

FREE

CityPULSE

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November 23-29, 2011

2011
Gift Guide
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**Paul Vlahakis
loses suit
against
City Pulse**
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**SAVE!
Lansing**



Now through Tuesday: Save! Lansing
benefits the Greater Lansing Food Bank.
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i love old town

Holiday Events



Dickens Village Activities:

Beards & Mustache Competition

Hosted by GAFBO (Greater American Fierce Beard Organization). GAFBO will be showing off their fierce beards, providing arts & crafts for the kids, & giving tips on how to get the perfect moustache. Located at 1215 Turner St. at the Old Mustang building.

Holiday Feast

Pablo's Panaderia

Victorian Dress Up Photo Shoot

Perspective 2, 1-5pm

Wizard of Oz Musical

226 E. Grand River, 3pm

Puppet Show

Art & Soul Photography

Holiday Carolers

Performances throughout the day by: MSU Russian Chorus (1-2pm), Spartan Sur, King's Melody, Shannon Hughes & Guitar (1-5pm)

Gingerbread House Building

Favorites Café, 3-5pm

Holiday Card Making

Gallery 1212

Ornament Making

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan building

Grapevine Wreaths Making

1215 Turner St., the Old Mustang building



Old Town Dickens Village

What are you doing this holiday?

The holidays are quickly approaching. Why not kick it off with Old Town Dickens Village! Dickens Village is a free family friendly event with activities happening throughout Old Town. Before all the jolly festivities - the morning begins with Scrooge Scramble at 10 a.m., a 5K run/walk through the heart of Old Town & Lansing River Trail.

For complete list of events and Scrooge Scramble registration, please visit www.iloveoldtown.org.

December 3, 2011

Noon - 5 p.m.



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City Pulse wins libel suit

An Ingham County judge has dismissed a libel suit against City Pulse by businessman Paul Vlahakis over a December 2009 story that reported that he was the county's second biggest property tax delinquent.

Vlahakis' main argument was that City Pulse had inaccurately reported on its cover that he owed property taxes. He argued that the taxes were owed by various LLCs, not by him.

But in a written opinion issued Thursday, Visiting Circuit Judge Richard D. Ball said, "The record in this case shows the description of plaintiff on the front cover of the publication, when read with the content of the article, is substantially true." City Pulse had argued that the substantial truth doctrine in libel law should prevail in this case. In libel law, truth is considered an "absolute defense" against libel claims. The substantial truth doctrine provides some defense in cases where published information may not be literally true.

In an earlier ruling on a motion by City Pulse, Ingham Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk indicated that Vlahakis had operated his LLCs in a way that negated his claim that the taxes were owed by the LLCs and not him.

"It shall be taken as true in this case that Plaintiff freely paid and managed the LLCs from his personal accounts and as an individual," wrote Draganchuk, who went on medical leave this fall. Ball, who is a District Court judge in East Lansing, heard arguments on the motion by City Pulse for summary judgment.

Vlahakis was the managing member of three LLCs that were listed as the owners of property on which \$327,288 in taxes were declared delinquent in 2009, according to the Ingham County treasurer. Most of the money was owed for 101 S. Washington Square, a high-rise office and retail building on the southeast corner of Washington and Michigan Avenue. The delinquent taxes were paid in spring 2010, avoiding foreclosure.

Michigan law prohibits the state from disclosing the names of members of LLCs. However, Vlahakis had signed as the agent for the LLCs, calling himself "managing member." Members are owners of an LLC.

In his ruling, Ball said the LLCs "amounted to plaintiff's alter-ego."

Vlahakis sued Neal McNamara, City Pulse's former news editor, who wrote the story, and To The Max LLC, which owns City Pulse.

Ball also wrote that Vlahakis was "not able to identify any actual or economic damages he sustained as a result of the publication."

Vlahakis argued that he had been defamed "per se" and cited common law in contending he was not required to prove damages other than before a jury. However, Ball cited a U.S. Supreme Court case that says defamation per se is only "the imputation of a 'lack of chastity to any male or female' or 'publishing of words imputing the commission of a criminal offense.'"

Vlahakis claimed City Pulse had placed him in a "false light," but Ball said that City Pulse "did not portray the plaintiff in such a fashion that was 'unreasonable and highly objectionable,'" citing a 1995 case *Porter v Royal Oak*.

Vlahakis also claimed emotional distress, but Ball wrote that City Pulse's story did not meet the standard of "extreme and outrageous conduct," as defined in a 2005 Michigan ruling.

During pre-trial hearings, Dragonchuk ordered Vlahakis to pay about \$2,000 in sanctions for failing to answer questions during his deposition. Ball ordered Vlahakis to pay the sanctions by Oct. 28. They have yet to be paid.

In an unusual twist, Vlahakis moved last week that the case should be dismissed on the grounds that he had not paid the sanctions. However, Ball dismissed the case on its merits before the motion could be heard.

CityPULSE

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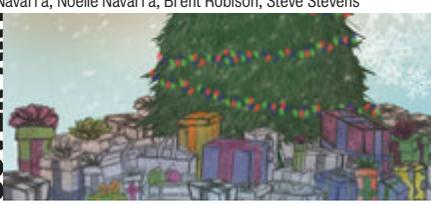
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Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays
This Week
 Political strategist Stephanie McLean and Equality Michigan Pride PAC's Amy Hunter on gay candidates

Norbert Fernandez of Operation Pedro Pan



COVER ART



UNDER THE TREE by RACHEL HARPER

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 by TOM TOMORROW

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 IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT SMOOTH SAILING FOR HER!

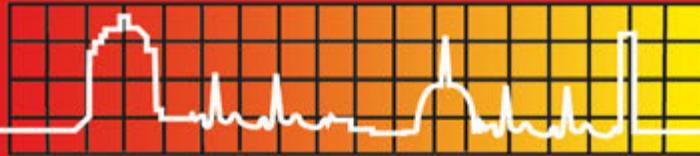
AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THESE FEMINAZIS HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
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AND THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE A COMPLIMENT!
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HEY HOT STUFF! NICE RACK!
 PISS OFF.
 OH, THE HUMANITY!

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Holy Cross is gone

Wrecking ball falls Westside landmark, creating fulfillment for some, loss for others

Between 1930 and 2009, thousands walked through the arched limestone doorway at 1514 W. Saginaw St. Even for those who just passed by in their cars at 45 mph, the two stories of tan and brown brick detail were a landmark. They provided what the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Kresge Foundation call “a sense of place.”

And now Holy Cross School is gone.

The school was part of a 4.7-acre complex that covered a whole block west of Jenison, between Saginaw and Oakland Avenue, on Lansing’s west side.

The Catholic Diocese of Lansing closed Holy Cross Parish two years ago and put it up for sale. The church, the rectory, two school class buildings and a small gymnasium were assessed at about \$1 million.

Paul Garriépy, director of property management for the diocese, said the school was demolished because “the architecture made it impossible to be handicap accessible.”

The demolition frustrated the Bernero administration. Bob Johnson, Lansing’s director of planning and

neighborhood development, said the city did not sufficiently scrutinize the diocese’s request for permission to demolish it.

“Holy Cross should not have been torn down without first having an in-depth discussion with the community (to include the city). Lansing lost a special, and iconic, building,” Johnson said.

When opened in 1930, the building served as school upstairs and church in the basement until a church was built behind it at 1611 W. Oakland Ave.

The sense of loss for some, however, is a sense of fulfillment for others. Joy is bubbling in the Vietnamese Catholic community. This spring, Holy Cross Church, built in 1949, became St. Andrew Dung Lac. They’re reusing the rest of the complex.

On a recent Sunday, Mass had ended at St. Andrew. The youth group practiced theater. Women cooked and sold Vietnamese food from the kitchen in the basement. Some 180 families with shallow roots here are finding fertile soil.

“When our bishop offered us this site,” said Ken Nguyen, who chairs St. Andrew’s Parish Council, “we thought this place is the best place for us for the future.”

St. Andrew Dung Lac was operating a smaller church on South Washington Avenue. They gave that back to the diocese along with



Courtesy photo

\$86,000.

Nguyen walks from the church to the single-story 1950s school building. He’s excited about polishing it up, although there is no notable damage to it.

“We have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Nine classrooms. We use it for education,” he said.

Nguyen didn’t show any attachment to the old school.

“The Diocese of Lansing took care of it. They paid for a company to destroy the old school for us. Because the old school ... we cannot take care of it.”

A backhoe smashed it apart. A cross had stood on the roof above the second story. Layers of recessed arches of limestone formed the entry way and several windows above it.

“We are very happy,” Nguyen continued, while looking at the rubble that had dropped on the school’s 80-by-50-foot imprint. “We have more space to do maybe landscaping.”

They have more space for parking, too. Nguyen says they might need more than the 200 spaces they’ve got now.

The diocese said that the number of families had shrunk so much that it could not justify the costs of keeping the church open. The diocese urged Holy Crossers to attend St. Mary Cathedral downtown near the Capitol.

On Sunday at St. Mary, worshippers sang the hymn called “Lift High The Cross.”

That’s what Cynthia Pahlkotter thought she was doing. But she’s begun to question church authorities. There’s the feeling she gets when driving on Saginaw Street past the demolition site: “Sad. It’s a sad situation. I don’t know why they tore it down. Do you?”

— Chris McCarus

(Chris McCarus reports on land and energy use for seven Michigan public radio stations. See www.michigannow.org.)



Property: 720 Seymour St., Lansing
Owner: Diane Sanborn
Taxpayer: Diane Sanborn
Assessed: \$97,200

Whether you travel a short distance for a staycation or a long distance, eco-friendly lodging is one of the best ways to carbon offset travel. The Cozy Koi Bed and Breakfast at 720 Seymour St. is the only bed and breakfast in the Lansing city limits and a Green Lodging Michigan Partner, recognized by the state for its environmental efforts.

The two more than 100-year-old homes the Cozy Koi occupies were carefully restored by owner and innkeeper Diane Sanborn, and are particularly well-suited to adaptive reuse (re-inventing buildings’ use while maintaining the historic character).

In addition to the inherently environmental assets of adaptive reuse and location, Diane Sanborn takes the Cozy Koi to the next level with a grass parking lot. Impervious surfaces are not only unattractive but add to storm-water run-off problems. Grid pavers allow grass to grow through, making for an attractive parking area and permeable surface for absorbing water. Imagine how beautiful our city would be with more permeable surfaces.

Looking for something to do this year that is light on the pocketbook? Try a night at the Cozy Koi. Diane serves grape preserves, raspberry jam, and tomatoes to guests from the garden of the bed and breakfast. And don’t miss the beautiful koi pond.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

(Harrell-Seyburn is a designer and urbanist with a master’s degree in architecture.)

“Eye candy of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Nyssa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.



Photo by Chris McCarus for City Pulse

Looking east along Saginaw Street in west Lansing on Oct. 18.



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be for the purpose of considering a request to remove and replace the garage door at 813 Huntington Road. The changes are being requested to install a modern garage door and to modify the design of the door.

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

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

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

Dated: November 18, 2011
East Lansing, MI 48823

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Caddis Development Group for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1525 West Lake Lansing Road. The proposed application would permit the construction of two medical office buildings and a banking facility with drive through lanes on the former Blue Cross Blue Shield office site. The majority of the property is zoned B-4, Restricted Office Business, with the remainder of the property proposed to be rezoned to B-4 under Ordinance 1272.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a lot split application from Caddis Development Group for the property at 1525 West Lake Lansing Road. The applicant is requesting lot split approval to create three separate lots for each of the buildings proposed for the site.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Trilogy Health Services, LLC for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the vacant property at the southeast corner of Coleman and Coolidge Roads. The proposed application would permit construction of nearly 81,000 square feet of senior living and long term health care facilities in two buildings. The property is proposed to be rezoned to RM-8, Planned Unit Development, in conjunction with Ordinance 1273.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider a lot split application from Trilogy Health Services, LLC for the vacant property at the southeast corner of Coleman and Coolidge Roads. The applicant is requesting lot split approval to create a new parcel for the proposed Trilogy Health Services facility.
5. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1271, a City-initiated ordinance to rezone the property at 300-310 West Grand River Avenue from B-3, City Center Commercial (and subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement), to B-2, Retail Sales Business. The property is being rezoned back to the previous zoning due to the developer not meeting the timing requirements laid out in the Conditional Rezoning Agreement.
6. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1269, a City-initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-222 of the Zoning Code to allow commercial outdoor recreation facilities in the RA, Residential Agricultural District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

Dated: November 18, 2011
East Lansing, MI 48823

Going forth with a plan

Lansing announces its non-motorized transportation plan

In an ideal world, what would a thorough network of bike lanes, sidewalks and off-road paths throughout Lansing look like?

It was a cold night for bicycling Nov. 10, but it was warm inside the northeast corner of Gone Wired Café on the east side for the unveiling of that vision — Lansing's completed non-motorized transportation plan.

A familiar cast of bicycling advocates, Public Service Department representatives, 4th Ward City Councilwoman Jessica Yorke and about 15 Lansing-area residents attended the announcement.

For Yorke, transportation planning for all types of travelers is a policy arena that excites her and for the event she was also representing the Ingham County Health Department as its environmental justice coordinator.

"Without a tri-county interconnected system, we'd be stuck in Lansing," Yorke said to the crowd.

A poster of the plan on an easel was the result of hundreds of planning meetings with residents all over the city, Yorke said. It's a detailed network of "on-road facili-

ties" like existing bicycle lanes, potential bike lanes and potential connector routes through neighborhoods; "off-road facilities" like River Trail access points, existing paths and walkways and conceptual shared use paths; and road crossings that are amenable for walkers and bicyclists to cross and those that need improving.

While places like Aurelius, Miller and Pleasant Grove roads, Kalamazoo and Wood streets and Mount Hope Avenue have on-road bike lanes, the plan is glaringly full of "potential neighborhood connector routes," or proposed bike lanes that weave through neighborhoods in every ward of the city.

