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December 23-29, 2015

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share their holiday favorites, p. 8



WHITE OUT NYE

DECEMBER 31, 2015 | 7 P.M. - 2 A.M.

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Look for a link in the large banner at the top.

If you're unable to access the internet but still want to participate, contact **Suzi at (517) 999-6704** and we can get you a physical copy which you can fill out and mail to our office.

To encourage your participation, we are giving away **50 tickets to NCG and two tickets to opening night for "Motown: The Musical."**

Please take the time - **maybe five minutes** — to help out Lansing's weekly alternative newspaper. It will be up until at least 400 people respond.

Thanks and have a very happy holiday season!

B. Schwartz



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Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

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

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

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"DJ S4NT4" By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE #1200

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 404 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by regulating truck and trailer parking

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#15-303

RFQP/16/064 CREATE MUNICIPAL STANDARDS WEBSITE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. Proposals will be accepted at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **JAN. 19, 2016** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: slr@lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Bret Taylor, at (517) 483-4832, or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15-305

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **January 13, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from MIGA Housing LLC, for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 342 N. Harrison Road to make interior and exterior modifications to the building as well as reconfiguring the existing parking lot and sidewalks. Additionally the application is proposing an extension of the existing deck and landscape improvements. The property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential District.

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

CP#15-306

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2015 IN REVIEW
A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND INHERENTLY INCOMPLETE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS PART THE FIRST

JAN. 7: FIVE CARTOONISTS (AND SEVEN OTHERS) DIE IN CHARLIE HEBDO MASSACRE, SETTING OFF INTENSE SOCIAL MEDIA DEBATE ABOUT HOW OFFENSIVE THEIR CARTOONS WERE.

JAN. 26: IN LEGISLATIVE MANEUVER, SENATE GOP VOTES TO CONFIRM THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL (BUT NOT MANMADE).

FEB. 11: TWELVE YEARS AFTER THE START OF THE WAR, SOMEONE FINALLY FACES CONSEQUENCES FOR LYING ABOUT IRAQ.

FEB. 11: STUDY FINDS U.S. HAS MORE GUN DEATHS THAN ANY OTHER DEVELOPED NATION.

MARCH 16: MCDONALDS SUED FOR TELLING WORKERS TO PUT MUSTARD AND MAYONNAISE ON BURNS.

APRIL 2: SEN. COTTON POINTS OUT THAT "IN IRAN, THEY HANG YOU... FOR BEING GAY!"

APRIL 8: COTTON REMAINS ON A ROLL, DECLARING WAR WITH IRAN WOULD ONLY TAKE A FEW DAYS.

APRIL 23: AFTER TWO WESTERN HOSTAGES ARE KILLED IN DRONE STRIKES, U.S. ADMITS IT DIDN'T KNOW WHO IT WAS TARGETING.

APRIL 19: QUOTING ANONYMOUS POLICE DOCUMENT, WASH. POST INITIALLY REPORTS THAT FREDDIE GRAY CAUSED OWN INJURIES.

MAY 21: JEB BUSH SAYS BROTHER MISLED INTO WAR BY "BAD INTELLIGENCE." YOU MEAN, HIS OWN?

MAY 18: 61% OF REPUBLICANS STILL THINK IRAQ WAR WAS GOOD DECISION.

JUNE 16: DONALD TRUMP LAUNCHES WHAT MANY ASSUME WILL BE AN EXTREMELY SHORT-LIVED PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

JUNE 19: RACIST CHARLESTON SHOOTER LEADS WALL ST. JOURNAL TO DECLARE "INSTITUTIONAL RACISM" OVER.

JUNE 25: SCOTUS UP-HOLDS OBAMACARE.

JUNE 26: SCOTUS UP-HOLDS GAY MARRIAGE.

JUNE 27: AMERICA NOT DESTROYED BY ANGRY RIGHT-WING GOD.

JUNE 29: TRUMP PROMISES TO CHANGE HAIRSTYLE IF ELECTED PRESIDENT.

MEXICANS ARE DRUG SMUGGLING RAPISTS! LITTLE DID WE KNOW.

THE MURDERS WERE WIDELY CONDEMNED--AND POLICE ARRESTED THE GUNMAN! (THIS WAS REALLY THEIR ARGUMENT.)

HEY AL GORE! IT'S SNOWING AGAIN! HAW HAW HAW!

UNLESS YOU'RE LITERALLY SUBJECT TO THE DEATH PENALTY--

--YOU HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!

NO THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEAN.

HE WAS SO DEVIOUS-- HE SEVERED HIS OWN SPINE!

IT'S BE A CAKEWALK!

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

ANSWER THAT, LIBTARDS!

I'LL SAVE HOURS A DAY! AND I'LL USE THOSE HOURS--TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Spectrum for sale?

MSU studying auction of WKAR-TV's license, cutting the cord on traditional broadcasting; could bring in over \$200 million

Michigan State University is considering whether to participate in an auction for the license of WKAR-TV's current frequency on the broadcast spectrum.

Like other television stations around the country it is taking a hard look at the costs and benefits of traditional broadcasting as a growing number of viewers cut the cord and watch TV online.

As part of an auction process led by the Federal Communications Commission, stations will have the opportunity next year to bring in tens of millions of dollars in new revenue by



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

WKAR-TV, which is housed in the Communication Arts & Sciences Building at MSU, may auction off its space on the broadcast spectrum.

selling off its space on the broadcast spectrum to make room for wireless broadband.

