesy Photo

Barbara Banasikowski Smith, Greater Lansing Ballet artistic director and award-winning choreographer, has been producing “The Nutcracker” since 1997, and she remains devoted to the original Russian version, which was choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in 1892; she says the ballet was altered and abridged in its transition to American stages in 1944. Banasikowski Smith makes sure Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s score remains intact and that every role is danced. For this year’s production, she brought in a former Greater Lansing Ballet dancer Jessica Levorgna, along with Michael Crawford, both from New Jersey. Levorgna dances the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. “(Levorgna) is inspiring for a lot of young dancers here because they see a role model who came from the same company that the dancers are starring in,” Banasikowski Smith said. A performance for all area schools and home-schooled children will be Thursday, Dec. 15 at 9:45 a.m. Regular show times are 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. \$25 adults; \$18 seniors and students; \$12 children 12 and under. Fairchild Theater at MSU Auditorium, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 372-9887. www.glbc.org.

Wednesday, December 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

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

After School Tutoring. Our tutors create an individual learning plan. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050. www.lansingschools.net.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing and alternating. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

The Star of Bethlehem. What does it look like when we get direction from God? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Knee-High Naturalist. Ages 2-5. Learn about turtles, bugs, flowers and birds. 1-2 p.m. \$5 per child. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Healthy Holidays. Learn how to re-vamp your

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Great Lakes Music
presents
the best pool tables in town

Paul Revere's Tavern
Holiday Lanes & Lounge
Double Header

(517) 482.8115

Dec. 17

Barbershop hands out haircuts

This Saturday, the Old Town Barbershop will provide those in need free haircuts, as well as hot coffee and hot chocolate, courtesy of Steve’s Snack Shop. In the spirit of the holiday season, barber Kevin Lusby left, with Major Virg Bernero, wants to help Lansing residents who would otherwise not be able to get a haircut for the holidays. Those in need can arrive as early as 8 a.m. and will be helped on a first-come/first-served basis. Lusby held a similar event, in which 40 people were served. Haircuts take approximately 15 minutes and attendees will be given a business card with an appointment time. 8 a.m. FREE. 914 N. Washington, Lansing. (517) 367-2270. www.oldtownbarbershop.com.



Courtesy Photo

Dec. 18

Warm up with Candlelight Vesper

Tenor LaVonté Heard, a graduate of J.W. Sexton High School and a vocal music performance major at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, performs with the Chancel Choir at the Friendship Baptist Church’s annual Christmas Candlelight Vesper. The program includes carols, spirituals, hymns and a Christmas litany, as well as excerpts from Handel’s Messiah. The St. Stephen Community Church Children’s Bell Choir is also featured, under the direction of Pat Barnes-McConnell. The Chancel Choir is directed by Gloria Stephens Smith and accompanied by organist Adell Flourry, Jr. 4 p.m. FREE. Friendship Baptist Church, 2912 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. (517) 394-6369.

Dec. 19-22

The enriching outdoors

With winter break approaching, kids everywhere are getting excited to have an exceptional amount of free time — which means parents can take advantage of Fenner Nature Center’s “Winter Break Adventures.” The week features programs for children 5 and up that focus on different nature themes each day. Monday kicks off with “Chill Out,” a day in which participants learn about insulation and hibernation through outdoor activities, such as building shelters using materials from nature and hiking to find animal homes. Tuesday challenges kids to jump as far as a Snowshoe Hare and run as fast as an Arctic Wolf in the first annual “Fenner Animal Snow-lympics.” The final days, Dec. 21 and 22, offer lessons on migration and animal tracking. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Priced per day: \$25 Lansing residents, \$30 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

CALLING ALL POP-PUNKS



Courtesy Photo

Chinese Telephones

Chinese Telephones are a Milwaukee-based pop-punk band that's been playing shows across the country since 2004. On Thursday, the band plays an all-ages show at Mac's Bar. Chinese Telephones has been featured in such indie publications as Maximum Rockroll, Razorcake and Punk Planet.

Opening the show are local punk bands Quicknote and The Hunky Newcomers, and Lansing pop-punk favorites Frank & Earnest.