For as much as the non-motorized transportation plan does in terms of planning, it's basically a showpiece for tangible projects, both completed and ongoing: bike lanes on Pleasant Grove and Mount Hope, the River Trail extension south of Mount Hope, planned upgrades to Washington Avenue in REO Town, a forthcoming bike-parking ordinance that would require commercial property owners to install bike racks after new construction, improvements to the Saginaw Street bridge, the proposed "sidewalk to nowhere" on the west side and an ongoing inventory of Lansing's sidewalks. Even the

See it

The city's completed non-motorized transportation plan can be viewed at www.tinyurl.com/6t5t9zx

See Non-Motorized, Page 7

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Non-motorized

from page 6

snow and ice removal ordinance and the rain gardens project along Michigan Avenue fit into the theme of “complete streets.” Other projects — like a Lansing bike-sharing program and a local grant for building “artistic bike racks” — are organized separately from the non-motorized plan, but fall in the realm of making the city bike-friendly.

Not unlike the Design Lansing Master Plan and a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, the non-motorized transportation plan is meant to guide infrastructure planners of where bicycle and walking routes should be.

For Chad Gamble, director of the city’s Public Service Department, following through on these plans is about attracting people to the city.

“In an economy like this, it’s the little things we have to do to bring people to Lansing,” he said to the group. “It’s the little things that create a sense of place.”

Technically, the non-motorized plan isn’t complete.

“We’ll update it as people have suggestions and projects,” said Andy Kilpatrick, a transportation engineer with the city’s Public Service Department. “There’s no reason we can’t keep adding things.”

Gamble agrees: “This type of plan is never complete. On paper, it represents a comprehensive plan future Chads Gambles will be able to utilize when rebuilding certain sections of the city.”

So far, the goal of getting Lansing residents more active seems to be working. On Nov. 10, Janine Sinno, a health analyst with the Ingham Co. Health Department, awarded the city a “Promoting Active Communities Award” — one of 28 communities awarded in the state this year, she said.

Much of the formal non-motorized planning kicked off in 2009 after the City Council adopted its Complete Streets ordinance. Yoriko hadn’t been elected by that time and was on the side of advocating for the legislation.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission landed a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Monday, and part of that will go into planning which projects ought to be done next within the city, said Bob Johnson, Lansing’s director of planning and neighborhood development. “I view it as very important,” Johnson said of the grant, adding that grant money will not go toward actual construction.

As for the millage increase passed Nov. 8 — which is expected to generate about \$2 million for local roads — Gamble said that money will be used “for more emergency-type work.”

John Lindenmayer, who was representing the Walk and Bike Task Force on Nov. 10 but also works for the League of Michigan Bicyclists, pointed to 2006 when the task force formed and set out to answer the question: What can be done to make Lansing more amenable to bicyclists?

The result was a “76-point strategic plan”

document and “a lot got incorporated in the non-motorized plan.”

Lindenmayer said with projects completed and in the works, the non-motorized plan is important because “we’ve all been waiting for an official plan. It’s the next step for getting the infrastructure in place.”

Lansing now joins communities like Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Detroit and Mt. Pleasant with non-motorized plans.

Yoriko said the non-motorized plan was “probably the most heavily inputted infrastructure plan” designed for the city, compiled through “thousands of assessments” and about 120 meetings of the Lansing Walk and Bike Task Force since 2009. She turned to Kilpatrick, of the Public Service Department, to confirm that.

“I think so,” Kilpatrick responded. “There will probably still be people who will say they didn’t know about it.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

Former Liebermann’s space has a new retail occupant

The full version of this story is available at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

After months of sitting vacant, a new women’s boutique is setting up shop in the former Liebermann’s building downtown.

My Sista’s, a boutique featuring everything from shoes and handbags to clothing and jewelry, opens Friday at 113 S. Washington Square and hopes to revive retail in the downtown area, said owner Tina Robinson. It targets the “career woman” and the woman “who likes to look good,” she said. The store features original pieces by eight local women, including Robinson.

“I think it will work for a large array of ages and different tastes,” she said. “That’s kind of the goal is to have things for everyone.”

Robinson, 42, had been looking for a space to start a business where she could sell her one-of-a-kind jewelry. She already

had a lease drawn up for a space in Lansing Mall when she saw the for lease sign in the window of the former store downtown. Robinson, who studied interior design at Lansing Community College, had always been attracted to the space because of the famous interior design by George Nelson. At first, she dismissed the possibility of leasing it, thinking it would be too expensive, but something convinced her to call.

“There was no way that I ever would have thought that this was where I was meant to be,” Robinson said. “It just worked out.”

My Sista’s opens for Black Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and will kick off its grand opening week on Tuesday. The store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a grand opening gala on Friday from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

— Nyssa Rabinowitz

Budweiser
OUTDOORS

Michael Woodall

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Who's running besides Schor?



Only six months ago, the names of possible replacements for term-limited state Rep. Joan Bauer, D-Lansing, next year in the Lansing-based 68th House District looked like a grocery list. Now, less than six months away from the May filing deadline, there's only one clear candidate, Ingham County Commissioner Andy Schor.

Schor made his expected announcement official last week by adding that he's already raised \$45,000. That's significant. When the seat was last open in '06, the eventual field of six Democratic candidates raised a combined \$40,000 in the off year, 2005.

Bauer, the eventual winner, raised \$100,000 for her entire campaign. Schor is halfway there and it's not even 2012.

Meanwhile, all of Schor's potential opponents have dropped off the earth. Kelly Bernero, daughter of Mayor Virg Bernero,

saw her chances go up in smoke when she was busted with a little weed during an impaired driving stop.

Lansing City Council President A'Lynne Robinson told me the night of her re-election that she was serving four more years on the Council.

Councilman Derrick Quinney got blown up in this fall during his successful reelection campaign for not taking the 68th House seat off the table when talking to City Pulse. A source close to Quinney told me running for the state House is not first on his mind right now.

And former Lansing talk show host Walt Sorg was drawn out of the 68th House District and into the 67th during last summer's redistricting exercise.

Schor's growing support and bank account is effectively allowing him to clear the field of challengers with a shot at beating him in a Democratic primary. The only ones who could pull it off are a no. Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar isn't interested. City Clerk

Chris Swope is looking at the county clerk's job if Mike Bryanton retires.

Griffin Rivers, the former Ingham County Democratic Party chairman, apparently is making calls and former mayor candidate Charlie Ford is tossing around his name. Commissioner Dale Copedge was suggested as a possibility.

Somebody will run against Schor. It's an open seat. History shows this won't be uncontested. But the straight-laced and politically conscious Schor isn't going to implode, meaning any potentially successful candidate has their work cut out for them.

Legislative recalls attempts dead

Three local recall attempts at legislative lawmakers — Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer of East Lansing, Rep. Barb Byrum, D-Onondaga, and Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, died Monday after the Republican activists charging the campaign opted to pull the plug.

Stu Sandler, the Michigan Republican Party operative leading the statewide effort against Democratic lawmakers, told MIRS the attempt was aborted after a discussion of party leaders found that some key "strategic objectives" had already been accomplished.

The "strategic objectives" appeared to be riling up organized labor and Democratic interest groups to prevent them from spending as much time and energy in southern Genesee County, where former Rep. Paul Scott was facing what ended up being a suc-

cessful recall attempt against him.

The Michigan Education Association bankrolled the Scott recall to send a message to its members that it wasn't going to take unwanted reforms, like a complete re-write of the state's teacher tenure law, lying down. Fueled by Scott's recent support of the pension tax, education cuts, the new emergency manager law and other Republican initiatives, the MEA attempted to make the Scott recall a localized referendum on the policies of new Gov. Rick Snyder.

Genesee County voters on Nov. 8 opted to bounce Scott by 233 votes, making him the first recalled legislator in Michigan since 1983.

Over the fall, Sandler's team of local activists tried to divert attention away from the district by targeting Democrats for opting not to support Snyder's initiatives — like ending the Michigan Business Tax or putting a four-year lifetime cap on welfare benefits.

He succeeded in getting recall language approved for six Democratic lawmakers and began actively collecting signatures in at least one of the districts.

But the Ingham County Elections Commission — made up of Judge George Economy, County Clerk Mike Bryanton and County Treasurer Eric Schertzing — somehow always found the recall language used against Byrum, Whitmer and Meadows unclear.

Time and time again, Holt man Robert Walter submitted language to the commission. Time and time again, the three Democrats dumped the language, even when Walter submitted the exact same language approved by election commissions in Wayne and Oakland counties.

Bryanton couldn't help himself in the Byrum case on at least one vote, though, casting a dissenting "yes" vote in support of the recall language against his potential political adversary.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: **Green #4 Consolidated Drain**

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

Notice Is Hereby Given to you as a property owner or municipality who may be liable for an assessment for benefits, that the Board of Determination, composed of Jim Hershiser, Jennie Nerkowski, and Cheryl Risner, or alternate Julie Powers, will meet on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at the Delhi Township Community Services Center, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt, Michigan 48842, to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether it is necessary and conducive to public health, convenience or welfare to consolidate the following Drainage Districts, all of which are located and established within Delhi Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan:

Aurelius-DeCamp Drain Drainage District (located in Sections 14 and 15 of Delhi Charter Township); Cassdav Branch of Aurelius-DeCamp Drain Drainage District (located in Section 15 of Delhi Charter Township); Branch #4 of Green Drain (a/k/a Green No. 4 Drain) Drainage District (located in Sections 14, 15, 22 and 23 of Delhi Charter Township); Erter Drain Drainage District (located in Section 23 of Delhi Charter Township); Elm Street Drain Drainage District (located in Section 23 of Delhi Charter Township); West Delhi Drain Drainage District (located in Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23 of Delhi Charter Township); West Delhi Branch Drain Drainage District (located in Section 15 of Delhi Charter Township)

Said drainage districts once consolidated to be known collectively as the Green #4 Consolidated Drain Drainage District, as prayed for in the Petition dated November 1, 2011, in accordance with Section 441 of 1956 PA 40, as amended.

And further, the Board of Determination is to determine whether it is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare to maintain and improve the Green #4 Consolidated Drain, as prayed for in the Petition dated November 1, 2011, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of 1956 PA 40, as amended, and to determine whether the Green #4 Consolidated Drain is necessary for the protection of the public health of Delhi Charter Township. And finally, the Board of Determination is to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to the Green #4 Consolidated Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of 1956 PA 40, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provision of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, P.O. Box 220, Mason, MI 48854.

You Are Further Notified that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the determination. If the consolidation and maintenance and improvement of the Drains are found necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties and municipalities that benefit. An owner or party having an interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: November 9, 2011

Signed: Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
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Arts & Culture

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Hidden Camel makes a comeback

Get ready for DJs, dancing and Tuesday night drag shows at the revamped club

By JON JAMES

Oade's Hidden Camel in REO Town has turned over a new leaf to become Lansing's newest gay bar.

Ryan Acker, the general manager of the Hidden Camel, describes the new venue as a "pub/dance bar." He says that the idea is to provide a comfortable space for patrons of all ilks.

"There have been failures with other alternative bars in the Lansing area," Acker admitted. "(But) we're going to give our best shot to listen to what the customers want."

The changeover started with a makeover: new floors, some new decor, unboarding the front window, some black paint. But the beautiful mural on the wall of the dance room remains blessedly untouched.

While the remodeling isn't finished yet — the bathrooms are still being touched up and the grill isn't fully running — there is space to dance in, a DJ to dance to and tables for those not in a dancing mood.

Acker says that he sees the club as a new,

affordable hangout for Lansing. The venue doesn't charge cover, except for drag nights, and then the entire cover charge is used to pay the performers.

Acker says it's "a nice spot to go if you only have a couple bucks and you want to have a couple drinks."

The plan is also to serve affordably priced food for lunch and dinner, and to provide an evening dance venue. Acker says he envisions workers from the Board of Water and Light building under construction across the street stopping by for lunch, another crowd coming in for happy hour, and the dance crowd checking out weekly events.

His goal is to create an inclusive dynamic that will set it apart from other Lansing bars. He says the Hidden Camel is

trying to "create a space for not only lesbians or gays, but for everybody. I hate to put a label on it."

Acker is planning a number of weekly events, some of which are still to be determined.

He also said there has been conversation with the Family Motorcycle Club next door about collaborating to bring in live bands to play on the Camel's stage.

However, Tuesday nights are set as Drag Night.

"The first thing I thought about doing," Acker says, "coming from Key West, where the drag shows are



Photo by Lori Weismantel

Oade's Hidden Camel general manager Ryan Acker says the overhauled club is trying to "create a space for not only lesbians or gays, but for everybody. I hate to put a label on it."

really big, was having a drag show."

To celebrate the opening two weeks ago, the bar kicked off with the first of what will be a series of weekly drag shows starring the Camel Lips: drag queens Delicious, Asio and D'Nisha Grey. Their combination of comedy, dance routines, audience interaction and allure had the crowd engaged and thrilled. There were a few kinks to work out as far as spotlighting and timing, but it was evident from the bills being stuffed into the drag queens' clothing that the show was a hit.

REO Town is not exactly the first place one considers when seeking a drag show, but Acker is confident that the area will serve them well.

"Remember what Old Town was years ago, and how amazing it is now," he says. "I think that's what's going to happen with REO Town with the Board of Water and Light going in."

Heating up Fahrenheit

'It's my baby — and I'm finally giving birth,' says Ace DeVille of his Tantalizing Tuesdays

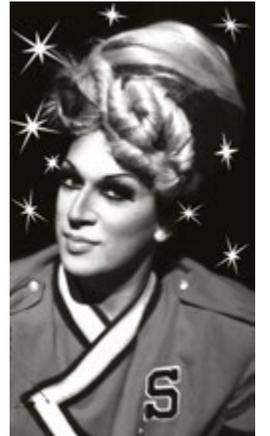
By JON JAMES

Drag, dance, fashion and a taste of New York can all be expected at Ace DeVille's Tantalizing Tuesdays at Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge.