By auctioning off valuable spectrum space on the airwaves, MSU — which holds the broadcasting license for WKAR—stands to gain upward of \$200 million. The future of WKAR programming may mean finding it online or through space available on other TV channels.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon will decide by Jan. 12 whether to participate in the FCC's Broadcast Television Incentive Auction on March 29. The MSU Board of Trustees authorized Simon on Friday to decide because the board will not meet again by the deadline.

"From our standpoint, we're certainly in the broadcast business, but I fully understand — given the money involved — the

university holds the license and has to take (the opportunity) seriously," said Gary Reid, WKAR's director of broadcasting.

Reid said it's too early to speculate on the future of WKAR-TV ahead of Simon's decision. The station's radio programming would not be affected. Reid declined to comment on whether he was concerned about the station's future.

Simon appeared on WKAR's radio program "Current State" on Monday to explain the process.

"The university would fully intend to provide content similar to what is delivered over the air," Simon told "Current State" host Mark Bashore. "It's really the mode in which we transmit, not the content the university might generate. The question is over how the community would get that content."

Indeed, every television station in the country can participate in auctioning off all or portions of their spectrum space to wireless providers, the most likely buyers.

"Almost every station — whether it's public or commercial — would have to at least take a look at it," said Karole White, president and CEO of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. "We're talking big bucks. They'll have to weigh the costs and benefits, and a lot is dependent on whether a station could find another channel that could carry them. They don't want to disrupt their audiences." However, few television executives expect the initial FCC values to hold. Market considerations — the number of licenses available and buyer's interest — will determine actual values.

Simon said factors in the decision include how people will consume television content in 10 to 20 years, ensuring that MSU is still generating content and whether the university gets "fair and appropriate economic value" out of its spectrum license.

She said it would be "very difficult" at this point to not continue exploring the revenue possibilities. Any potential revenue could come in the form of an endowment and be spent over a span of decades, Simon added.

Prabu David, dean of the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences, said in a memo issued Monday: "Owners of TV stations across the nation are being given the opportunity to relinquish the spectrum used by their station in exchange for a payment from the FCC of a portion of proceeds generated from the sale of that spectrum to wireless companies. If WKAR-TV gives up its spectrum, the station may lose the ability to broadcast over the air as it does now."

trium used by their station in exchange for a payment from the FCC of a portion of proceeds generated from the sale of that spectrum to wireless companies. If WKAR-TV gives up its spectrum, the station may lose the ability to broadcast over the air as it does now."

'Pretty significant' money

The FCC's auction is scheduled to begin March 29, about four years after Congress authorized the commission to conduct incentive auctions under the Spectrum Act.

As part of the process, TV broadcasters can voluntarily go off the air, share their spectrum location or change channels to get part of the proceeds at auction. The FCC will buy back TV stations' spectrum space after raising money through an advance auction for wireless companies.

The FCC said the auction process will "marry the economics of wireless providers' demand for spectrum with the economics of television broadcasters, the current holders of spectrum space allow market forces to determine the highest and best uses of the spectrum."

In October, the FCC listed the opening bid prices for hun-



Property: 4279 E. Mount Hope Road (Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory), East Lansing

This building is located near the south end of Michigan State University, although its appearance matches the Collegiate Gothic buildings in the older parts of campus. Considering that the facility was established to study avian cancers over 75 years ago, its traditional appearance is perhaps less surprising.

Characteristic of the era, the building features a slate roof and parapeted gable with copper flashing at their juncture, matched by patinaed eavestroughs and downspouts. Horizontal limestone bands accent the brick exterior, which is laid in a common bond, featuring several rows of brick stretchers divided with regular rows of brick headers. This brick bond carries into the modern addition at the rear. Additional stone emphasizes the quoins surrounding the paired, double hung windows.

The building escapes obvious notice much of the year. The combination of vehicular speed along Mount Hope and the vegetation in front of the building obscure its traditional details. It seems oddly fitting that this building may be seen most clearly during the season when our thoughts turn to calling birds, French hens and turtle doves (and possibly roasted turkey). Visitors are encouraged to find it as the days begin to grow longer, but before the spring foliage blossoms.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

MSU hosting public meetings on FCC spectrum auction

7 p.m. Jan. 4

7 p.m. Jan 11.

404 Wilson Road Room 147

Communication Arts and Sciences Building

Comments can also be emailed to: spectrum@wkar.org

"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 Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

Legislative gag order

Local governments, schools want veto of bill limiting info on ballot initiatives

School districts and local government organizations are seething after discovering a late-night change made to state legislation that unless vetoed will ban officials from addressing a millage or bonding initiative within two months before Election Day.

Among numerous technical changes slipped into an election-related bill is one that is driving Lansing School Board President Peter Spadefore and other school officials to call on Gov. Rick Snyder to veto SB 571. The governor has not indicated whether he will sign the bill.

Once the Senate officially delivers the bill to Snyder, he has 14 days to sign it. He can also veto it or "pocket veto" it by not signing it. The Senate had not sent it to him by Tuesday.

It says a public body or a person representing a public body cannot use public funds or resources for communication relating to a local ballot question within

60 days before the scheduled election. A violation could cost an individual up to \$1,000 and a community or district up to \$20,000.