Thursday, Dec. 15 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all-ages show, \$7 advance, \$8 day of, doors at 6 p.m.

BIG WILLY STYLE

The sound of Michigan blues-rock band Big Willy hits the Green Door on Thursday from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Big Willy plays a high-energy blend of growling vocals, lightning-fast

guitar licks and big saxophone into original tunes. The band, led by primary songwriter and vocalist Will Rideout, has been together for over five years, and has opened for the likes of Tab Benoit, Smokin' Joe Kubek and B'nois King, the Deadstring Brothers and Larry McCray. Big Willy has performed at festivals around the state, as well as at local events like Festival on the Grand and the Old Town Blues Festival. The band's 2009 debut album, "King Without a Crown," was recorded with Grammy-nominated producer Glenn Brown. For more information visit www.iamnotbig-willy.com.

Thursday, Dec. 15 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 21 and over, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

BLUES-PUNK & COUNTRY-ROCK



Courtesy Photo

The Claudettes

The Claudettes is a newly formed Chicago-based piano-blues band that not only echoes Ray Charles, but also the edgier sounds of the Minutemen and the SST-era Meat Puppets. The band, which plays Mac's on Friday, features Johnny "Ig" Iguana, best known for his piano work in Oh My God, an organ-driven pop-rock band that stops in Lansing each tour. Ig has also toured/played with the likes of Van Morrison, Otis Rush, Junior Wells and Buddy Guy. Fans of alt-blues acts like Black Diamond Heavies and the Black Keys might want to check out The Claudettes.

Opening the show is Flatfoot, a local alt-country fixture (think Flying Burrito Brothers, not Mumford & Sons). The band will play some old fan favorites, along with a few new tunes. Also sharing the bill is another Lansing-based alt-

rock-country outfit, the Gentleman's Club. The band, which formed in January, features vocalist Norman Bates (formerly of Disinfect, a 1980s punk-rock band) and guitarist Fred Beldin (formerly of Lansing punk bands The Clutters and El Smasho). Gentleman's Club also features guitarist Matt Bour, and drummer John Olson.

Friday Dec. 16 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over, \$7, 9 p.m.

HARD ROCKERS RETURN TO ULI'S

Wayland is a high-energy, Michigan-based band named after its hometown. The band, which plays Uli's Haus of Rock on Friday, is promoting "Welcome to my Head," its new EP, which is available on iTunes. Fans of the Black Crowes, Journey, or Buck Cherry might dig this band.

Also making some noise at Uli's are Ghost of August, Sevin and Citizen Zero. Hollow Drive will perform an acoustic set. For more information, visit www.waylandtheband.com.

Friday, Dec. 16 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, 18 and over, \$5 at the door, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

DRINKING MERCURY, CRAPPY ENDINGS AT MAC'S

Drinking Mercury is one of the many bands on GTG Records, a local label known for churning out a stack of indie releases each year. While the band formed approximately a decade ago, "Orcaades" is Drinking Mercury's first legit album. The band features a line-up of veteran Lansing rock dudes, including guitarist Tommy McCord (also operates GTG Records), bassist Timmy "Corncob" Rodriguez, drummer Kevin Adams and vocalist Michael Boyes, who also plays guitar and ukulele.

Warming up the stage is Forget the Times (Kalamazoo-based experimental rock) and Crappy Endings, a new Lansing-based punk band similar to classic acts like the Adverts, Undertones and the Buzzcocks. The band features vocalist/guitarist Travis McDonnell (formerly of X Offender), bassist Scott Terrian (who's also a member of Kalamazoo-based Legendary Wings). This will mark the local

debut of Crappy Endings.

Saturday, Dec. 17 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over, \$5, 9 p.m.

ROADRUNNER RECORDS ROCKERS AT LOFT



Courtesy Photo

The Parlor Mob

The Parlor Mob has been busy touring from coast to coast since signing with Roadrunner Records back in 2007. The melodic hard-rock band is promoting its sophomore album, "Dogs," a follow-up to 2008's "And You Were a Crow." The Jersey boys recently released a new single titled "Into the Sun." On Saturday, the band plays The Loft, along with Ladynamite, The Rival, and Redbird.