Every Tuesday, DeVille gets together a team of models, dancers, drag queens, strippers and any other talent deemed worthy and sets them loose on Fahrenheit's stage. The premiere show earlier this month featured about two dozen models performing during six songs.

During one song, drag queen Maria came out in a wedding dress, which was then sprayed with neon paint, an act that DeVille says is inspired by fashion icon Alexander McQueen.

The show has been two-and-a-half years in the making for DeVille, who first started planning



Courtesy Photo

a similar event for Level II, a previous venue in the space that houses Fahrenheit. DeVille says that that event, which was titled "Ace DeVille and the Club Kids' Mad Tea Party," was canceled after the venue failed to follow through. Now that the location has reopened as Fahrenheit Ultra, DeVille was asked to take over Tuesday nights.

"It's my baby," DeVille says, "and I'm finally giving birth."

DeVille is on the lookout for new talent to book for future Tuesdays and encourages interested performers to look up Ace DeVille on Facebook, which is how many of the current performers were booked. "I want performers who don't have a place to join," says DeVille, emphasizing that the show is intended to be an interactive space for patrons.

Ace DeVille's Tantalizing Tuesdays

Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge
6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing
Doors at 9 p.m., show at
11:30 p.m. every Tuesday
(517) 488-1517

Jon James/City Pulse

Asio (at right), Delicious and D'Nisha Grey are the Camel Lips, the trio of drag stars taking the stage every Tuesday night at Oade's Hidden Camel.





Ring in the season

Judy Winter/City Pulse

A splashy parade — featuring such seasonal celebrities as The Grinch and Santa Claus — the lighting of the state tree on the lawn of the Capitol and a fireworks-filled finale marked Friday's Silver Bells in the City celebration. The annual event kicks off the holiday season in downtown Lansing.



Courtesy photo



"I would have been hailed with approval if I had died at 50," the early civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois said late in life. "At 75 my death was practically requested." He's one of the subjects profiled in Michael Lawrence's "Radicals in Their Own Time."

'Radicals' revisited

Michigan State University law professor looks at controversial characters throughout history

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Thanksgiving playbook calls for the whole family, from Tea Partiers to Occupiers, to sit down for an all-American truce, lubricated by gravy and minimal meaningful conversation. Michigan State University law Professor Michael Lawrence has a radically different feast in mind.

In his new book, "Radicals in Their Own Time," Lawrence invites five of the most cantankerous radicals in 400 years of American history to his table and limps them to the very subjects polite folks are told to avoid: politics and religion.

"It's a lively crowd," Lawrence said. "Without exception, they were all pretty ornery."

Instead of politic Thomas Jefferson, we get impolitic Thomas Paine. Instead of conciliator Martin Luther King Jr. or compromiser Booker T. Washington, Lawrence gives us the uncompromising W.E.B. DuBois. Instead of pious Susan B. Anthony, we get Anthony's fiery right-

See Radicals, Page 11

Hawk Island Park is going downhill fast

Snowboarding will be among the activities at a new Snow Park, opening soon

By CRISTINA TOSCANO

When you live through a Michigan winter, you come to accept the fact that Michigan is all about winter sports. So the time is right for Hawk Island Snow Park, which opens Dec. 17 in Lansing.

Pete Bosheff, principal of Urban Snow Parks, said the inspiration for the park came from "hearing about how there were kids who would get Zamboni snow from

ice rinks and haul it to local hills so they can ride their snowboards."

So Bosheff, along with Bob Ford and Modern Skate and Surf owner George Leichtweiss teamed up with Ingham County Parks to open a multi-purpose facility for snowboarding, skiing and tubing.

The partners also brought Ryan Neptune onboard to assist in the design.

Neptune, owner of Planet Snow Design and a champion snowboarder, has been building snowboarding venues for almost two decades. Currently head of operations at Otsego Resort in Gaylord, Neptune will work with snowmaking equipment, designing of the parks and rails and setting up the correct lighting.

"We're partnering to bring resources to make it a functional hill," Neptune said.

Leichtweiss, the park's design operator, noted that parks used to forbid the sport in the 1980s. The sport has come a long way since then.

"You don't have to be best in the world to do it, and you also don't need an 11,000-foot mountain to have fun," Leichtweiss said.

Although snowboards and skis will not be available at the park, director of Ingham County Parks Willis Bennett said the tubes for tubing would be provided and that the YMCA is looking into creating a class to teach snowboarding and skiing.

Admission to the park — located at 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road in Lansing — will be \$7.

"It's a great opportunity to open to more people while being focused on being a family park," Bennet said. "It's all about getting the community involved and improve quality of life through activity."

"Seeing public enjoying themselves and giving a great visitor experience will be our greatest reward."

November 25 - December 23, 2011



by Steve Murray

Directed by Tony Caselli

Back by popular demand!

John Lepard returns in his award-winning role as George Bailey, Mr. Potter, and the entire population of Bedford Falls in this theatrical re-telling of the classic holiday film *It's A Wonderful Life*.

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Radicals

from page 10

hand woman in the struggle for women's rights, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

They all got hit hard and knew how to hit back. In 1895, Stanton eviscerated the Bible's paternalistic take on women, from Adam's rib on down, in a controversial magnum opus, "The Woman's Bible." Joining a nationwide wave of outrage, one clergyman called it "the work of women and the devil."

"This is a grave mistake," Stanton drolly argued in her introduction to the second edition. "His Satanic Majesty was not invited to join the Revising Committee, which consists of women alone."

They sound like great company, but each of Lawrence's five subjects were banished from the table more often than they were invited. "I would have been hailed with approval if I had died at 50," DuBois said in his 80s. "At 75 my death was practically requested."

The first to arrive at Lawrence's feast is Roger Williams, founder of Providence, R.I., and an early proponent of religious tolerance and strict separation of church and state. Williams denies the European powers' claims to land in the New World, unless they pay the Native Americans fairly for it. Try discussing that over Thanksgiving turkey.

Lawrence found religion to be a persistent hot spot that hasn't cooled since Williams' day.

"What really got these five people into hot water was when they challenged the prevailing religious orthodoxy," Lawrence said. "That explains a lot. To this day, any candidate for high office would be ill served by challenging Christian orthodoxy. It would be an immediate disqualifier."

Lawrence's second subject, revolutionary firebrand and pamphleteer Thomas Paine, is a perfect case study. Paine fell from revered Founding Father to pariah when he published his withering critique of the Bible, "The Age of Reason," containing the memorable credo, "my own mind is my own church." Six people came to his funeral.

"He was essentially disowned by his revolutionary compatriots," Lawrence said. "For decades he was reviled to the point where Theodore Roosevelt called him 'that dirty little atheist.'"

After "The Woman's Bible," Elizabeth Cady Stanton's fate paralleled Paine's. Her colleagues in the turn-of-the-century suffrage struggle, except Anthony, turned against her.

DuBois had little reverence for the church either. His antipathy to capitalism and sympathy for the Communist Soviet Union would make him an indigestible Thanksgiving guest in most American households today.

In case the reader gets too smug about Enlightenment principles of reason, there's always Lawrence's fifth radical, American Indian teacher and activist Vine DeLoria Jr.

In addition to fighting for a new legal framework in America for tribal sovereignty, DeLoria challenged what he considered to be the orthodoxy of materialistic science, especially Darwinism, in the universities. Instead, he laid out a synthesis of Western science,

American Indian belief systems, and Jungian psychology to explain the universe.

DeLoria's chapter brings the story full circle, echoing Williams's call for fair treatment of American Indians 400 years earlier.

As a constitutional law professor, Lawrence has due reverence for

the nation's founding documents, but he's the first to caution that they're just "words on a page."

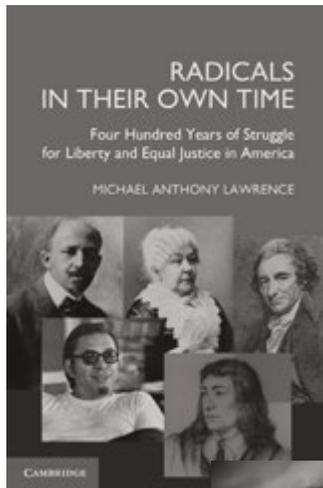
"Soviet Russia had a fine constitution, for what good it did them," he said.

The five radicals profiled in his book had failings, some of them spectacular, but Lawrence argues that it takes impolitic people to push the country closer to its ideal of equal justice under law. Elected leaders simply play it too safe.

Far from an alien idea, Lawrence argues, radicalism runs in our veins. "Americans love this," he said. "Look at any holiday moviegoing season."

There's something distinctly American about George Bailey going up against money-grubbing Mr. Potter or Dr. Seuss' Yertle the Turtle shaking the king's throne with a belch.

"These are icons, they're heroes, and we love them because they stand up to authority and demand equal justice," Lawrence said. "What else is Dorothy doing when she pulls back the curtain and exposes the wizard?"



Courtesy photo

Author Michael Lawrence says of his subjects: "These are icons, they're heroes, and we love them because they stand up to authority and demand equal justice."



THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Here's a pair of 'kid' movies adults shouldn't overlook

For parents who regularly endure Justin Bieber videos and "Hannah Montana" repeats, the idea of "kid-friendly" entertainment can be hard to face.

But what happens when you inject a touch of class and sophistication into a film that would seem to be designed for younger viewers? You get movies like "The Muppets" and "Hugo."

Happy holidays, everybody.

While children will enjoy "The Muppets" for the slapstick and perennially cuddly characters, like Kermit the Frog and Fozzie Bear, the heartiest laughter at the preview screening last week came from people over 30, the ones who may be old enough to remember be excited about watching Paul Williams or Cheryl Ladd guest-starring on "The Muppet Show" many moons ago. Certainly, 31-year-old "Muppets" star Jason Segel must have fond memories of those days, and he's channeled them into the frisky, free-wheeling screenplay he co-wrote with Nicholas Stoller.

Although "The Muppets" takes a few liberties with the familiar characters — and, admittedly, Kermit and Miss Piggy's new voices take a bit of getting used to — it retains the irreverent humor that was always the trademark of the late Jim Henson's creations. Segel and Amy Adams play Gary and Mary, starry-eyed small-town types who help Gary's lifelong pal, Walter, reunite the long-disbanded Muppets gang for a benefit show to save their former theater from the clutches of greedy oilman Tex Richman (a madly mugging Chris Cooper, obviously having the time of his life).

"Those Muppets think they're so funny — well, it looks like the joke's about to be on them!" Richman growls. "Maniacal laugh! Maniacal laugh! Maniacal laugh!" Unable to do his own chuckling, this born delegator makes his associates do it for him.

As in earlier Muppet films, there are several cameos by recognizable stars — including Emily Blunt, putting a sly spin on her role from "The Devil Wears Prada" — and numerous musical interludes that allow Adams and Segel to show off their

fancy footwork (she's great and he's, well, energetic). Kermit, Miss Piggy and the rest prove that a few years away from the spotlight haven't done them a bit of harm, and new additions to the crew — such as '80s Robot, who gurgles such sayings as "gag me with a spoon" and tries to serve New Coke — fit in charmingly.

Martin Scorsese isn't the first name that comes to mind when one thinks of fantasy, but the director's enchanting "Hugo" marks a marvelous change of pace from "The Departed" and "Goodfellas." Based on Brian Selznick's novel "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," this is a dazzling celebration of cinema history, incorporating clips from silent films (including a bit of Harold Lloyd's "Safety Last" and a sumptuous serving of the vintage fantasies of George Melies, played wonderfully by Ben Kingsley) and paying tribute to the magic of movies.

Young orphan Hugo (Asa Butterfield) lives in a Parisian train station, where he spends his days winding the station's many clocks and trying to repair an automaton left to him by his father (Jude Law), who instilled in him a love of technology. The movie is fascinated by all things mechanical: This is one of the few recent films in which 3D effects serve the story instead of merely being decorative. But Scorsese doesn't overlook Hugo's friendship with the book-loving, adventure-craving Isabel (the beguiling, radiant Chloe Grace Moretz) or his battles with a martinet of a police officer (a zesty Sacha Baron Cohen).

While there's excitement, mystery and abundant humor in "Hugo," there is also a palpable sense of wonder. "The Muppets" is a tasty dessert, but "Hugo" is a banquet for the senses and a reminder that imagination and innovation were always a part of filmmaking, long before the days of digital technology. When Scorsese rolled out scenes from Melies' ground-breaking 1902 adventure "A Trip to the Moon," an audience member at the press screening gasped, "Oh, that's awesome."

For the record, that viewer was definitely not a child.

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Lepard's second 'Life'

Williamston Theatre revives a holiday hit

By JAMES SANFORD

John Lepard says he first discovered "It's a Wonderful Life" when he was about 20. Little did he know at the time he'd one day be spending the holidays in Bedford Falls himself.

Lepard and director Tony Caselli are reviving their 2009 success "This Wonderful Life" (for which Lepard won the Pulsar Award as best actor in a play and the show won best play) at Williamston Theatre, beginning Friday.

"I was probably 20 years old when I first saw the movie," Lepard said.

"It was not one of the things my family regularly watched. But once I saw it, I loved it and I started watching it every year."

When he was working on a production of "The Member of the Wedding" in Washington, Lepard made numerous trips to the Library of Congress, which has a copy of Philip Van Doren Stern's "The

Greatest Gift," the short story that inspired director Frank Capra's film about a distraught small-town building and loan officer who gets to see what the world would have looked like had he not been born.

"I started writing a stage version of 'It's a Wonderful Life,' and I brought it to Tony," Lepard said. "He said, 'This is great — but we'd need 18 people to play all these parts.' So he went looking for another script, and that's when he found this one."