The Lansing School District is putting up a major \$120 million building renovation bonding proposal in May. Sufficiently educating voters on where the money would be going would be significantly hampered by the new restriction.

"For Lansing, this is going to have a huge impact in how we articulate the facts on this proposal," he said. "This really puts us behind the eight ball."

That language was not in any prior versions of the bill and seemed to come out of left field for the local governments and school districts affected, many of which rely on millages or bonding proposals to fund improvements or even basic operations.

Current law already says public entities may not use public funds to advocate one way or another for local ballot questions voters are asked to decide. Spadefore said his district always runs communications through their attorneys to make sure they are not using wording that could be con-

strued as advocating for a ballot question.

Those representing local public bodies are concerned the new language outlined in the bill would prevent them from bringing up the subject at all in the key weeks before elections — the time when voters would likely have the most questions.

The bill, in theory, could prevent officials from expressing their views on local public access broadcasts of city council meetings or debates at risk, said Chris Hackbarth of the Michigan Municipal League.

It could also create inconsistent treatment between communications with residents on statewide and local ballot questions, he continued.

"This language puts an undue burden on communities and their residents, blocking access to unbiased, objective communication on the local issues that matter most to the residents in every community in Michigan," he said.

Some have argued the current law allows for some districts to get away with more than simple voter information communications, however.

Michigan Capitol Confidential, a publication backed by free-market advocacy think tank Mackinac Center, has reported several instances of alleged abuse of the law that went beyond voter information and into advocacy for the ballot question. A recent report referred to SB 571 as a ban on "taxpayer funded electioneering."

"Although the state's campaign finance law already prohibits municipalities and school districts from expressly advocating a 'yes' or 'no' vote on a particular ballot measure, many of them find ways to influence voters without crossing the forbidden 'express advocacy' line," the publication's most recent report on the issue reads.

For instance, the Lansing School District sent out a flier shortly before a 2010 bond millage that read "Preserve Our Heritage. Fund Our Future," according to Capitol Confidential. In Saline, the high

school posted a video with a school official directly asking for support.

Elections attorney Eric Doster said these problems show how locals and school districts are using the law to avoid using expressed advocacy while painting "doom and gloom" scenarios about the impact of a "no" vote with taxpayer money.

"It's akin to issue ads," said Doster. "They can say if this issue fails, your children will be turned out on the street."

Under SB 571, schools, libraries or local officials wanting to advocate for new money can still donate privately to an independent committee and do it without public resources being involved, he said.

But Scott Koenigknecht, superintendent of Ingham Intermediate School District, said he's never heard of an intentional issue of abuse in his or any other school district in the state.

"If there are individual instances of abuse, the state could deal with the individual district that went too far," he said. "This prohibits districts from even putting information out there, which I believe they have a right to do."

Jennifer Smith of the Michigan Association of School Boards said it's unclear whether a superintendent could even answer a call from a concerned voter if it was related to a ballot question. That lack of ability for districts and boards to connect with residents and answer questions could have a real impact on whether future asks from voters are successful, she said.

"We're already banned from saying vote yes or no. All we can do is educate," she said. "It's ironic that this came in the guise of more information and having more informed voters. This seems to go against that rhetoric — we want more informed voters, but we're keeping them from being informed."

—Kyle Melinn



PUBLIC NOTICES

B/16/066 INSTALLATION OF CREE LIGHTING FIXTURES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JAN. 19, 2016** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or for content and purpose of this bid contact Guy Pierce at (517) 483-4236.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15-307

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 5, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following Ordinance:

Ordinance No. 1364; an ordinance to expand resident permit parking in the Chesterfield Hills Neighborhood

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following Ordinance:

Ordinance No. 1365; an Ordinance to amend Section 2-421 of Division 9 - University Student Commission - of Article V - Boards and Commissions - of Chapter 2 - Administration - of the Code of the City of East Lansing to add a member of the Community Relations Coalition as a member

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

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#15-301

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to amend to Amend Section 297 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by updating the definitions to include "Bullying" and "Hostile" and to update the ordinance on sexual orientation, discrimination, bullying, domestic partners, complaints and complaint decision.

For more information please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2016, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

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CP#15-302

Spectrum

from page 5

dreds of TV stations around the country. WCBS-TV in New York was listed as the station with the highest valued spectrum space in the country at \$900 million.

In the Lansing area, opening bid prices range from \$413 million (WHTV) to \$207 million (WILX-TV). Some stations around the country are also considered "not needed," meaning the FCC won't need to buy space in order to clear enough spectrum in the market.

White estimated there are likely only "eight to 10 statewide that are even thinking about" negotiating for giving up spectrum.

"Some, not many, may choose to just plain go off the air. This would probably be mostly very, very small, low-power TV stations," she

said. "A major network station isn't going to do that."

White said what would likely emerge is a variety of deals among TV stations to share channels and keep them on the air.

"If we have very many stations that ultimately take the FCC's buyout, they will negotiate with other stations in the market to stay on the air," she said.

After initial concerns that the process would not be voluntary for TV stations, White now envisions a scenario now in which "everybody wins," with broadcasters maintaining at least some of their programming and the country building out new technology with more spectrum available.

"It will cause some citizen concerns and distress," she said. "We'll have to re-scan our televisions to find out where everyone went, but the money is pretty significant."