The all-ages show, hosted by Fusion Shows, also serves as the 94.1-FM The Edge Holiday Party. The Parlor Mob first began making a name for itself seven years ago under the name What About Frank? In 2007 the band changed its name to The Parlor Mob in order to "have a name that's less hokey and more representative of our music," said drummer Sam Bey in a New York Times interview. Visit www.theparlormob.com.

Saturday, Dec. 17 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$6 advance, \$8 at the door, all ages, 6 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN



To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com by Thursday of the week before publication.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ with Travis, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square	John Beltran, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9:30 p.m.	The Squids, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		The Macpodz, 9 p.m.		The Parlor Mob, 6 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Chinese Telephones, 7:30 p.m.	The Claudettes, 9 p.m.	Drinking Mercury, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.			Belfast Gin, 10 p.m.	Belfast Gin, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road		ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.	Collision 6, 10:30 p.m.	Collision 6, 10:30 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic with Dan Louisell, 9 p.m.	DJ JS & Joel Randolph, 9 p.m.	DJ EMAN & Joel Randolph, 7 p.m.	DJ Jay Duane & Joel Randolph, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.	Riff Raff, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Uli's Haus of Rock.

Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange.

Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

Out on the town

from page 21

holiday meals and food safety. 12:15 p.m. FREE. Oak Park YMCA, 900 Long Blvd., Lansing. (517) 827-9697. **"Matewan."** Early 20th-century labor struggle in West Virginia. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

EVENTS

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

ICE Meeting. 'An Approach to Social Media for Entrepreneurs,' with speaker Erin Slayter. 6-8 p.m. FREE. The Hatch, 325 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 432-8800.

Lego Club. Ages 6-12. 4 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

After School Movie. Popcorn and a movie. 3:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324. www.cadl.org/events.

Las Posadas Service/Dinner. A special meal of Mexican food. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$7; \$3 child; \$20 family. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. Meets on the second Wednesday of each month. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

Christmas Concert. The SOM Singers will perform a concert of Christmas music. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

THEATER

"Rock of Ages." Love story told through the hit songs of Journey, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Whitesnake and more. 7:30 p.m. \$30. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

DTDLD book club. Discussion of "The Thirty-Nine Steps" by John Buchan. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Dinner and lively conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Thursday, December 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. Meet at back of parking lot. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Lansing River Trail, Grand River Access Point, Corner of Grand River Ave. and Turner St., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

Yoga 2XL. Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

After School Tutoring. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Dec. 14)

Knee-High Naturalist. 10-11 a.m. \$5 per child. (Please See Details Dec. 14)

EDA Meeting. Eating disorders anonymous meeting. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088. www.cadl.org.

EVENTS

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

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

Chipmunk Story Time. "Moon Game," open to preschool/elementary children. 10 a.m. \$3 child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Theology On Tap. Relaxing environment to learn, examine and explore. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Holiday Concert in Theater. The band Chicago presents an evening of holiday music and greatest hits. 7 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St., Jackson. (818) 761-6100. www.gqti.com.

Launched 2011. Business leaders from the Greater Lansing Area celebrate business innovation. 5-8 p.m. \$12 advance; \$17. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (773) 875-8296.

MUSIC

Lansing Christian School Secondary Christmas Concert. Choirs and band. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779. www.lansingchristianschool.org.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." John Lepard returns to the stage in his award-winning role as George Bailey, Mr. Potter, in a theatrical re-telling of the classic "It's a Wonderful Life." 8 p.m. \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

"Rock of Ages." 7:30 p.m. \$30. (Please See Details Dec. 14)

"Nutcracker Ballet." Performance for school/home-schooled children. 9:45 a.m. \$25; \$18 seniors and students; \$12 children 12 and under. Fairchild

Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 372-9887.

Friday, December 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

LGBT Media Night and Discussion. Watch LGBT movies and shows followed by discussion. Room 262. 4:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing.

Alzheimer's Support Group. Provides helpful info. on coping with the challenges. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 827-1046.

EVENTS

Therapeutic Foster Care Parent Informational. For those interested in foster care for youth. 1:30 p.m. Ingham Counseling Center, 5303 S. Cedar St., Building #2, Lansing. (517) 346-8034.