Steve Murray's stage adaptation of "Life" is a one-act, one-man show, which tells the story through the words of George Bailey, who speaks for everyone else, including his understanding wife, Mary, and his arch-nemesis, the money-grubbing Mr. Potter. Lepard says it's a lot of fun and a bit of a challenge.

"There's nobody to bail you out, that's for sure," he said. "If you screw up, you're screwed up. You don't want to get Mary and Mr. Potter mixed up; that's embarrassing."

Although Lepard and Caselli are making a few minor changes for the revival, they're also looking at what worked the first time, via a tape of the original production.

"It's the weirdest thing, watching myself from two years ago: 'Is that what I did there?'" Lepard said.

Does the voice of James Stewart, who played George Bailey in the movie, ring in Lepard's ears? "Not really," Lepard said. "Sometimes my problem is that I sound like him anyway."

'This Wonderful Life'

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Williamston Theatre,
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3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays
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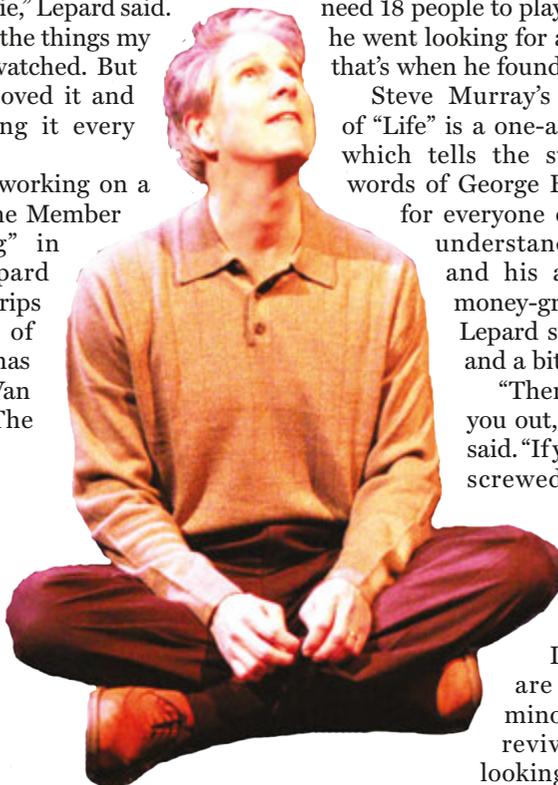


Photo of John Lepard by Chris Purchis; Courtesy Photo from "It's a Wonderful Life"

John Lepard, at right, takes on one of James Stewart's signature roles, above, in "This Wonderful Life."

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Riverwalk Theatre

Kids' Comedy by Linda Daugherty

Directed by Tom Ferris

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\$7 adults age 16+; \$5 children
7 pm Fri. • 2:00 & 4:30 pm Sat. • 2 pm Sun.

RiverwalkTheatre.com



Photo by LukeAnthony Photography

Pig #1 (Anna Maier), Pig #2 (Kyle Sodman) and Pig #3 (Robert Aultz) are tired of the Big Bad Wolf (Edric Haleen) in "The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs."

Freshened-up fairy tales

Riverwalk Theatre puts 'Surprising' twists on classics

By NICOLE LaCHANCE

The Three Little Pigs, Three Billy Goats Gruff and Goldilocks and the Three Bears: We know the stories so well we can recite them by heart. But what if these beloved fairy tales took a different turn? That's a question Riverwalk Theatre explores in its holiday children's show, "The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs."

The play is about three trios of disgruntled fairytale characters who've grown tired of their stories. The pigs decide they don't want to be chased by a wolf, the goats are fed up with the troll under the bridge and Papa Bear decides he is sick of Goldilocks breaking and entering into their peaceful cottage. What follows is a humorous look at what happens when fairytale characters unite and try to change their fates.

"It's an interesting message that we don't have to live life as the narrator tells us we have to," said Tom Ferris, the play's director. "We can strike out on our own and find our own possibilities." He was drawn to the script because he believes it is both fun and instructional for all ages.

The theater hosted a free sneak preview featuring four scenes from the show after the Silver Bells parade to kick off their holiday season.

Ferris has been directing for Riverwalk for years, dating back to the time performances took place in the Okemos Barn. As a former teacher, it is very enjoyable to direct productions like

"Pigs" which feature young actors, he said.

The play marks a slight change in the theater's annual holiday show. Riverwalk usually chooses a musical for the season, but the script Ferris submitted, which was written by Linda Daugherty, was just too good to pass up, said Riverwalk manager Michael Siracuse. It also helped that the play will be directed by Ferris — whom Siracuse calls one of the theater's best directors — and that it fits in with the season's traditional kid-friendly theme, he added.

"We want to keep the kids involved: That's our future actors out there," Siracuse said.

He said in addition to theater regulars, many people who once brought their children to the shows are now bringing their grandchildren, so Riverwalk has no intention of messing with the holiday tradition.

Photo by LukeAnthony Photography

Bret Robertson plays the toll-collecting troll who troubles the Three Billy Goats Gruff in "The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs."



2011 Gift Guide

Write-ups by Nicole LaChance, Carlee Schepeler & Cristina Toscano



Save! Lansing merchants are marked with



This holiday season, skip the lines at the Black Friday sales and patronize Lansing's locally owned businesses. Our Gift Guide will point you in the right direction.

Staying local promotes a sense of community, encourages entrepreneurship, increases job opportunities for people in the area and ensures that your money will stimulate Lansing's economy since local businesses invest a much larger share of their revenue back into the community than the "big box" chain stores with home offices in other states (or other countries). A study by the Austin Independent Business Alliance determined that if you spend \$100 at a locally owned business, \$45 stays in the local economy; spending \$100 at a national chain put only \$13 back into the community.

Our gift guide features stores with distinctive gifts for everyone on your list, from art to antiques to outerwear to flowers. Many of these businesses are also a part of our Save! Lansing webstore (www.savelansing.com), which offers discounted gift certificates for 26 local businesses that can save buyers up to 55 percent off on goods and services.

This week, 10 percent of profits from Save! Lansing will be donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank, a non-profit organization that provides emergency food to needy individuals and families in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. What better way to give thanks than by giving back to those in need?

Read on for ideas to help you cross every last person off your list.

Absolute Gallery

307 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

(517) 482-8845

Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

www.absolutegallery.net

Absolute Gallery, located in Old Town, features custom framing and a variety of decorative pieces. The wax pottery (\$20), which is also cat-proof, works well for those who like the scent of candles but don't like the flame. The gallery also has a wishing tree (\$39.45), which can be decorated to suit the season, and a variety of vintage Michigan-themed travel posters (\$30).



Apparel Printers

3505 S. Cedar St., Lansing

(517) 882-5700

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. www.apparelprinters.com

Apparel Printers specializes in custom screening on several wearable items. In addition to t-shirts (starting at \$15.95) and sweatshirts (\$20-25), the company also prints on jackets, uniforms, hats, bags and athletic wear. This gift is especially good for businesses wanting to give company gifts to their employees.

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635 S/ Waverly Road, Suite A, Lansing
(517) 886-7424

Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday
www.bonillasalon.com

Create your own gift basket at Bonilla Salon and Spa, which features the complete product line of Redken Hair products, Bedhead, Paul Mitchell and Matrix: Prices range from \$25-\$125. Gift certificates are also available for massage specials, pedicures and manicures. Bonilla sells an exclusive speciality lines of Wim'in'fok' shirts and sweatshirts produced by the local female-owned clothing company; prices range from \$15-30. **Save! Lansing Merchant**

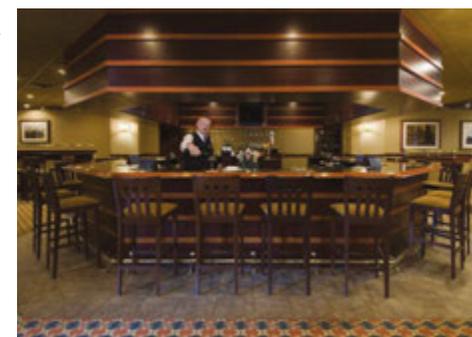
Capitol City Grille ▶

111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
(517) 267-3459

Hours: Restaurant: 6:00 a.m.-2 p.m. every day. Lounge: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.; 11 a.m.-midnight. Friday and Saturday; 6:00 a.m.-11 a.m. Dec. 24.

The Capitol City Grille, a contemporary American restaurant located in the Radisson Hotel, features a Christmas Jazz Show for their lounge guests from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 18. The restaurant also be hosting a New Year's Eve party in the hotel banquet rooms (details to be determined). The dining room will feature more intimate options, including a couples menu and champagne specials, along with the regular menu. Gift certificates are available in any amount, but call ahead of time to have them printed up.

Save! Lansing Merchant




Support our **Save! Lansing** merchants at:
www.savellansing.com!



◀ Gallery 1212

1212 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 999-1212

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; Noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Gallery 1212 has a wide assortment of prints, wall mounts, glass lamps (\$180-\$450), dishes and pressed bottles (\$15). Original art by B. Craig Cossey hangs on the walls in the back room, where the owners host classes focusing on fused glass, pottery, sculpture or watercolor. Gift certificates are available. Petting the resident cat is free of charge.

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◀ Grove Gallery Co-Op

325 Grove St., Suite A,
East Lansing
(517) 333-7180

Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday through Friday; 11
a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon
to 4 p.m. Sunday

grovegallerycop.com

Shocking pops of color are all over this gallery, be it on prints of an amusement park (\$125-\$350) or glass flowers (\$225). A unique tiled window (\$350) is just one of the pieces by in-house member MargaBeth Cibulka. Cheaper options are beaded jewelry, scarves and textured wall art.

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Katalyst Gallery

1214 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 708-8916

Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
Noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Katalyst Gallery features a unique assortment of beaded jewelry, candles, home décor and handbags (\$58-\$158). A modern-looking fish tank (\$35) will warm the heart of the pet lover on your holiday list. Katalyst is located next door to Gallery 1212, and the galleries pride themselves on their different inventories.



Kellie's Consignments

4800 Okemos Road, Okemos
(517) 574-4523

kelliesconsignments.com

Hours: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday

The motto here is "expect the unexpected." Kellie's Consignments specializes in men's, women's and children's clothing, home décor and furnishings. That stylish person on your list will appreciate Coach purses starting at \$20, \$300 designer jeans for less than \$100 and unique gift items, such as Waterford Crystal bowls for \$40. "People think you can't shop at consignment stores for gifts, but we have many brand-new items mixed in with gently used items," says owner/operator Kellie Johnson. "We also have something else no other consignment store in town offers: returns through Jan. 10." **Save! Lansing Merchant**



Lamb's Gate Antiques

1219 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 999-2617

Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; Noon-5 p.m. for First Sunday Gallery Walk

Lamb's Gate Antiques literally has something for everybody, and its reasonable prices don't hurt either. The store has pottery, toys, furniture, and costume and classic jewelry in the neighborhood of \$24-\$55. For the cold-blooded fashionistas on your list, explore the vintage clothes and outerwear lining the back walls.



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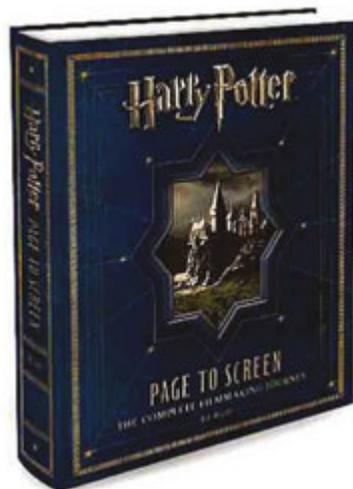
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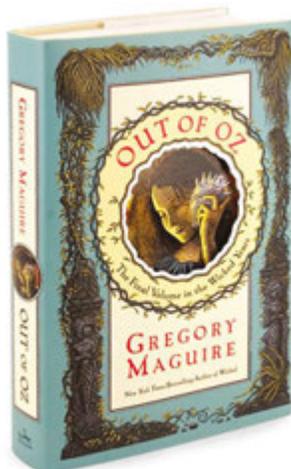


HARRY POTTER PAGE TO SCREEN: THE COMPLETE FILMMAKING JOURNEY

Developed in collaboration with the creative team behind the celebrated movie series, this deluxe, 500-plus page compendium features exclusive stories from the cast and crew, hundreds of never-before-seen photographs and concept illustrations sourced from the closed film sets, and rare memorabilia. As the definitive look at the magic that made cinematic history, *Page to Screen* is the ultimate collectible, perfect for Muggles everywhere.

HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS, PART 2

Own the movie of the year — the final installment of the most successful film series of all time! The last adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux — the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal — before his nefarious plans come to fruition.

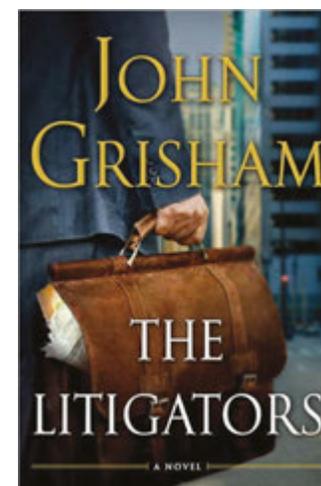


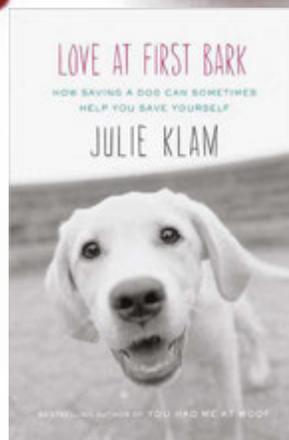
OUT OF OZ by Gregory Maguire

Once peaceful and prosperous, the spectacular Land of Oz is knotted with social unrest: The Emerald City is mounting an invasion of Munchkinland, Glinda is under house arrest, and the Cowardly Lion is on the run from the law. And look who's knocking at the door. It's none other than Dorothy. Yes. That Dorothy. The stirring, long-awaited conclusion to the bestselling series begun with *Wicked*, *Out of Oz* is a magical journey rife with revelations and reversals, reprisals and surprises—the hallmarks of the unique imagination of Gregory Maguire.