—Andy Balaskovitz



Nativity scenes

A powerful retelling of the miracle birth myth

Another Christmas and another controversy at the Capitol about a nativity scene and religious free speech.

As a journalist, the First Amendment is my favorite ... freedom of the press and all that it entails. Equally important is the prohibition against government meddling in religious matters. I don't think the Ten Commandments belongs in courtrooms. Kids should pray at home and if they want to do it at school, do it privately. But I don't really mind nativity scenes on the Capitol grounds, a controversy that recycles each year as regularly as Santa in shopping malls.

Last weekend Grand Ledge Sen. Rick Jones, a handful of legislators and others again assembled a small nativity scene on the Capitol lawn. As these displays go, it's really disappointing — no angels or shepherds. No sheep or donkey's gazing at the cradle. Maybe the Wise Men will show later, but I doubt it.

There were counter displays featured on the lawn. Returning again this year is the Snaketivity display with pagan symbols and the phrase "The Greatest Gift is Knowledge," which doesn't seem very Satanic. Then there is the ridiculous "parody" titled the Flying Spaghetti Monster, essentially mops on a stick. Sophomoric is too generous a description. Earlier in the season U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz sponsored a live nativity, an obvious stunt to promote his presidential primary campaign.

Since displays on the Capitol grounds are open to all and strictly regulated — they must be assembled and disassembled each day — a nativity scene at Christmas time is



MICKEY HIRTEN

no better or worse than any other display.

In fact, if done right, it is more compelling. Maybe I'm just channeling my youth. Viewing the nativity scenes at churches during the Christmas season was something we did as a family. There were large outdoor displays, elaborately assembled by the men of the parish. Inside the churches were more elaborate manger scenes, smaller brightly colored figures and more of them.

It was mesmerizing and reinforced by the Gospels. The retelling of the Christmas story from Luke was the most detailed, most aligned with the displays by the altar. We'd get another reading of Luke at home as we venerated the nativity scene assembled on top of the television set.

Christ's birth story is much more succinct in Matthew (it isn't mentioned in Mark or John).

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

Really not much of a tale, until I was older and began to grapple with the spiritual and biological meaning of virgin birth.

It is central to Christian beliefs and woven into the narrative of other ancient religions.

There is, as you would expect, much angst about the relationships between the Christmas miracle birth and those mythical figures like Horus, Mithra, or Krishna. Theological squabbling aside, it is safe to say that the motif didn't originate in the Bible. About.com (a neutral source) in its religion site describes Buddha origins this way:

"... Queen Maya retired to her quarters to rest, and she fell asleep and dreamed a vivid dream. Four angels carried her high into white mountain peaks and clothed her in flowers. A magnificent white bull elephant bearing a white lotus in its trunk approached Maya and walked around her three times. Then the elephant struck her on the right side with its trunk and vanished into her.

"... The King summoned 64 Brahmins to come and interpret it. Queen Maya would give birth to a son ..."

Author Acharya S, the pen name for

Dorothy M. Murdock, has written extensively about the mythical origins of Christianity. This, of course, is raw meat for passionate arguments about the ancient definitions of "virgin birth" and their authenticity, all of which ultimately relies on the faith of the believer.

"In reality," Acharya writes, "the virgin-mother motif is common enough in pre-Christian cultures to demonstrate its unoriginality in Christianity." And she cites a long list of virgin mothers. In Greek mythology there is Danae, impregnated by Zeus, who gave birth to Dionysus. In Hinduism, Devaki, wife of the god Vishnu, was mother of Krishna. The Teutonic goddess Hertha was impregnated by the heavenly spirit. Quetzalcoatl, the (crucified) savior of the Aztecs, was the son of Chimalman, the Virgin Queen of Heaven.

These are stories with more similarities than differences. None diminish the Christian nativity story, its power or its mystery.

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

LAHR
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CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

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MERRY MIXMAS

A holiday playlist from Greater Lansing music lovers

We all know that there's a lot of terrible holiday music out there. You can hardly walk through a department store or turn on the radio without hearing some plodding version of "Little Drummer Boy" (easily the most boring song ever written about a drummer) or being subjected to the emotional manipulation of "The Christmas Shoes." And who has time for "The 12 Days of Christmas?" (Let's cool it with the geese-a-laying and swans-a-

swimming, OK? I'm not trying to start a zoo over here.) So we went out and asked local musicians, radio hosts and music lovers about their favorite Christmas tunes — complete with artist and album — to make your holiday playlist a little hipper this year. With everything from Bach to Bootsy Collins to John Coltrane, this holiday playlist is sure to liven up your next Christmas party.



MIKE STRATTON

Psychotherapist, host of "The Vinyl Side of Midnight" on WLNZ 89.7, author of "Everybody Dreams."

JINGLE BELLS

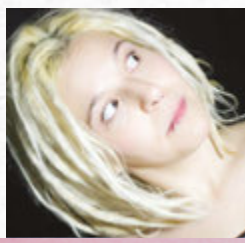
By Jimmy Smith from "Christmas Cookin'"

Guru of the B-3 Hammond organ, Jimmy Smith's smoky tone and funky riffs hit just the right groove for last-minute shopping or holiday reveling. Pared down to a trio with Grady Tate on drums and Detroit guitarist Kenny Burrell, Smith's arrangement will get you in the holiday mood.