Storytime. Features stories, rhymes and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Holiday of Lights. Lansing Women's Chorus and

LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus. 8 p.m. \$12-25. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 432-7950. www.holidayoflights.org. **Mason Orchestral Society Holiday Concert.** Themes from "Scherherazade" and the "Polar Express Suite," under the direction of Lyndra Tingley. 7 p.m. FREE; Donations encouraged. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 485-1897.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 15)

"Rock of Ages." 7:30 p.m. \$30. (Please See Details Dec. 14)

"Nutcracker Ballet." Greater Lansing Ballet Company's performance will feature guest artists Jessica Lavorgna and Michael Crawford from New Jersey. 7 p.m. \$25; \$18 seniors and students; \$12 children 12 and under. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 372-9887.

Saturday, December 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Sparrow

See Out on the Town, Page 24

November 25 - December 23, 2011



Winner of 2009 Pulsar Awards
Best Actor and Best Play

"... captivating theatre by three men: actor John Lepard, director Tony Caselli and playwright Steve Murray."
- encoremichigan.com

"Lepard is brilliant as he makes his way through the dozens of characters..."
- New Monitor

Performances:

Thurs. & Fri. @ 8PM

Saturday @ 3PM & 8PM

Sunday @ 2PM

Additional 8PM performances

Tuesday, December 20

Wednesday, December 21

Williamston Theatre

122 S Putnam St., Williamston

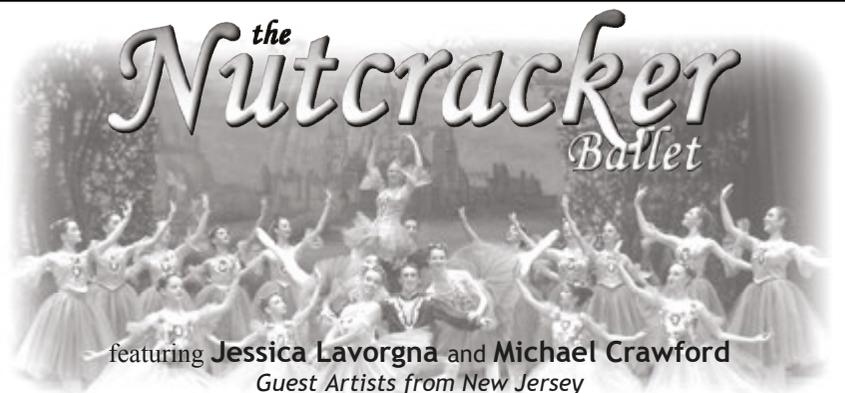
517-655-7469

www.williamstontheatre.org



GREATER LANSING BALLET COMPANY

Barbara Banasikowski Smith, Founding Artistic Director
presents



featuring Jessica Lavorgna and Michael Crawford
Guest Artists from New Jersey

Friday, December 16th ~ 7:00pm
Saturday, December 17th ~ 3:00pm
MSU Fairchild Theatre

Tickets Available!

Phone: (517) 372 - 9887

or 1-800-Wharton

Greater Lansing Ballet Co. Studio
2224 East Michigan Avenue

www.greaterlansingballet.org

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

Medium

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TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit www.SundayCrosswords.com