THE LITIGATORS by John Grisham

The Litigators is a tremendously entertaining romp, filled with the kind of courtroom strategies, theatrics, and suspense that have made John Grisham America's favorite storyteller. Behind the fancy "Finley & Figg" sign are two middle-aged lawyers just getting by. Oscar Finley and Wally Figg qualify as ambulance chasers, specialists in hung-over DUIs, hapless shoplifting defendants, and no-fault divorce cases. Then one day, while they're wading through yet another mundane day of paper-pushing in their modest Chicago office, everything changes forever. Before long, they are grappling with a real legal case, one that involves a \$25 billion pharmaceutical corporation and a slam-dunk class action suit with infinite possibilities. What Messrs. Finley and Figg don't yet realize is that their road to riches will pit them against a legal team not accustomed to losing.



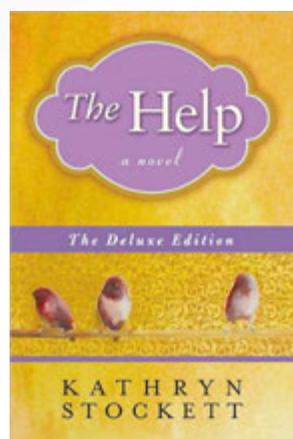
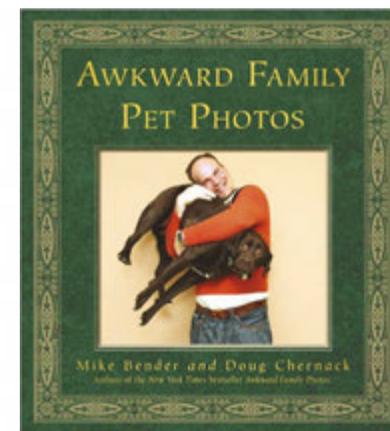


LOVE AT FIRST BARK by Julie Klam

Julie Klam writes about dogs with a rollicking wit and a radiating warmth as no other writer can. In her bestselling memoir *You Had Me at Woof*, she shared the secrets of happiness she learned as an occasionally frazzled but always devoted owner of Boston terriers. Now, with the same enchanting, pop culture-infused amalgam of humor and poignancy that reached the *The New York Times* and the *Today* show, she returns with more humorous insight into life with canine companions. Here she focuses on dog rescue, and its healing power not only for the dogs who are cared for and able to find good homes, but also for the people who bond with these animals.

AWKWARD FAMILY PET PHOTOS by Mike Bender & Doug Chernack

The authors of the *New York Times* bestseller *Awkward Family Photos* are back with a hilarious tribute to the unbreakable and sometimes uncomfortable bond between people and their pets. There are few things more rewarding than having a pet. They love us unconditionally, shower us with attention, and because of them, we actually live longer. So, what can possibly be awkward about our animal BFFs? Well . . . nothing. In fact, we're the awkward ones. We adore our pets, but let's face it—sometimes L-O-V-E makes us go a little overboard. And maybe that's the reason we care about them so much—because for such simple pleasures, they allow us to be as awkward as we want.



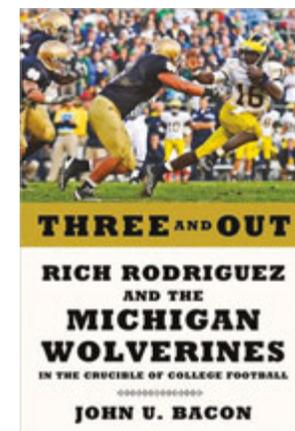
THE HELP: DELUXE EDITION by Kathryn Stockett

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends—view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

This beautiful edition, which is destined to be passed down from generation to generation, is filled with special features including a satin ribbon marker, printed endpapers, two-color interior printing, deckled edges and a cloth binding. It's the perfect gift for someone you love—or as a special treat for yourself.

THREE AND OUT: RICH RODRIGUEZ AND THE MICHIGAN WOLVERINES IN THE CRUCIBLE OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL by John U. Bacon

Three and Out tells the story of how college football's most influential coach took over the nation's most successful program, only to produce three of the worst seasons in the histories of both Rich Rodriguez and the University of Michigan. This is the definitive account of a football marriage seemingly made in heaven that broke up after just three years; it lifts the lid on the best and the worst of college football.



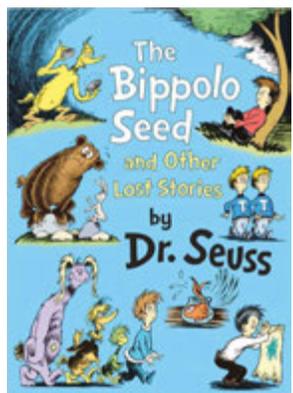
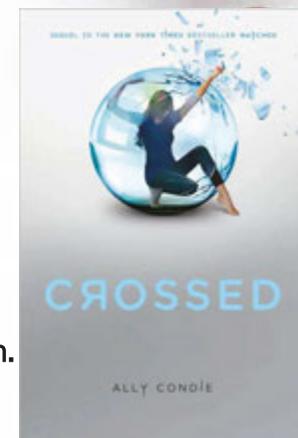


THE HUNGER GAMES COMPANION by Lois H. Gresh

For all those who adore Katniss and Peeta, and can't get enough, this companion guide to the wildly popular *Hunger Games* series is a must-read and a terrific gift. Go deeper into the post-apocalyptic world created by Suzanne Collins than you ever thought possible: *The Hunger Games Companion* includes fascinating background facts about the action in all three books, a revealing biography of the author, and amazing insights into the series' main themes and features—from the nature of evil, to weaponry and rebellions, to surviving the end of the world. It's everything fans have been hungering for since the very first book!

CROSSED by Ally Condie

Crossed is the hotly awaited second book in the dystopian *Matched* trilogy. In search of a future that may not exist and faced with the decision of who to share it with, Cassia journeys to the Outer Provinces in pursuit of Ky—taken by the Society to his certain death—only to find that he has escaped, leaving a series of clues in his wake. Cassia's quest leads her to question much of what she holds dear, even as she finds glimmers of a different life across the border. But as Cassia nears resolve and certainty about her future with Ky, an invitation for rebellion, an unexpected betrayal, and a surprise visit from Xander - who may hold the key to the uprising and, still, to Cassia's heart - change the game once again.

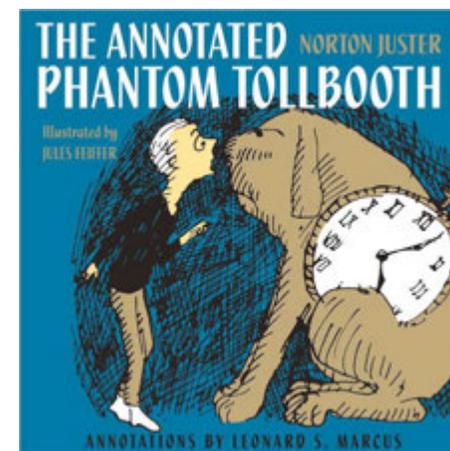


THE BIPPOLO SEED AND OTHER LOST STORIES by Dr. Seuss

It's the literary equivalent of buried treasure! Seuss scholar/collector Charles D. Cohen has hunted down seven rarely seen stories by Dr. Seuss. Originally published in magazines between 1950 and 1951, they include "Gustav the Goldfish" (an early, rhymed version of the Beginner Book *A Fish Out of Water*); "The Bippolo Seed" (in which a scheming feline leads an innocent duck to make a bad decision); and "The Strange Shirt Spot" (the inspiration for the bathtub-ring scene in *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*). With a color palette that has been enhanced beyond the limitations of the original magazines in which they appeared, this is a collection of stories that no Seuss fan (whether scholar or second-grader) will want to miss!

THE ANNOTATED PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH by Norton Juster and Leonard S. Marcus

The Phantom Tollbooth is a universally beloved childhood classic. In the 50 years since its original publication, millions of children have breathlessly followed Milo's adventures in the Lands Beyond. Now Leonard Marcus, a nationally acclaimed writer on children's literature, has created a richly annotated edition of this perennial favorite. Marcus's expansive annotations include interviews with the author and illustrator, illuminating excerpts from Juster's notes and drafts, cultural and literary commentary, and Marcus's own insights on the book. It's the perfect way to honor a classic and will be loved by young readers and fans of all ages.



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40 YEARS OF QUEEN by Harry Doherty

The first authorized, comprehensive history of one of the biggest rock bands ever, with never-before-seen photos and memorabilia, on their 40th anniversary. Including an introduction by Brian May and Roger Taylor, *40 Years of Queen* tells the unique story of a fantastically talented and popular group of musicians whose sound and performances changed rock music. Featuring 200 photographs—some rare and never-before-published—and removable memorabilia, this is the book fans have been waiting decades for.

A VERY SHE & HIM CHRISTMAS

A wonderful collection of holiday tunes from two of music's most impressive artists Zoey Deschanel (She) & M. Ward (Him). Inspired by seminal holiday albums by the likes of The Carpenters, Vince Guaraldi, The Beach Boys, Elvis Presley and more, She & Him have set out to create an intimate holiday recording of Christmas classics that helps bring new emotions out of old songs. A portion of all proceeds will support 826 National.



WICKED GAME by Il Divo

Il Divo, the world's foremost classical crossover group, return with their most impressive album since their 2004 debut defined a new musical genre. In addition to a cover of Chris Isaac's classic title track, the quartet – Carlos Marin, Sebastien Izambard, David Miller, and Urs Buhler – present highlights including an emotionally beautiful rendering of Roy Orbison's "Crying" and a heavenly version of Samuel Barber's "Adagio For Strings."

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Love, Betti

100 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 484-2131

Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday
through Saturday; noon-5 p.m.
Sunday

This Old Town boutique is a spot for finding unique gifts for that person on your list with discriminating tastes. You can never go wrong with a little bling: used and new jewelry ranges from \$8 rings to \$275 necklaces. A vintage ice bucket (\$24) is just the thing for that guy who just finished building a bar in his basement. Leather jackets, fur hats, vintage lamps, cards, and contemporary/mid-century furniture (including a gorgeous wood-and-metal coffee table) are all available here. Love, Betti also features work from local artists, allowing you to support local arts and brighten up a wall in one fell swoop.



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Mackerel Sky

211 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing (517) 351-2211

Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sun.
 Holiday Hours: Monday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday (Dec. 13)-Friday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Mackerel Sky gives you a taste of holiday spirit from the moment you step inside and see the ornaments (\$10-\$25) hanging on the Christmas tree. The store features everything you need to prepare for your holiday celebrations — linens, host gifts, dishes, cards — as well as everything you'll need to fashionably take on the cold weather: hats, scarves, coats, handbags, jewelry and hand-blown glass (\$275).

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shop.msu.edu

What better way to support a local student group and give the perfect gift to that pet-lover on your list? Gift ideas include dog bowls (\$12), "Sparty Dog" leashes (\$20) and "vanishing" thermal mugs (\$17) that reveal X-ray images of a cat, cog, horse or cow when tilled with a hot liquid. Proceeds support the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine student programs.

Polka Dots Bead-A-Full Boutique

1207 Turner St., Lansing
 (517) 267-1479

Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; Noon.-4 p.m. Sunday.

www.polkadotsbeads.com

In addition to beads and beading supplies, Polka Dots Bead-A-Full Boutique features an array of decorative and wearable items, such a magnets, shoes and on-the-go coffee mugs. Some of the popular products are the Curly Girl brand items (\$12-\$35), the vintage headbands (\$16) and the Lori Mitchell holiday figurines (\$22-\$40). The shop also features several of artist Kelly Rae Roberts' items (\$20-\$39).



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(517) 574-5889

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. www.therecordlounge.net

There's something to please any music lover on your list in the bins of this East Lansing staple, which carries everything from vintage vinyl to new pressings of classic albums and recent releases from local musicians. Need to find a Japanese issue of "The Beatles: 1962-1966" (\$60), or a limited-edition virgin vinyl copy of Kate Bush's "Hounds of Love" (\$24)? Look no further. And if you're hunting for hard-to-find used records, check out the Record Lounge's bins. Whether it's Pigmeat Markham's comic "The Hustlers" (featuring the unforgettable "Smelly Ice Cream") or Paul Davis' mellow "Cool Night" (which includes his Top 10 smash "65 Love Affair"), you can take it home for 50 cents. The store also sells stereo equipment (a Technics turntable is \$55) and some fun, funky artwork: Celebrate the heyday of Peter Fonda with reproductions of posters for "The Trip" and "Easy Rider" (\$6 each).

Saper Gallery

433 Albert Ave., East Lansing
(517)351-0815

10 a.m. through 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday; open 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. www.sapergallery.com

For 33 years, Saper Galleries has been offering paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, and mobiles, which has made it a destination for local art enthusiasts. Gift ideas under \$100 range from hand-blown glass, hand-crafted wooden boxes, ceramic tiles and kinetic art media. Got a Grinch-y person that's hard to shop for? Saper Galleries features artwork by none other than Dr. Seuss. Pieces by Michigan artist Kathleen Chaney Fritz start at under \$20, with other recent acquisitions this holiday season including unique work from Brazil and Costa Rica. Don't worry if you're shopping for someone out of town: Saper Galleries ships across the world and displays links to what's new on its home page. ▼



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www.schulerbooks.com

Schuler Books and Music carries several series box sets, such as "The Inheritance Cycle" (currently on sale for \$71.58 for hardcover) and "The Hunger Games" (\$53.94), as well as Harry Potter-themed gifts, such as the complete DVD set (\$78.99) and a complete behind-the-scenes movie guide (\$75). They also have a fair-trade section featuring international items (45-\$30). Gift certificates are available in any amount and can be used in store or online. The store will be having a Black Friday sale with up to 50 percent off select items.