THE MERRIEST

By June Christy from "This Time of Year"

My wife loves this song so much she's made it her ring



WHITNEY SPOTTS

Singer for Starfarm, promotions coordinator at Schuler Books & Music

LAST CHRISTMAS

By Wham from "Music From the Edge of Heaven"

This is probably no surprise, coming from the singer of an '80s cover band, but I consider this song a classic. It was originally released in 1984 as a B-side to a single, "Everything She Wants," and the band donated all proceeds to help fight the Ethiopian famine happening at the time. George Michael's vocals are as sassy and soulful as ever, crooning

over sweet pop synths. It makes me smile every time I hear it.

CHRISTMAS (BABY PLEASE COME HOME)

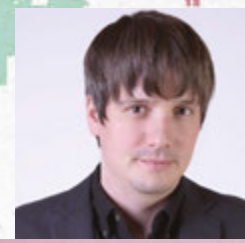
By Darlene Love from "A Christmas Gift for You from Phil Spector"

After working retail for a few years, you come to develop a deep fear of Christmas-music-induced psychosis. This is the album I turn to when I can't take the holiday music anymore, and Darlene Love's "Christmas" is my favorite track by far. Love's vocals are powerful, and emotion seeps through her declaration that it's just not Christmas without her sweetheart. I love the spot-on background vocals and full sound Spector is known for producing. In 2010, Rolling Stone named it the top Christmas song of all time.

LINUS AND LUCY

By the Vince Guaraldi Trio from "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

While the first two picks were shoe-ins, I had a really hard time narrowing down a third song. I love cross-genre holiday music, and there are a ton of fun punk, reggae, pop and classical favorites to pick from. But I finally landed on this upbeat piano-driven number from "A Charlie Brown Christmas." This is one of the few Christmas albums I could listen to all year long without feeling weird. Any time this song comes on, I find myself dancing around "Peanuts"-style.



RICH TUPICA

City Pulse "Turn it down" columnist

JESUS CHRIST

By Big Star from "Third"

After releasing three masterpiece albums throughout the 1970s, Big Star became one of the most enigmatic cult band of all time — heavily influencing R.E.M. and the Replacements. The obscure band's Memphis roots, paired with its anglophile tendencies, made for rock 'n' roll perfection. Vocalist/songwriter Alex Chilton was likely drunk and/or high on Quaaludes when he recorded this song, but his lewd behavior doesn't translate onto the record. Poetic-pop majesty happens when the band chants "Jesus

Christ was born today" over a sonically colossal chorus.

IF CHRISTMAS CAN'T BRING YOU HOME

By Reigning Sound from "Home for Orphans"

Greg Cartwright of Reigning Sound is the most underrated songwriter of our time. Since the early 1990s, he's released a pile of critically acclaimed records. Known for both fiery rock 'n' roll stompers and lyrical acoustic ballads, his range is diverse. Among his vast catalog is one of the most sincere holiday tunes. In "If Christmas Can't Bring You Home," Cartwright dismally croons, "Drove by your house to sneak a peek at you, you were standing by the tree, kissing someone new. Your present's on my seat, but I guess I won't be needing it no more." Who can't identify with that un-jolly rejection?

SNOWMAN MAGIC

By Dwight Twilley from "Have a Twilley Christmas"

Dwight Twilley is the ultimate "he should've been huge" songwriter. Released in 1976, his "Sincerely" LP is a power-pop masterpiece. One track, "I'm on Fire," hit the top 20, but that's where it fizzled. While his label mate Tom Petty went on to pack stadiums, Twilley ventured off into the rock underground where he remains today — still filling clubs with devoted fanatics. Twilley's output hasn't slowed either. In 2005 he released a Christmas album stocked with holly-jolly hooks. The centerpiece of the disc, "Snowman Magic," would make John Lennon proud. Twilley's grand vocal delivery forces you to ponder the mortality of snowmen, as he belts out, "Snowman magic, he comes here each year. When the warm wind blows, he disappears."

tone. And why not? It's an absurdly optimistic take on the season: "May the day be the bowl of cherry-est, and to you, the merriest!" Hard to listen to this and not smile. From the era of "Mad Men" and Kennedy's Camelot, 1961.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

By Etienne Charles from "Creole Christmas"

Can I recommend the whole album? No? Okay then, let's do the first track. MSU professor, trumpet wizard, composer and Guggenheim award winner Etienne Charles lays out some home cooking (all the way from Trinidad) with this very hip Calypso ditty. The singer is waiting for Santa, only to be served papers for — why spoil the surprise? Listen for yourself.

BONUS TRACK:

BLUE XMAS

By Miles Davis from "Jingle Bell Swing"

Miles adds a splash of vinegar to the holiday punch with this cynical Christmas track. Several of the same players from Davis' "Kind of Blue" sessions join him here, along with a swinging Wayne Shorter saxophone solo. But the real treat is vocalist Bob Dorough's reedy delivery of lyrics: "It's the time when the greedy give a dime to the needy," and so on. A delight for all the Grinches.



OZAY MOORE

Hip-hop artist, director of All of the Above hip-hop academy

THIS CHRISTMAS

By Donny Hathaway from "Soul Christmas"

Knowing Hathaway's personal story — he struggled with depression and paranoid schizophrenia — I understand how real his songs of joy are. Outside of the context of this perspective, the arrangement, groove and vocal performance make this song a true Christmas classic.

SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS

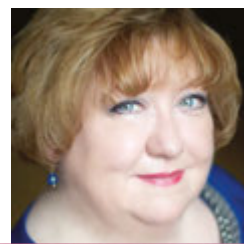
By Stevie Wonder from "Someday at Christmas"

While acknowledging the magic of the holiday season, Stevie poses the possibility of one day being able to celebrate a world where "men won't be boys" and won't play with bombs "like kids play with toys." And let's face it, Stevie Wonder is the man.

GIVE LOVE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

By the Temptations from "Give Love at Christmas"

The opening sequence of this song reminds me of waking up as a child and realizing that it's Christmas. It's almost like it was queued to play at that precise moment. With the excitement of tearing through gift wrap at the forefront of my adolescent mind, this song provided a sobering counterweight to balance my perspective on what the day is truly about.



MELANIE HELTON

Soprano, professor of voice and director of MSU Opera Theatre

THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

By Julie Andrews from "Firestone Presents: Your Favorite Christmas Music," vol. 4

This is joyful, beautiful music-making and the kind of lush arranging we don't hear anymore. My family used to wait anxiously every Christmas for the Firestone and Goodyear Christmas albums. We still have them and play them every holiday season.

SILENT NIGHT

By Take Six from "He is Christmas"

The epitome of a capella singing as it should be. Complex harmonies sung with deep soul.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE?

By Barbra Streisand from "Christmas Collection"

What can I say? It's Streisand. No one colors words like she does.

Mixmas

from page 8

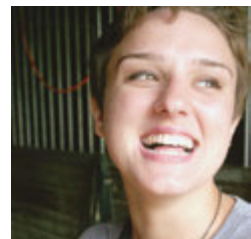


AUSTIN GULLETT
Drummer for
girlband, Christmas
music enthusiast

the She & Him Christmas album. Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward are a great indie-music team.



JENA MCSHANE
Photographer at Mc-
Shane Photography



ABBEY HOFFMAN
Singer/songwriter,
nutrition education
coordinator at
NorthWest Initiative

ite tracks, mainly because of the organ and background vocals.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

By Frank Sinatra from "Christmas Songs by Sinatra"

This is one of my favorite Christmas songs to sing or play. I love how the lyrics invite the listener to travel through time — remembering the past, being present with loved ones in the moment and facing the future with hope. This, to me, is the meaning of Christmas.



ALLISON HAMMERLY
City Pulse production
manager

By Natalie Merchant from "A Very Special Christmas 3"
Usually sung with a blues or country edge, this song is one of the most soulful Christmas tunes out there. Natalie Merchant's alt-rock version, which pulls in soul and gospel elements, is pretty cool.

COME ON! LET'S BOOGIE TO THE ELF DANCE

By Suffjan Stevens from "Songs for Christmas"

Suffjan Stevens is a prolific songwriter and has put out 10 volumes of Christmas music. His two Christmas collections, "Songs for Christmas" and "Silver & Gold," comprise 100 Christmas songs. There is a lot to choose from here, but "Come On! Let's Boogie to the Elf Dance" definitely brings the Christmas cheer.

MUST BE SANTA

By Bob Dylan from "Christmas in the Heart"

Bob Dylan is Jewish by birth, but Christian by practice (sort of). His Christmas album doesn't worry too much about labels. His rendition of "Must Be Santa" is a ridiculously high-energy polka variation, and the accordion in it does a great job of getting you psyched for Christmas time. He also added a weird bridge where he adds presidents' names to the list of Santa's reindeer. It's very clever.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

By She & Him from "A Very She & Him Christmas"

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" is my favorite Christmas standard, and there has been no lack of cover versions over the years. One of the best, though, is the subtle, humble and beautiful version on the She & Him Christmas album. Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward are a great indie-music team.

PLEASE COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By the Eagles

This song makes think of togetherness, but most of all my dad. I grew up listening to the Eagles, and every time I hear this, I think of him. We bonded over our love for classic rock (aka dad rock).

THE RIVER

By Joni Mitchell from "Blue"

Although this song is depressing, Mitchell's voice and this song takes me on a lyrical journey that sings to my heart. It's a reminder not everything is reindeers and peppermint sticks during this time of year.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

By Otis Redding

It's Otis Redding ... enough said.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

By St. Paul's Cathedral Choir from "Christmas Carols from St. Paul's Cathedral"

I remember a December evening when I was in high school. Mom was in the kitchen baking cookies, my many siblings bustled around the house and I was snuggled up next to my dad on the couch in the living room. He was sitting in the darkened room, gazing at the rainbow lights and years' worth of homemade ornaments on our Christmas tree. This timeless choral song was playing in the background, and I will always associate it with that lovely moment. I couldn't tell you a single word of the song, but I will never tire of the melody.

OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

By Elvis Presley from "Elvis' Christmas Album"

Last year, I bought this record for a dollar at the East Lansing Public Library. It was July, but that didn't stop me from listening to the whole thing. "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" remains one of my favor-

ite tracks, mainly because of the organ and background vocals.

OI TO THE WORLD

By No Doubt from "A Very Special Christmas 3"

The original version by the Vandals hearkens back to classic British punk, but No Doubt's cover cleans the song up a bit with a less grungy, more ska-inspired sound. Both versions are great, and the song tells a story you could maybe call heartwarming.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

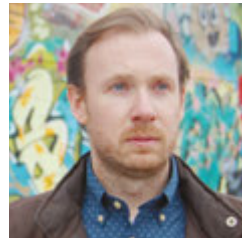
By the Drifters from "Clyde McPhatter & The Drifters"

Kevin McCallister embodies exactly how I feel when I hear this song when he sings into his hairbrush in "Home Alone," channeling his inner doo-wop crooner. I'm still not sure which part of this song is more fun, the lead vocals or the background singing.