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

December 14-20

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Jim Moran (1908-1999) called himself a publicist, but I regard him as a pioneer performance artist. At various times in his colorful career, he led a bull through a china shop in New York City, changed horses in midstream in Nevada's Truckee River, and looked for a needle in a haystack until he found it. You might want to draw inspiration from his work in the coming weeks, Aries. You will not only have a knack for muting clichés and scrambling conventional wisdom. In doing so, you could also pull off feats that might seem improbable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): One possible way to tap into the current cosmic opportunities would be to seek out *storegasms* — the ecstatic feelings released while exercising one's bucolical urges in consumer temples crammed with an obscene abundance of colorful material goods. But I advise you against doing that. It wouldn't be a very creative solution to the epic yearnings that are welling up in your down-below-and-deep-inside parts. Instead, I offer a potentially far more satisfying recommendation: Routinely maneuver yourself into positions where your primal self will be filled up with sublime wonder, mysterious beauty, and smart love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'm not an either-or type of person. I don't think that there are just two sides of every story and that you have to align yourself with one or the other. That's one reason why, as an America voter, I reject the idea that I must either sympathize with the goals of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. It's also why I'm bored by the trumped-up squabble between the atheists and the fundamentalist Christians, and the predictable arguments between dogmatic cynics and fanatical optimists. I urge you to try my approach in the coming weeks, Gemini. Find a third way between any two sides that tend to divide the world into Us against Them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): No one actually looks like the retouched images of the seemingly perfect people in sexy ads. It's impossible to be that flawless, with no wrinkles, blemishes, and scars. Acknowledging this fact, the iconic supermodel Cindy Crawford once said, "I wish I looked like Cindy Crawford." Our unconscious inclination to compare ourselves to such unrealistic ideals is the source of a lot of mischief in our lives. Your assignment in the coming week, Cancerian, is to divest yourself, as much as possible, of all standards of perfection that alienate you from yourself or cause you to feel shame about who you really are. (More fodder to motivate you: tinyurl.com/SoftKill.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Barney Oldfield (1878-1946) was a pioneer car racer who was the first ever to run a 100-mile-per-hour lap at the Indianapolis 500. He was a much better driver while setting speed records and beating other cars on racetracks than he was at moseying through regular street traffic. Why? He said he couldn't think clearly if he was traveling at less than 100 miles per hour. I suspect you may temporarily have a similar quirk, Leo — not in the way you drive but rather in the way you live and work and play. To achieve maximum lucidity, you may have to be moving pretty fast.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Back in August 2010, there was an 11-day traffic snarl on a Chinese highway. At one point the stuck vehicles stretched for 60 miles and inched along at the rate of a mile per day. In that light, your current jam isn't so bad. It may be true that your progress has been glacial lately, but at least you've had a bed to sleep in and a bathroom to use, which is more than can be said for the stranded Chinese motorists and truck drivers. Plus I'm predicting that your own personal jam is going to disperse sometime in the next few days. Be prepped and ready to rumble on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here's a joke from Woody Allen's movie *Annie Hall*: "Two elderly women

are in a Catskills Mountain resort and one of them says: 'Boy, the food at this place is really terrible.' The other one says, 'Yeah, I know — and such small portions.'" Is it possible you're acting like the second woman, Libra? Are you being influenced to find fault with something that you actually kind of like? Are you ignoring your own preferences simply because you think it might help you to be close to those whose preferences are different? I urge you not to do that in the coming week. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it's very important that you know how you feel and stay true to your feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The Los Angeles school district dramatically downgraded the role that homework plays in the life of its students. Beginning this fall, the assignments kids do after school account for only 10 percent of their final grade. As far as you're concerned, Scorpio, that's not a good trend to follow. In fact, I think you should go in the opposite direction. During the enhanced learning phase you're now entering, your homework will be more important than ever. In order to take full advantage of the rich educational opportunities that will be flowing your way, you should do lots of research, think hard about what it all means, and in general be very well-prepared. The period between late 2011 and early 2012 is homework time for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The Amazon is the second longest river in the world, and has such a voluminous flow that it comprises 20 percent of all river water in the world. And yet there is not a single bridge that crosses it. I love that fact. It comforts and inspires me to know that humans have not conquered this natural wonder. Which leads me to my advice for you this week, Sagittarius. Please consider keeping the wild part of you wild. It's certainly not at all crucial for you to civilize it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotion is the resource we treasure when we're young, says poet Naomi Shihab Nye, but eventually what we thrive on even more is energy. "Energy is everything," she says, "not emotion." And where does energy come from? Often, from juxtaposition, says Nye. "Rubbing happy and sad together creates energy; rubbing one image against another." That's what she loves about being a poet. Her specialty is to conjure magic through juxtaposition. "Our brains are desperate for that kind of energy," she concludes. I mention this, Capricorn, because the coming weeks will be prime time for you to drum up the vigor and vitality that come from mixing and melding and merging, particularly in unexpected or uncommon ways.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Studies show that if you're sharing a meal with one other person, you're likely to eat up to 35 percent more food than if you're dining alone. If you sit down at the table with four companions, you'll probably devour 75 percent extra, and if you're with a party of eight, your consumption may double. As I contemplate your horoscope, these facts give me pause. While I do suspect you will benefit from socializing more intensely and prolifically, I also think it'll be important to raise your commitment to your own physical health. Can you figure out a way to do both, please?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Were it not for the leaping and twinkling of the soul," said psychologist Carl Jung, "human beings would rot away in their greatest passion, idleness." To that edgy observation I would add this corollary: One of the greatest and most secret forms of idleness comes from being endlessly busy at unimportant tasks. If you are way too wrapped up in doing a thousand little things that have nothing to do with your life's primary mission, you are, in my opinion, profoundly idle. All the above is prelude for the climactic advice of this week's horoscope, which goes as follows: Give everything you have to stimulate the leaping and twinkling of your soul.