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1220 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 485-4166

Hours: 10 a.m. -7 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Tallulah's Folly features Michigan-made products, including books by local authors; jewelry by local artists and edibles: a collection of Mitten-made hot sauce, mustard, relish and Bloody Mary mix is hidden in the back. Coffee, fudge and festive Christmas music are sure to warm your spirits.



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Worth booking

Pick up page-turners from Jeffrey Eugenides, Erin Morgenstern and Ernest Hemingway

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Give ho-ho Hemingway books this holiday season. Several new books on “Papa” are on every Hemingway lovers list this holiday season and, surprisingly, they provide some new insight into the world of one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. I say “surprisingly” because writing about Hemingway is a literary industry.

Paul Hendrickson’s “Hemingway’s Boat” is an unusual biography of Hemingway in that it uses his beloved boat, The Pilar, as the vehicle for telling the story. Hemingway used the boat from 1934 to 1961 to entertain, to chase women and German subs and to teach his boys about the manly art of fishing, which was one of his many obsessions. This book, somewhat sympathetic to Hemingway, allows you to see a different side of this conflicted writer.

“The Paris Wife,” by University of Michigan graduate Paula McLain, is a fictional re-creation of Hemingway’s first wife Hadley Richardson’s relationship with the writer who, in the retelling, shows how she provided him the grounding to become a great writer. This meticulously researched book doesn’t sugar-coat a relationship that ran aground in just six years.

“The Letters of Ernest Hemingway: 1907-1922,” the first of an expected 16 volumes, is a great companion piece to McLain’s book since it follows Hemingway from a young man to adulthood, including his courtship of Richardson. Letters are often the purist form of writing; these letters are no different.

It’s fun to follow the progression of Hemingway’s writing from a young boy to a member of the Lost Generation. Some 80 percent of the letters have never been published and many of them relate to his time in Michigan. The book also will provide an incentive for anyone harboring old love letters to follow Richardson’s dictum and burn them.

Unlike his Pulitzer Prize-winning “Middlesex,” Jeffrey Eugenides’ “The Marriage Plot” has very little in the way of a Michigan connection. But it still has the magic you have come to expect from the cerebral author. This semi-autobiographical novel follows three soon-to-be graduates of Brown University (Eugenides’ alma mater) as they enter the world in the 1980s. The gorgeous Madeleine, a literary scholar of great depth, is pursued by two suitors: One is a classic bad boy, while the other is looking for satisfaction in religion. Anyone who was ever 20 will love this tale.

“The Art of Fielding” by debut author Chad Harbach, is more than just a tip



Courtesy photo

Spend the holiday season catching up your reading with these suggested titles.

of the hat to Bernard Malamud’s “The Natural.” Sure, it’s a coming-of-age baseball book in which life serves up some bad bounces. But it’s also a lot of fun and an unusual romantic romp for the characters who populate the campus of Westish, where small-town boy Henry goes to exercise his exceptional baseball skills.

Not the most uplifting holiday story (or maybe it is), “Salvage the Bones,” by University of Michigan fine arts graduate Jesmyn Ward, is a troubling look at poverty, love, loyalty and fear, all coming together for a Mississippi family during a 12-day period encompassing Hurricane Katrina. This book, which won the National Book Award for fiction, will tug at your gut and put a human face on the “99 Percent.” It’s been described as the “Occupy the National Book Award.”

“Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend”

will not only bring a smile to your face, but will make you want to cuddle the next German Shepherd you see.

It’s the story of an orphaned dog rescued from a World War I battlefield that goes on to symbolize everything that is great about America — but mostly it is about the love between animals and man.

Written by the incredibly talented University of Michigan graduate Susan Orlean (author of “The Orchid Thief”), this book will tell you the behind-the-scenes stories about a movie star we all rooted for. Anyone who has a dog will want this book under the tree.

For those who want to put a little magic in their life Erin Morgenstern’s “The Night Circus” is the ticket. A little bit of “Chocolat,” Cirque du Soleil and “Love Story” (without the grief) make this a love story you will still be talking about in the

spring. This debut author is a storyteller beyond her years and, as a bonus, the book itself is a piece of art. (This book should be a great gift for a couple I know whose daughter is off to join the circus.)

Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without children, and three outstanding children’s books — with Michigan themes — should be in Santa’s bag for all the good little boys and girls.

“A Nation’s Hope” is the beautifully told story of Detroit’s Joe Louis and his legendary battle against German boxer Max Schmeling.

Illustrated by the Caldecott Artist Kadir Nelson, the book was named by Publisher’s Weekly as one of the 10 best illustrated children books of the year. This book will help keep The Brown Bomber’s legacy alive for another generation.

“Magic Trash” is just as beautiful a book. It would have to be, since it is a children’s biography of a Michigan treasure, Detroit artist Tyree Guyton, who represents everything that is good about resilient Detroiters.

For those who don’t know, Guyton is the artist behind the monumental Heidelberg Project in Detroit. The book shows how this talented artist creates work that serves to tangle with our conscience and pierce our souls.

Finally, University of Michigan-trained artist and writer Chris Van Allsburg is behind the exquisite “Lady of the Falls,” about a Bay City woman who was the first person to ride over Niagara Falls and live.

The book is not only about a brave woman, but also about the many foibles that make up the fabric of our heroes and heroines.

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ADVICE GODDESS

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AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Q: For 10 years, this woman and I have had a hot-and-cold long-distance relationship, the temperature of which she's always controlled. She's 56; I'm 46. Last year, she felt ready to try for something lasting. She couldn't afford to travel, so I paid for her flight. She stayed with me for two wonderful, passionate months, and then we vacationed together in February. I paid for her flight, rental car, hotel, and meals. Again, it was very passionate. Last month, we vacationed together again, funded by me. The day she arrived, she declared her sex life a thing of the past. I was stunned and found sharing the bed rather challenging, but I've never forced myself on any woman and I'm not about to start. My friends are now fuming. I counter that in funding everything, it was never my intention to be paying for "horizontal refreshment." Was she wrong to agree to this trip and then change the terms of our relationship? Am I in denial in not feeling angry?

—Wondering

A: When you've been romantic with a woman for a decade and you're taking her on yet another "passionate" getaway, it's reasonable to expect she'll be interested in doing more in bed than letting you watch as she does the crossword puzzle. (If she's feeling kinky, you could be in for some mind-blowing sudoku.)

It cost you, what, \$3,000 — the price of a TV the size of a small European country — to have her personally deliver the news that she wouldn't be having sex with you? You'd be leading your friends in fuming if you hadn't gotten all tangled up in your self-image as a gentleman. And no, just because a man buys a woman something — dinner, for example — that doesn't mean she owes him sex. But, let's be honest; we all know he isn't buying dinner out of an overwhelming desire to feed hungry females free lobster, and it isn't brotherly benevolence that's behind an all-expens-

es-paid vacation from a man who does not earn a living as a game show host.

The question is, was this woman's lack of pre-vacation disclosure a random act of jerkhood, utterly unpredictable, like a Russian satellite landing on some poor schlub's beater Yugo? Or, more likely, was it utterly predictable based on years of your showing her you'd take whatever she dished out? Your lack of anger is telling. Anger gets triggered when you feel somebody's shorted you on something you were entitled to — like the courtesy of a phone call (before you paid for yet another "passionate vacation") informing you that the birds are taxidermied and the bees are dead.

Chances are, you're a too-nice guy — a guy whose "niceness" is actually suckup-ness, who believes his perceived loserhood will be "cured" if only he can get into a relationship. Ironically, the loserhood is caused by the willingness to do anything for love. That doesn't get you love; it gets you doing anything and everything for it and ending up with blue balls and a big hotel bill. In the future, even if you can't quite believe you deserve a mutual relationship, you need to risk acting as if you do, and speak up and even bail whenever one turns out not to be. Everything won't always be 50/50, but you and a woman you take on a romantic vacation should be on the same page about the proper placement of the "Do Not Disturb" sign: on the doorknob all weekend, as opposed to around her neck.

Q: Several of my Jewish friends have found love on JDate. I am a 32-year-old man who isn't Jewish and has no aspiration to convert but would like to give JDate a try. Huge faux pas?

—Lapsed Catholic

A: JDate advertises that its mission is sustaining "Jewish traditions" — apparently including the tradition of pissing off one's parents by getting together with a Catholic. Where I live, in the 21 to 41 age group, I counted 279 non-Jewish JDaters, including four lesbians looking for nice

Jewish girls. The thing to be wary of is that people are prone to be overly inclusive at the point of sale. A woman may sincerely believe some interfaith thing can work, and then the relationship gets serious and her parents lay on the pressure, and before you know it, you're getting dumped for Shlomo McShlomowitz. Should you end up dating some hot Hebrew, as tempting as it is to focus on all the ways you're compatible, you'd better dig into all the ways you're not. Sure, relationships are compromise, but it's one thing to put off the zombie movie till next weekend and another thing entirely to try to answer the question "What will the children be?" with "Jewish on Wednesdays and Catholic on the weekends?"

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at www.lansingcitypulse.com

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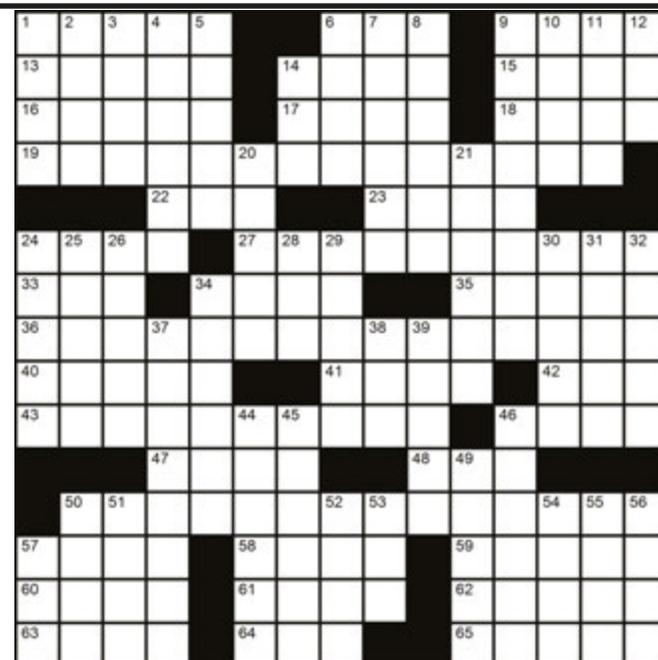
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"No Way!" —let's clean it up.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Summarize
6 Yellowfin tuna
9 Pinocchio's was apt to grow
13 North of the Iran-Contra hearings
14 Fanged movie creature, for short
15 Tree of Knowledge spot
16 Japanese city
17 "___ le roil"
18 Part of a November count
19 They offer hyped-up sermons?
22 "Traffic" org.
23 German region with lots of coal (anagram of SARA)
24 Type of insurance
27 What paintings do, in an art gallery?
33 Weather vane dir.
34 "In the Valley of ___" (2007 Tommy Lee Jones film)
35 Planet featured in "Attack of the Clones"
36 Herbie the Love Bug, for more mature audiences?
40 Related to a pelvic bone
41 Boxing Australians
42 "Do the ___" (soft drink catchphrase)
43 Gollum-like phrase for getting a strike in bowling?
46 KISS frontman Simmons
47 "Zip-___-Doo-Dah"
48 Plant on college buildings
50 They've cleaned up the four theme entries above
57 "Switched-On Bach" synthesizer
58 "___ Lap" (1983 film)
59 Surname of the brothers behind "It's Your Thing"
60 Part of Julius Caesar's dying words, supposedly
61 Count starting word
62 Unit for light bulbs
63 Nutjob
64 Four Monopoly properties, for short
65 Defeat crushingly



- 66 "___ Luyendyk
7 Lake ___, Ariz. (current home of the former London Bridge)
8 Polar covering
9 Worse than a has-been
10 Funk
11 Collector's collections
12 Carbon compound suffix
14 Commercial skipper, perhaps
20 Italian woman's name
21 Butthole Surfers lead singer Gibby
24 Anticipate
25 Jermaine, to Prince Michael
26 "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get" author
28 Helmet ___ (reality show prop)
29 "SNL" alum Oteri
30 Put up with
31 "Two Women" actress Sophia

- 32 Lerner's "My Fair Lady" collaborator
34 Do a cryptographer's job
37 Speed trap tool
38 King with big hair
39 Calf told to "git along"
44
45 It precedes lands, world or regions
46 Drywall component
49 Bridal covers
50 ___ speak
51 "And your little dog too!" dog
52 Without
53 Twisted, like a smile
54 "Being ___: A Puppeteer's Journey" (2011 documentary)
55 Stink up the joint
56 Last word of a New Year's song
57 "Spaceballs" director Brooks

City Pulse Classifieds

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Answers Page 31

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.

Nov. 25

Greet the season with radiance

Potter Park Zoo will kick off the 19th annual Wonderland of Lights. After recovering from a turkey-and-mashed-potato-induced food coma, visitors can get outside and marvel at the thousands of sparkling lights as they stroll through the zoo. "It's important for the community to offer unique opportunities to enjoy the cooler weather, and we're glad the zoo can be one of those places," said Sherrie Graham, executive director of the Potter Park Zoological Society. Those attending can partake in seasonal activities, such as cookie decorating and crafts, carolers, storytelling and live animal presentations. This year's Wonderland will include new holiday light displays, animal silhouettes, a cozy bonfire and live musical performances. The event takes place Thursdays-Sundays, and ends on Dec. 23. \$4; \$3 seniors; \$2 kids ages 3-16; FREE members. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222.



Courtesy Photo

Wednesday, November 23

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.

Making Parenting Fun. Sessions include discipline, chores, homework, nutrition, activities and more. 7-8 p.m. FREE. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

"The Money Master." Movie and discussion on the rise of the Federal Reserve and the threat to democracy. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.