CHILDREN GO WHERE I SEND THEE

By Natalie Merchant from "A Very Special Christmas 3"

Usually sung with a blues or country edge, this song is one of the most soulful Christmas tunes out there. Natalie Merchant's alt-rock version, which pulls in soul and gospel elements, is pretty cool.



TY FORQUER
City Pulse arts and
culture editor

BOOT-OFF

By Bootsy Collins from "Christmas is 4 Ever"

Whenever I'm feeling a little blue around Christmas time, I remind myself that Bootsy Collins made a Christmas album and it brings a smile to my face. The flamboyant funk bassist is best known for his work with James Brown and Parliament-Funkadelic (and for his trademark star-shaped sunglasses). Bootsy Collins' "Christmas is 4 Ever" features ridiculously funky takes on Christmas classics. "Boot-Off," a re-imagining of the classic reindeer song, tells the story of Boot-Off the funky soul reindeer, who is tasked with driving the P-Funk Mothership.

CHRISTMAS IN JAIL

By the Youngsters

This 1950s doo-wop gem was the B-side to the Youngsters' biggest hit, "Dreamy Eyes." After a few too many drinks, our protagonist gets behind the wheel, gets pulled over and has to spend the night sobering up in jail. The track even earned the group a complimentary letter from the National Safety Council, who hoped the song would discourage youths from drinking and driving. The moral of the story is summed up in the song's closing lines: "I got rocks in my head. I wish I was dead. Ain't gonna drink and drive no more."

(EVERYBODY'S WAITIN' FOR) THE MAN WITH THE BAG

By the Brian Setzer Orchestra from "Boogie Woogie Christmas"

This song kicks off my carefully curated Christmas Spotify playlist. When I hear Setzer sing "Old Mr. Kringle is soon gonna jingle the bells that'll tingle all your troubles away," the holiday season has officially begun. Setzer's collection of Christmas tunes is exuberant and fun, but with the right touch of rockabilly snarl to make things interesting. (A close runner-up is Setzer's vibrato-soaked take on "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" from the "Christmas Rocks" album.)

See Mixmas, Page 10

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Mixmas

from page 9



LAWRENCE COSENTINO
City Pulse staff writer

MY FAVORITE THINGS

John Coltrane, any version you can find
Some people hate it when Julie Andrews' "My Favorite Things" gets pulled out each year at Christmastime, but I'm not one of them. Inside its pine-coney pertness nestles a meaty seed: sheer appreciation of life. That was enough for tenor sax giant John Coltrane to grow into a towering sequoia of sound. Maybe it's crass to draft Coltrane's euphoric, epic version(s) into the service of the season, but those two oscillating chords, blinking like quasars in an interstellar blizzard of saxophone for 20, 30, even 40 minutes (depending on the version you hear) can stand up to anything — even Christmas, when we need some real spirit more than usual.

CHRISTEN, ÄTZEN DIESEL TAG (CHRISTIANS, ETCH YE NOW THIS DAY), BWV 63

By J.S. Bach
Sound the trumpets! Bum-ba-bum the timpani! Bach wrote this aching gorgeous oratorio exactly 300 years ago, for Christmas 1715, and it's the best of the dozen or so Christmas blowouts he

produced in his lifetime. The final chorus, with its twirling oboe flourishes and a majestic choral fugue, mixes unbuttoned joy and solemn ceremony to perfection.

WE FREE KINGS

By Rahsaan Roland Kirk from "We Free Kings"

Hands down, this my favorite jazz version of a Christmas carol — ever. Kirk, a superhuman woodwind specialist best known for playing three horns at once, glides, grooves and growls through the famous carol's somber, Eastern-flavored melody, finding hidden doors of liberation.



TIMOTHY MUFFITT
Music director and conductor of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra

THE NUTCRACKER

By and the National Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Richard Bonyngue, from "The Nutcracker"

I realize Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" isn't a "song," but rather a full-length story ballet. It is also a masterpiece — among the greatest music ever written. While it may lack the "fa la las," it captures the spirit, magic and wonder of the season like nothing else. Every household should have this album and play it each year from beginning to end for all to hear. Turn it up! It will fill your home with magic. I like Bonyngue's version, but there are many fine recordings out there from which to choose.

WEXFORD CAROL

By the Choir and Orchestra of Clare College, Cambridge, directed by John Rutter, from "Christmas from Clare"

This is just one of the many great carols — spanning five centuries and 11 countries — on this fabulous album. This group performs in the spacious 17th century hall of Clare College in Cambridge, England. The resulting

sound is spiritual and transporting. Rutter has other similar recordings that are also fine. In my experience, anything from Clare College and Rutter is excellent.

LET IS SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IS SNOW

By Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme from "The Great Songs of Christmas"

I am old-school about my Christmas faves, and Steve and Eydie own this one. The arrangement is fabulous, and the studio orchestra backing them up is smokin'.