Out on the town

from page 23

Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-6003.

Beginner Tai Chi. Can build strength and reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE donations. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Contact Bob Teachout (517) 272-9379.

Drop While You Shop. Bring your kids 5 and up, for a day filled with winter crafts, activities and nature adventures. Noon-4 p.m. \$5 per hour. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar & Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

Mobile Food Pantry. For disadvantaged and vulnerable, seniors on fixed incomes, families and individuals with limited or low income jobs. 9-11 a.m. FREE. First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge. (517) 483-4477.

Christmas Potluck. Dress up affair, bring a homemade dish. 6:30 p.m. \$13 non-members; \$7 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.usadance2037.org.

Living Nativity. Families can enjoy a living Nativity portrayal of the Christmas story. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. (517) 882-8665. www.oursaviorchurch.org.

Habitat for Humanity Lansing. Open house and dedication. 2 p.m. FREE. 3301 Danbury Crossroad St.,

Lansing. www.habitatlansing.org.

Stories on the Move. Storytelling and movement class, infused with the principles of the Nia Technique. For children, ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. \$7 per child (\$1 discount for siblings). Heartdance Studio, 1806 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 599-8987.

MUSIC

Traditional Holiday Music. The MSU Russian Chorus performing traditional carols in Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, Czech and more. 1 pm, \$6; \$4 seniors; \$2 - 6-17; FREE 5 and under. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852.

Arnie's Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 694-2698.

A Jazzy Little Christmas. The MSU Professors of Jazz celebrate the season with renditions. 8 p.m. \$20; \$18 seniors; \$10 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

Holiday of Lights. 8 p.m. \$12-25. (Please See Details Dec. 16)

Hall and Morgan. Folk and folk-influenced pieces. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295. www.eatataltus.com.

Youth Choir Auditions. Preparatory Choir for ages 7-8, Cantabile for ages 8-10, CMS Singers for ages 9-14, and the Young Men's Chorus. 9 a.m.- Noon, FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

A Not So Silent Night 3. With The Parlor Mob., 7 p.m. \$6 advance; \$8 door. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 15)

"Rock of Ages." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$30. (Please See Details Dec. 14)

"Nutcracker Ballet." 3 p.m. (Please See Details Dec. 16)

Sunday, December 18

EVENTS

Special Reception. House raffle drawing, silent auction, refreshments and music. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354. www.shiawasseearts.org.

Casseroles, Candy Canes, and Caroling. Bring a casserole to share, join an afternoon of caroling in the Colonial Village Neighborhood. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. Showing God Debate: "Sam Harris vs. William Lane Craig." 5 p.m. FREE. Buffet \$9.65. Great Wall Buffet Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 914-2278.

MUSIC

Bluegrass Association Concert. The MMBB plays a concert. 2-7 p.m. \$4, \$2 seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517)

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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From Pg. 20

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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2	9	5	4	7	1	8	6	3

Out on the town

from page 24

482-2382.