After School Tutoring. Our tutors create an Individual Learning Plan; 32 hours of tutoring is offered per student. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050. www.lansingschools.net.

EVENTS

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

Thanksgiving Drop-in Crafts. Kids ages 5-10 can make a craft to take home. 4 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. www.cadl.org/events.

Nov. 25

Fine art and music

(SCENE) MetroSPACE is partnering with the Record Lounge to provide East Lansing shoppers a chance to purchase fine arts and music on sale. The one-day sale features the work of artists Liz Sweet, Eddie Lahti, Tom Sheerin, Kimberly Lavon, RobShelburgh, Christ Callihan, Samskee Delgado, Tom Wright, Peter Richards, Marc Wolfe, Julia Lubas and Aaron Curtner. The Record Lounge has sales on selected LPs, including Pink Floyd ("The Wall," 7" box set), The Beatles ("The Singles," 7" box set) and The Doors ("L.A. Woman," 7" singles box set). 11 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) MetroSPACE, 110 Charles St., & The Record Lounge, 111 Division St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Nov. 26

A twist on storytelling

Kellie Stonebrook will test her new skills of ventriloquism while playing four different characters — Wanda the Wacky Witch, Teddy Kuddles, Wendall the little green dragon and herself — in "Fairy Dust Theater" at Stormfield Theatre. It's the first performance she'll do at the theater. Stonebrook says the real challenge isn't playing four different characters — she's done that done before — but talking without moving her lips may be a little more challenging because she learned ventriloquism with storytelling just this past summer. She's using her new skills as a teaching tool to help children learn the different elements of storytelling. In March, she'll host a three-day workshop for first through fourth graders who have seen one of her plays. The workshop will focus on character development, ways to portray characters to make the story interesting, setting, problem and resolution. 2 p.m. \$5 per person. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Additional performances at 2 p.m. January 7 & 21, 2012; March 10 and 24.



Courtesy Photo

Nov. 29

East Lansing asks for Moore

The Michigan State University Concert Auditorium hosts Flint native, Oscar-winning filmmaker ("Bowling for Columbine," "Sicko") and author Michael Moore's return to East Lansing. It's Moore's first visit to the auditorium since the 2004-05 season, and he will discuss his most recent book, "Here Comes Trouble: Stories From My Life." The memoir includes his interactions with prominent figures such as Robert F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. Moore also has two additional books published by Simon and Schuster, "Will They Ever Trust Us Again: Letters from the War Zone," which contains a collection of letters he has received from soldiers in Iraq and from their families, and "The Official Fahrenheit 9/11 Reader." 7:30 p.m. \$7.50, \$5 students. The MSU Concert Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 29

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TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

NATIONAL INDIE ROCKERS PLAY MACS



Courtesy Photo

The Fling

The Fling is an indie-rock band from Long Beach that plays shoegaze-inspired folk tunes and psych-pop ballads. The band, which plays Mac's Wednesday, has a new single, "Dogpile," on Dangerbird Records. Also taking the stage is Yukon Blonde. This Vancouver band has been playing the summer festival circuit and also have a new EP titled "FIRE//WATER" which was released in September. Fans of Fleet Foxes and Band of Horses may dig this band. Warming up the stage is the Mount Pleasant-based electro-folk band Wavvy Hands. This three piece group features members of other Michigan bands, including V + The Nicotine Machine and The Leeches. Also, the band's keyboardist/programmer Corey Densmore is known for his work in Galactic Vacationer and

as a local concert promoter under the guise DITR Promotions.

Wednesday Nov. 23 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$8, 9:30 p.m.

GALLOWS PLAY GUTTERBILLY THANKSGIVING BASH

Lansing's own Goddamn Gallows are one of the busiest, and most tattooed, bands in the city. Friday the guys play a Thanksgiving bash at Mac's. The self-described "gutterbilly" band tours the country non-stop, but never fails to play Lansing multiple times per year. The band's current lineup includes Mikey Classic (guitar/vocals), Fishgutzzz (bass/shouts), Baby Genius (drums), Avery (washboard/accordion) and Jayke (mandolin/ banjo). Opening the show at Mac's is The Devil's Cut.

Friday Nov. 25 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$10, 9 p.m..

B414 HOSTS FREE ROCK SHOW

Located at the end of a secluded alley behind the Nuthouse Sports Grill, Basement 414 has become a fixture in the Lansing art and music scene by continually hosting free events. Friday Above the Abyss (Lansing-based Christian metal), and Inflatable Best Friend (a Kalamazoo-based rock band) will offer up some live music at the art gallery/bike co-op/ music venue. This free, all-ages event is hosted by Scumpunch! Promotions.

Friday, Nov. 25 @ Basement 414, 414 E. Michigan Ave., FREE and all ages, 7 p.m.

BANDS THROWDOWN AT THE LOFT

The Loft and Q106-FM have come together to host the "Homegrown Throwdown," a battle of the bands featuring a number of rock bands from across the state. The competition, which is back after a five year hiatus, is now held at The Loft. The battle continues Friday when a cast of bands make some noise, including: Circus Asylum, It Lies Within, Killing Mistress, 80 Tons of Mercury, Bipolar, and Geech.

Friday, Nov. 25 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$6 advance, \$8 at door, all ages, doors 6:30 p.m.

GENOCYA ROCKS THE HAUS



Courtesy Photo

Genocya

Lansing's own Genocya will play its signature mix of thrash, death, and black metal Saturday at Uli's Haus of Rock. The band has been playing in various formations for years, but the recent line-up includes Dane Brown (vocals), Brad "van Satan" (guitar), Matt Cunningham (guitars), Tim Sever (drums), and Jim "Big Brown Bear" Albrecht (bass). The band is still playing shows in support of its debut full-length "Ever Descent." The album was release in June - nine years after the band originally formed. The CD is available at Flat, Black & Circular in East Lansing. Also performing at Uli's Haus of Rock is From Hell, Seraphim Burial, Drinkhorn, and Kill Whitey.

Saturday, Nov. 26 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing.

JAZZY JAM SESSIONS AT STOBER'S

Every Tuesday at Stober's Bar area jazz musicians are invited to come out and jam out with some fellow players. The night, dubbed "Jazz Tuesdays," starts at 10 p.m. and goes until 1:30 a.m. The event also draws out some notable, special guests. Whether it's to play, or just listen, jazz lovers won't want to miss this.

Every Tuesday @ Stober's, Bar 812 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, FREE, 21 and over.

EMCEES DEVIN MILES, PHILTHY PLAY ALL-AGES SHOW



Courtesy Photo

Philty

Hailing from Pittsburgh, 20-year-old rapper/producer Devin Miles may be a rookie to the music industry, but his lyrics and production quality show maturity and cleverness well beyond his years. He's opened up for the likes of Wiz Khalifa and Detroit rapper Young Scolla. Saturday he plays an all-ages show at Mac's Bar. To hear Miles' music for free, visit: itsdevinmiles.com. Also tearing up the microphone at Mac's will be Hey Yo Scene Kids, and Lansing-based emcees Philthy & The Amateur. Philthy, aka P2dahi, has crafted his own inspirational sound throughout the years, all while opening up for Michigan rap veterans like Othello, and One Be Lo.

Saturday Nov. 26 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, All ages. \$5 advance, \$8 at door, 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

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
621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Too Smooth for Notes, 8 p.m.	Native Sons, 9 p.m.	Lyric'lee, 9 p.m.	DJ Cutt Nice, 7 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Circuit Tree, 9 p.m.	Circuit Tree, 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.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Road			Avon Bomb & DJ Donnie D, 10 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 10 p.m.
Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Shawn Hughes, 9 p.m.	Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 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.	Soulstice, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	DJ Arthur, 7 p.m.		Circus Asylum, 7 p.m.	Wilson, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	The Fling, 9 p.m.		The Goddamn Gallows, 9 p.m.	Devin Miles, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.			Frog & The Beeftones, 10 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 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.	ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.		Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.	Full House, 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 27

MUSIC

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

Kris Hitchcock. Country music. 6 p.m. \$15-\$20. Michigan Theater, 124 North Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 738-0811.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. Needed: knowledge of great literary science-fiction as opposed to mass media "sci-fi". 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Baby Time. Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger, with a parent/caregiver. Wednesdays through 11/16. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

Thursday, November 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Thanksgiving Day Yoga. Our yoga practice is one of praise and salutation, gratitude and grace. 8-9:30 a.m. & 11-12:30 p.m. FREE donations. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. www.justbyoga.com.

EVENTS

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. For all who would not receive a hot meal. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 North High St., Lansing. (517) 372-4700.

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

Friday, November 25

EVENTS

Fine Arts and Music Sale. Artists Liz Sweet, Eddie Lahti and more. Music and the Record Lounge. Noon-6 p.m. Price varies. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Brown Christmas Light Show. Over 50,000 lights synchronized to music. 5:30-11 p.m. FREE. Donations to Capital Area Humane Society. Sticks and Strings, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. www.brownchristmas-lightshow.com.

MUSIC

The Goddamn Gallows. With the Devils Cut. 9 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbars.com.

Project 32. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Whiskey Barell Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 351-5690. www.whiskeybarrelsaloon.net.

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Dublin Square Patio, 327 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. www.dublinsquare.net.

Uptown. Live music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

Ricky & Nicky. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Sammy Gold. Live music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. (517) 339-4900.

THEATER

"This Wonderful Life." John Lepard in his award-winning role as George Bailey, Mr. Potter, and the all of Bedford Falls in this theatrical re-telling of the classic. 2 p.m. Pay what you can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." The pigs decide not to take anymore from the big bad wolf, the troll and the meddlesome Goldilocks. 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Allie Phillips. Discussing her book "Defending the Defenseless." 2-5 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5634. www.peacedcenter.org.

Saturday, November 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. 9:30 a.m. \$12 per person. William Burchfield Park, Holt. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

Ballroom Dance. A harvest-themed dance quick step lesson by John McAllister; bring your own beverages. 7-8 p.m. \$30 per couple. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St.. Joseph Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 484-3130. www.lesdanseurs.com.

Domestic Violence Support Group. For those who are/have experienced physical, emotional, financial, or verbal abuse. Building to the right. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

Brown Christmas Light Show. 5:30-11 p.m. FREE,

See Out on the Town, Page 30

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

November 23-29

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Basic research is what I am doing when I don't know what I am doing," said rocket scientist Werner von Braun. I think it's an excellent time for you to plunge into that kind of basic research, Aries. You're overdue to wander around frontiers you didn't even realize you needed to investigate. You're ready to soak up insights from outside the boundaries of your understanding. In fact, I think it's your sacred duty to expose yourself to raw truths and unexpected vistas that have been beyond your imagination's power to envision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In Woody Allen's film *Midnight in Paris*, the Ernest Hemingway character says, "All cowardice comes from not loving, or not loving well enough." Given the state of your current astrological omens, Taurus, that is an excellent piece of advice. I suspect you are going to be asked to call on previously untapped reserves of courage in the coming weeks — not because you'll have to face physical danger but rather because you will have a chance to get to the bottom of mysteries that can only be explored if you have more courage than you've had up until now. And the single best way to summon the valor you'll need is to love like a god or goddess loves.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "When I see your face, the stones start spinning!" wrote the poet Rumi, as translated by Coleman Barks. "Water turns pearly. Fire dies down and doesn't destroy. In your presence I don't want what I thought I wanted." I think you need to be in the presence of a face like that, Gemini. You've got to get your fixations scrambled by an arresting vision of soulful authenticity. You need your colors transposed and your fire and water reconfigured. Most of all, it's crucial that you get nudged into transforming your ideas about what you really want. So go find that healingly disruptive prod, please. It's not necessarily the face of a gorgeous icon. It could be the face of a whisperer in the darkness or of a humble hero who's skilled in the art of surrender. Do you know where to look?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "All my life I have longed to be loved by a woman who was melancholy, thin, and an actress," wrote 19th-century French author Stendhal in his diary. "Now I have been, and I am not happy." I myself had a similar experience — craving a particular type of woman who, when she finally showed up in the flesh, disappointed me. But it turned out to be a liberating experience. Relieved of my delusory fantasy, I was able to draw more joy from what life was actually giving me. As you contemplate your own loss, Cancerian, I hope you will find the release and deliverance I did.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you traveled 300 million years back in time, you might freak out in abject fear as you encountered dragonflies as big as eagles and cockroaches the size of dogs. But since you're quite safe from those monsters here in the present, there's no need to worry yourself sick about them. Similarly, if you managed to locate a time machine and return to an earlier phase of your current life, you'd come upon certain events that upset you and derailed you way back then. And yet the odds are very high that you're not going to find a time machine. So maybe you could agree to relinquish all the anxiety you're still carrying from those experiences that can no longer upset and derail you. Now would be an excellent moment to do so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): To prepare for her role in the film *The Help*, actress Jessica Chastain forced herself to gain 15 pounds. It was tough, because she normally follows a very healthy diet. The strategy that worked best was to ingest a lot of calorie-heavy, estrogen-rich ice cream made from soybeans. To be in alignment with current cosmic rhythms, it would make sense for you to fatten yourself up, too, Virgo — metaphorically speaking, that is. I think you'd benefit

from having more ballast, more gravitas. You need to be sure you're well-anchored and not easy to push around. It's nearly time to take an unshakable stand for what you care about most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In a famous Monty Python sketch, a Hungarian tourist goes into a British tobacconist's store to buy cigarettes. Since he doesn't speak English, he consults a phrase book to find the right words. "My hovercraft is full of eels," he tells the clerk, who's not sure what he means. The tourist tries again: "Do you want to come back to my place, bouncy bouncy?" Again, the clerk is confused. In the coming week, Libra, I foresee you having to deal with communications that are equally askew. Be patient, please. Try your best to figure out the intentions and meanings behind the odd messages you're presented with. Your translating skills are at a peak, fortunately, as are your abilities to understand what other people — even fuzzy thinkers — are saying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There are modern Chinese painters who use oil paints on canvas to create near-perfect replicas of famous European masterpieces. So while the genuine copy of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" is worth over \$100 million, you can buy an excellent copy on the Internet for less than \$100. If you're faced with a comparable choice in the coming week — whether to go with a pricey original or a cheaper but good facsimile, I suggest you take the latter. For your current purposes, you just need what works, not what gives you prestige or bragging rights.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "It is a tremendous act of violence to begin anything," said Sagittarian poet Rainer Maria Rilke. "I am not able to begin. I simply skip what should be the beginning." I urge you to consider trying that approach yourself, Sagittarius. Instead of worrying about how to launch your rebirth, maybe you should just dive into the middle of the new life you want for yourself. Avoid stewing interminably in the frustrating mysteries of the primal chaos so you can leap into the fun in full swing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Golden Gate Bridge spans the place where San Francisco Bay meets the Pacific Ocean. It wasn't easy to build. The water below is deep, wind-swept, beset with swirling currents, and on occasion shrouded with blinding fog. Recognizing its magnificence, the American Society of Civil Engineers calls the bridge one of the modern Wonders of the World. Strange to think, then, that the bridge was constructed between 1933 and 1937, during the height of the Great Depression. I suggest you make it your symbol of power for the coming weeks, Capricorn. Formulate a plan to begin working toward a triumph in the least successful part of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's an excellent time for you to get an entourage — or if you already have one, to expand it. For that matter, it's a perfect moment for you to recruit more soldiers to help you carry out your plot to overthrow the status quo. Or to round up more allies for your plans to change the course of local history. Or to gather more accomplices as you seek to boldly go where you have never gone before. So beef up your support system. Boost the likelihood that your conspiracy will succeed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you expand your concept of what you're capable of, you will receive a specific offer to move up a notch. If you perform your duties with intensified care and grace, you will be given new responsibilities that catalyze your sleeping potential. The universe doesn't always act with so much karmic precision, with such sleek, efficient fairness, but that's how it's working in your vicinity right now. Here's one more example of how reasonable the fates are behaving: If you resolve to compete against no one but yourself, you will be shown new secrets about how to express your idiosyncratic genius.