Christmas Cantata. Christmas music by our combined choirs featuring soloists and a percussion ensemble. 9:30 and 11 a.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.
Celtic Woman. Irish music group performs Christmas songs. 7 p.m. \$40-65. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." 2 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 15)
"Rock of Ages." 1 and 6:30 p.m. \$30. (Please See Details Dec. 14)
Auditions. For "The American Spirit," LCC's annual spring dance concert. Bring dance attire. 2-4 p.m. FREE. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1546.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Richard P. Smith. Author of "Deer Hunting, Great Michigan Deer Tales Books 1-5." Noon-6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

Monday, December 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet. Girls age 3-5 and 6-12 are invited to participate in a holiday break mini dance camp. 1-2:30 p.m. \$42/Members; \$54/Guests. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 364-8800.
Chill Out. Kids 5 and up. Focuses on how our animal friends survive once winter makes its debut. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$30; \$25 Lansing residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

EVENTS

Monday Movie Mantinees. For an adult audience only. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Caroling. By The Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Tuesday, December 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Compassionate Friends Support Group. For grieving parents who have lost a child of any age. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 708-7370.

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Mid-Michigan Knitters Guild. Winter potluck, garage sale, and charity knitting contest. 7 p.m. Annual Dues: \$20. Haslett Public Schools Administration Building, 5593 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-8242.
EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. At small parking lot at end of 2600 Clifton Ave. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Scott Woods Park, 2600 Clifton Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Knitting and other projects. Bring own supplies. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.4. www.dttl.org.
Jug and Mug Ski Club Meeting. For new and potential members. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 342-9955.
Lego Builders Club. Kids ages 6-14. Registration required. 3 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

MUSIC

Percussion. Students of Lazet Music Studio and the Lazet Percussion Ensemble. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.
MSU Russian Chorus. Russian and Eastern European liturgical music and carols. FREE. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Emanuel First Lutheran Church, 1001 N Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 646-9626. www.emanuelfirst.org.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 15)

Wednesday, December 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. 7 p.m.

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(Please See Details Dec. 15)

EVENTS

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525.
Jingle My Bells. Bert DiVetri's stand up comedy. With special guests Dan Currie, Stu McCallister, Brett Kilne, Paco Romaine, Stefan Davis and Russell Cairns. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. \$10. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 402-7962.
"Capitalism: A Love Story." From director Michael Moore. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

MUSIC

Flute Choir Performs. Listen to the Okemos High School Flute Choir perform. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

THEATR

"This Wonderful Life." 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 15)



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Joe Torok/City Pulse

Grumpy's Diner moved into the space formerly occupied by That Little Mexican Place.

'Mean cuisine' is served with a smile at Grumpy's

An old favorite cooks up old-fashioned breakfasts

By JOE TOROK

The name Grumpy's Diner conjures up a sour-faced old man waving off complaints as he barks at waitresses through an order window. I expected sassy service, brittle bacon and overcooked eggs.

I got none of the above. Instead, I ate a hearty Sunday breakfast in homey surroundings, all of it unabashedly blue-collar, at the recently relocated restaurant on South Pennsylvania Avenue, between Jolly and Miller roads.

The space, which formerly housed That Little Mexican Place and before that a series of breakfast joints, has remained largely the same as when my parents were regulars at the Regent Café years ago. A wall of mirrors make the interior feel larger than it is, and the extensive wood trim walls along with plastic-covered, blue plaid tablecloths punctuate the downhome feel.

Greeting customers is a kitschy, life-size Santa that sings and wiggles at the push of a button. One senses it's Christmas that's celebrated at Grumpy's, not necessarily "the holidays."

Grumpy's calls itself the home of the "mean cuisine" and promises service with attitude. Don't expect anything like a late-night trip to Chicago's The Wieners Circle, though; the most attitude we got was a hushed rehash of Grumpy's move from a few miles north (let's just say there doesn't seem to be much well-wishing from the old landlord).

We considered going with the Big O Mess, a skillet with veggies, feta and hash, but decided on Grumpy's Breakfast (\$8.99), which comes with three eggs, a couple of sausage links and strips of bacon, fries cooked to order, toast and a short-stack of pancakes. It's so much food they forgot to bring out the

pancakes.

Our friendly waitress was so eager to take our order she approached us three times with checkbook — plastered with photos of her family — in hand. She was quite helpful once she realized we weren't in a rush.

She recommended we ask for the usually grilled home fries to be dropped into the deep fryer instead. It was a spot-on suggestion; the slices of potato got a nice crispy, hash-like exterior while staying soft and starchy on the inside.