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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 31

Out on the town

from page 29

Donations to Capital Area Humane Society. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

Cat Adoption. For Mid-Michigan car rescue. 1 p.m. FREE. PetSmart, 305 N Marketplace Blvd., West Lansing. (517) 622-4653.

THEATER

"Fairy Dust Theatre." Kellie Stonebrook performs stories as a wacky witch and helps teach children. 2 p.m. \$5. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 488-8450. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." 2 and 4:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 kids. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

"This Wonderful Life." 3 and 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

MUSIC

Rendezvous. Live music. 8:30 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Spag's Bar & Grill, 1268 E. Grand River, Williamston.

(517) 655-4888.

Bobby Jimenez. Live music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Scott Seth. Live music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. (517) 339-4900.

Project 32. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Whiskey Barell Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 351-5690.

Nick May. Live music. 9:30 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Courthouse Pub, 160 W. Maple St., Mason. (517) 676-6941.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Marybeth Smith. Author of "Fall Girl" will talk about her young adult novel. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Sunday, November 27

EVENTS

Pet Adoption. Give a pet a home. Noon. FREE. Soldan's Feed & Pet Supplies, 1802 West Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 676-8370.

Monday, November 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. For those who have gone through loss of a spouse due to death/divorce and are ready to move on. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

EVENTS

Brown Christmas Light Show. 5:30-10 p.m. FREE. Donations to Capital Area Humane Society. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

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

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

Time Banking Forum. For neighborhood presidents plus one additional person. 6 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 393-9883.

Coffee Community Meeting. State Representative Mark Meadows is inviting residents to his next

coffee hour. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 373-1786. www.burchamhills.com.

Holiday Crafting Event. Two-part series of paper crafting and sewing. 5:30-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Facebook Basics. 10:30 a.m. FREE. South Lansing Library, 3500 S Cedar St., # 108, Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Toddler Storytime. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Preschool Storytime. Ages 3-6. 2 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Booklovers Group. For Meridian seniors. 11 a.m. FREE. Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Book Club. "The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements," by Sam

See Out on the Town, Page 31

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Out on the town

from page 30

Kean. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.
Writers Discussion Group. Get feedback and give help. 4:30 p.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810

Tuesday, November 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. For all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Mt Hope Cemetery, 1709 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

Sunken Ships. Research diver Carol Linteau will discuss her work to protect the sunken USS Arizona as a National Memorial. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos

Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021. www.cadl.org.

EVENTS

Brown Christmas Light Show. 5:30-10 p.m.

FREE. Donations to Capital Area Humane Society. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

Speakeasies Toastmasters Club Meeting.

Meeting takes place in Building 3, second floor conference room B. Open to new members. 12:05-1

See Out on the Town, Page 33

5	8	7	4	9	6	3	2	1
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RECAP	AHI	NOSE
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ACARN	NAMED	DESIRE
ILIAC	ROOS	DEW
TEND	DOWNING	GENE
ADEE	IVY	
STREETS	SWEEPERS	
MOOG	PHAR	ISLEY
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Must be 18 to enter

Out on the town

from page 31

p.m. FREE. Ingham Community Health Center, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 282-5149.

Michigan's Energy Future. With Tremaine Phillips, Chief Program Officer at the Prima Civitas Foundation. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6449.
Gingerbread House Decorating. All supplies are provided. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324. www.cadl.org/events.

Mid-day Movies. "The Autobots" learn of a Cybertronian spacecraft hidden on the moon and race against the Decepticons to learn its secrets. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org/events.

MUSIC

Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony Holiday Concert. Come out and watch the Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Club. Discussion of "The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree by Susan Albert Wittig." 10:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Schuler Horror Reading Group. Looking at "Four and Twenty Blackbirds" by Cherie Priest. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

Michael Moore. Discussing his latest book "Here Comes Trouble: Stories From My Life." 7:30 p.m.

\$7.50, \$5 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

Wednesday, November 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Wreath Making Class. Learn how to create a fresh evergreen wreath for the holidays. 3:30-6:30 p.m. \$5 materials, \$3 bring your own. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Making Parenting Fun. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 23)

EVENTS

"Inside Job." A documentary tracing the role of Wall Street & Washington in our economy. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org/events.
Brown Christmas Light Show. 5:30-10 p.m. FREE. Donations to Capital Area Humane Society. (Please See Details Nov. 25)

MUSIC

Trevor Compton. Live music. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Mark's Watershed, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 999-7433.

Nick Chase. Karaoke. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Leo's Spirits & Grub, 2085 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-1100.

Karaoke by Ryan. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Mike Vial. Live music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. (517) 339-4900.

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Joe Torok/City Pulse

You can buy your seafood by the pound and have it prepared to order at Fresh Fish & Fry.

Something fishy

Fresh Fish & Fry prides itself on its seasoning — although the saltiness can overpower the seafood

By JOE TOROK

Walking into the Fresh Fish & Fry, the smell of fish wallops you.

Ice cases with assorted fresh fish line one side of the market/restaurant. Expressionless faces of ocean perch, catfish, white bass, walleye and cod peer out from the glass case. Some were apparently fresher than others — plenty of the fish had sunken, cloudy eyes, a clear sign that the freshest days have passed them by.

Sold by the pound, the fresh fish can be purchased then cooked to order. After a few moments inspection, we passed on the “you buy, we fry” option.

Instead, we looked over the hot pink menu near the order counter, above which is a banner that boasts a disturbing pride in what they apparently call “crack chicken.” Maybe I left my sense of humor at home, but I’ve known people addicted to crack cocaine, and I’ve worked with severely disabled children who were born addicted to crack. Cute marketing ideas for inexpensive chicken wings don’t jump to mind after such experiences.

There’s not much room to dine inside; the restaurant seems oriented toward takeout. The décor consists of model boats and plastic seafood crabs, marlins and seashells on the walls, interspersed with community services and notices.

Last summer, we shared the catfish nuggets with friends, and they weren’t bad. That takeout experience is what brought us back to dine in at Fresh Fish & Fry, although we thought we’d try something different this time.

I went with the aforementioned chicken wings (\$.65 each), with a generous side of potato salad (\$1.29) and deep fried mushrooms (\$1.49).

The wings were small with little meat, and not pretty to look at once pulled apart (think veiny and lots of dark tendons). The batter was crunchy and cooked well — the best thing about the wings.

I suppose the whole “crack chicken” thing has to do with the overzealous application of a seasoned salt on the wings. It’s

on everything, in fact: the wings, the mushrooms, my companion’s fish and her fries. I was a tad surprised when the potato salad wasn’t garnished with it as well.

I suppose that if the seasoning, like crack, causes you to want nothing else after having some of it, I get the correlation. Perhaps this bodes well for me not becoming addicted to crack, because after about two bites, I was sick of the seasoning. It’s like a punch in the face, as my companion aptly put it. Not pleasant.

I ate as much as I could (I’m paid to do it, after all), but I wouldn’t have suffered like I did without financial incentive. After the meal, it felt as if I had been chewing on salt blocks for the past half-hour. My lips felt as if they had been chapped in the harshest of winter winds and my tongue felt swollen and sore, like it had been scraped with a wire brush.

The mushrooms had a pleasant batter on the outside, crisp and golden brown. But things didn’t hold up so well all the way through — a mushy mess on the inside with hot, flavorless mushrooms in the center.

Like the wings, my companion’s french fries were heavily dusted with the seasoning and seemingly selected for serving indiscriminately; black spots from bruised potatoes freckled many of the fries. Although cooked thoroughly, the fries were more starchy than crispy.

Her fried perch was overwhelmed by the seasoning, too. In the thickest cuts, we could actually taste the flavor of fish, but those moments were short-lived.

The side salads weren’t bad. The potato salad, heavy on the mustard, was a mashed puree of mayo, pickles and a few unidentifiable vegetables with chunks of potato throughout. And the small side of cole slaw that came with my companion’s combo was refreshing and very sweet — not an unwelcome attribute alongside the heaps of sodium on the rest of the food.

See Fresh Fish, Page 35

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.

CAFES & DINERS

SUGAR SHACK — A cupcake connoisseur's paradise, Sugar Shack has nothing but sweets to make your mouth sing: enormous and slightly less than enormous cupcakes, brownies, cookies, pies and more. 215 N. Clippert St., Lansing. Summer hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Sunday; School year: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday & Saturday. (517) 316-2009. TO, D, OM, \$.

TED DEE'S SANDWICH SHOP — This downtown Lansing spot serves a variety of deli sandwiches and specialties, like the chicken cheese panini. It also offers soups, fresh salads and desserts. Every Friday there is a pulled pork sandwich special. 119 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed Saturday and Sunday. (517) 374-2784. www.ted-dees.com. TO, D (orders of \$20 or more), OM, WiFi, \$.

THEIO'S — Serving breakfast around the clock, Theio's is also great place to grab a burger for lunch or satisfy a late-night craving. 2650 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Open 24 hours. (517) 487-

3955. TO, P, WiFi, \$

TONY'S — A lively restaurant near the Michigan State University campus that serves breakfast all day, lunch specialties, burgers and dinners, such as the hot turkey sandwich. 350 Albert Ave., East Lansing. School year hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 7 days a week. (517) 332-5553. TO, WiFi \$.

ZEUS'S CONEY ISLAND — This eatery offers Greek classics, like chicken kabobs marinated for 24 hours in lemon juice, olive oil and a blend of secret herbs. 6525 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday & Saturday. (517) 272-7900. OM, TO, WiFi, \$.

CASUAL DINING

ALTU'S — Traditional Ethiopian food served with specials, including the Friday special of spicy shredded beef with jalapenos and ginger served with Ethiopian bread, yellow cabbage and a house salad. 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; closed Sunday & Monday. (517) 333-6295. www.EatAtAltus.com, OM, TO, P \$

BAJA GRILLE — This family-owned restaurant in downtown Mason offers a wide range of options, from fresh seafood and hamburgers to homemade soups and chili. 402 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Closed Sunday. (517) 244-1181. www.bajagrille.net. TO, \$

BENSON'S VINAIGRETTES — Benson's makes all of its "Michigan Farmhouse" cuisine from scratch and rotates the menu daily and seasonally. 940 Elmwood St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday & Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 703-9616. OM, TO, D (for orders more than \$20), P, \$\$.

BEST STEAK HOUSE — Low-cost dining for meat lovers, serving steaks and sandwiches, including a modified Philly cheesesteak. 3020 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. (517) 337-2210. TO, RES, OM \$\$.

BLUE GILL GRILL — This eclectic restaurant features a variety of fresh fish, including grouper, salmon, wall-eye, cod and bluegill

made with a unique blend of spices in a secret family recipe. 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 12 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 339-4900. www.bluegillgrill.com. FB, TO, RES (eight or more), OM, WiFi, \$\$

THE BOARDROOM — A full bar and to-go beer and wine attracts thirsty revelers, and a menu that includes hand-pattied, char broiled burgers, served on Great Harvest bread, brings the hungry. 107 E. Allegan, Lansing. 11a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 4 p.m.-2 a.m. (517) 316-2312. TO, WiFi, P, FB, \$

BRUNCH HOUSE — Owner Leo Farhat has peppered his traditional breakfast house menu with dishes rooted in his Lebanese heritage. Try "Leo's house special," which begins with seasoned beef, onions and pine nuts sauteed in a frying pan, then combined with a couple of eggs. 1040 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (517) 484-1567 TO, WiFi, \$



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RES Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

Fresh Fish

from page 34

Oh, and the bread that is served with dinner combos? A couple of slices of white bread pulled from a loaf of Wonder Bread or, more likely, its store-brand equivalent.

Fresh Fish & Fry is popular, as evidenced by the steady stream of walk-ins during our short visit. The business must be doing something right.

Then again, the McDonald's across the street also never seems to have a down moment.

If that's what you want, bon appétit. But do try to be prepared for the side effects.

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