The over-easy eggs were cooked well, still soupy on the inside, which was perfect because the wheat toast came out a bit too brown. Unlike other diners, though, Grumpy's didn't feel the need to turn my toast into little spongy pools of butter. Same story with the home fries; other places shower everything that exits the fryer with a storm of salt, but not Grumpy's.

The pancakes were a bit dense, cooked a little fast it seemed. They had a nice, almost-but-not-quite-burned exterior that gave them a strangely appealing homemade flavor. The sausage and bacon, like the coffee, were standard commercial food vendor fare.

On the side, we had a half-order of biscuits and gravy, both homemade according to the menu. The sausage gravy was the real deal: peppery with the consistency of pudding. I could taste the fat just looking at it, and while it wasn't pretty on the plate, it was pleasant to eat.

The biscuits, like Grumpy's itself, had no pretensions. You know those commercials with flakey, airy biscuits as light as the ten-

Grumpy's Diner

5600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
6 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
(517) 393-5500
TO, \$\$
www.grumpysdiner.com



Review

Grumpy's

from page 26

drills of steam rising from their pillow-soft interiors? That kind of refinement has no home at Grumpy's; their homemade biscuits are dense, cakey and hearty enough for a horse. Glad we went with a half order.

Our side order of grits struck a more delicate note. The little grains could be sprinkled with brown sugar or cooked with milk, as our waitress suggested, but we took them plain and asked for butter on the side. (Note: if you want real butter, bring your own: The

mini cups of "Tasty Gold Spread" just aren't the same.)

Margarine-like product aside, the grits came out like Baby Bear's porridge — just right. They weren't too thick or watered down. A spoonful dissipated quickly into dozens of little individual grains, a pleasant texture to a simple dish.

You won't find a Popeye-faced crew at Grumpy's Diner, even if the name suggests as much.

If your experience is anything like mine, though, what you will find is cordial service and simple food. It won't win many "best of" contests, but I'd wager it's a favorite of many a baby-boomer.

foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated each week based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail food@lansingcitypulse.com.

EASTERN TASTES

AI FUSION — East meets west and traditional meets trendy at this sit-down sushi bar and restaurant specializing in Asian favorites like Tapanyaki stir-fry. 2827 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 12 p.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 12 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 853-3700. www.ai-fusion.com FB, WB, TO, RES, OM, WiFi, \$\$-\$\$\$

AKAGI SUSHI — Tucked away in an Okemos strip mall, this shop offers plenty of sushi, curry and noodle dishes and an assortment of non-

seafood entrées as well. 1754 Central Park Dr., Okemos. Noon-8 p.m. Sunday; 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday. (517) 347-7333. WB, D, TO, RES, \$\$

ANQI SUSHI EXPRESS — This tiny shop on Allegan Street has brought downtown diners what they've been craving: sushi, beef don, Udon soup and all sorts of sushi. 111 E Allegan St., Lansing. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. (517) 485-9688. www.anqisushi.com. OM, \$

CHEN'S RESTAURANT — This north side stal-

wart serves standard Chinese fare from a uniquely shaped domed building. 600 E. Thomas St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 372-7292. TO, D, OM, \$

FINE CHINA RESTAURANT — Twenty-three chef's specialties highlight an extensive menu that focuses on seafood and poultry. For a great sampler, try the Pu Pu Platter (egg roll, beef, teriyaki, spare ribs, chicken fingers, fried shrimp and chicken wings and crab rangoon). 1701 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. (517) 321-1879. [www.finechinar-](http://www.finechinar-restaurant.net)

restaurant.net. TO, D, RES, OM, WiFi, \$\$-\$\$

FORTUNE HOUSE — This Thai and Chinese restaurant across from the Lansing Mall serves a wide variety of Asian specialties. 5407 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday. (517) 321-8808. TO, \$

GOLDEN WOK — Dim sum, spicy Szechuan fish soup, sesame balls and salt and pepper squid are among the exotic items on the menu at this East Lansing eatery. 2755 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. (517) 333-8322. TO, D. \$\$-\$\$

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 \$ Less than \$8 | \$\$ \$8 to \$14 | \$\$\$ \$14 to \$20 | \$\$\$\$ Over \$20

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