CORB FELGENHOUR
Pastor of worship ministries at South Church, artistic director of the Steiner Chorale

WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED

By Sovereign Grace Music from "Prepare Him Room: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus in Song"

Jason Hansen and Bob Kauflin wrote this Christmas original; McKenzie Kauflin performs the solo. It is a fresh, new pop ballad. The lyrics are powerful and non-cliché — and this goes for the other original Christmas songs on the rest of the album as well.

JINGLE BELLS

The King's Singers from "Joy to the World"

The King's Singers is such a talented ensemble, and this is a fun-filled arrangement of the beloved Christmas carol. The harmonies are tightly packed and transition well from one section to the next. This arrangement goes along at a blistering pace and features several musical surprises.

WE THREE KINGS

By Mario Lanza from "Christmas with Mario Lanza"

This is my guilty pleasure choice. When I was growing up, my dad played this 33 rpm vinyl over and over at Christmas time, so this album has much sentimental value to me. I pull this out every Christmas and play it loud for my family to hear — admittedly, I don't think they are drawn to it as much as I am. I love the radio orchestra style that accompanies Mario, and I look forward to hearing the quick, inserted narrations by Ray Sinatra. "And Belshazzar spoke," and so on ... very theatrical and memorable.



CORRINA VAN HAMLIN
Radio host/producer

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK

By the Pogues

Voted best Christmas song many times over in Ireland and the UK — where it eventually went platinum — "Fairytale of New York" lives in relative anonymity stateside. Released in 1987, the lyrics open on a man sobering up in a New York jail cell on Christmas Eve. It becomes a duet as singer Kirsty MacColl joins in the fray, and the song becomes a call and response about youthful dreams lost while the bells of time toll on, waiting for no one. Celtic Irish punk rock, great for a pub sing-along with a full pint raised in the air.

CHRISTMAS CARD FROM A HOOKER IN MINNEAPOLIS

By Tom Waits from "Blue Valentine"

Like Tom Waits, I also enjoy beautiful melodies telling me terrible things. Reality is so much more real than a typical Christmas song

might lead us to believe. Holidays bring us together, but it isn't always raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens. On this 1978 track, Waits' gravelly voice, accompanied by his killer jazz and blues piano work, tells the tale of Charlie reading a holiday letter from the eponymous hooker, catching him up on all the good things that have happened since they last spoke. The melodic warmth belies the truth under the text revealed in the last phrase. Life can be so complicated sometimes, and Waits never shies away from splaying open the truth on how rarely plans work out they way we'd like.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

By various artists

Ok, time for a classic — but one that's a little less known than "The Christmas Song" or anything else you might hear at an elementary school holiday pageant. Think of it as a grown-up precursor to "Away in a Manger." "Gabriel's Message" is an old Basque folk carol from the late 1800s that follows the story of Mary being told that she would give birth to the son of God. It's moody and Gothic, and I'm a sucker polyphonic minor key vocal arrangements. An ideal listening room is an ancient cathedral or monastery with a choir of robed monks during vespers. But if that isn't an option, Sting did a version in 2009 that will sound pretty damn good on your home stereo.

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ARTS & CULTURE

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OFF THE DEEP END

LCC production selected for Kennedy Center Festival

By TY FORQUER

Lansing Community College's theater program may be small — its website lists just two full-time faculty — but it will have an opportunity next month to prove it can hang with the big schools. Its production of Daniel MacIvor's "Never Swim Alone" was recently selected for the Kennedy Center's Region Three American College Theater Festival.

"Never Swim Alone"

Open dress rehearsals
4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3
FREE
Dart Auditorium
500 N. Capitol Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo

The festival runs Jan. 5 through 9 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The other schools represented from Region Three, comprising Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, are Ball State University, Carthage College, Marquette University and Oakland University. The Kennedy Center oversees eight regional festivals, and the productions selected for regional festivals will be considered for the center's national arts festival in April.

"It says an enormous amount about the quality of our program," said Melissa Kaplan, coordinator of fine and performing arts at LCC. "To have all the notes hit — the acting, directing, sound design, sets — for all those pieces to come together, it says we have a strong program."

Deb Keller, who directs this production, initially thought the play had not been selected for the festival. Typically, selected productions are notified by phone, and rejected productions are notified by email the next day. The call didn't come the day Keller expected it.

"I didn't think I had that much attached to it until I didn't get the call. I cried," said Keller. "I really wanted it for the actors. To go is a very special thing; it's such a rarefied place."

As it turned out, the official in charge of making the calls was delayed, and Keller got a message that evening that the play was accepted.

"It's a really big honor," Keller said. "Especially at a community college. Budgets are smaller, and it's harder to pull off these kinds of productions. It takes a team, and we have a strong team here."

The play centers around two identically dressed businessmen who are locked in a



Photo by Courtney Baker

Heath Sartorius (left), Monica Tanner (center) and Connor Kelly star in LCC's production of "Never Swim Alone," which was recently selected for a Kennedy Center regional festival.

battle of verbal one-upmanship, which is refereed by a female lifeguard. The three are linked by a dark episode in their past. Deb Keller, who directs this production, said she was drawn in by the dialogue, which she compares to David Mamet but taken to the edge of absurdity.

"I enjoyed the witty battle with the guys. It literally is a battle," Keller said. "But the woman controls it. The referee is really the controlling, dominant force."

Monica Tanner, who plays the referee in this production, said the biggest challenge

was balancing the two sides of her character's persona.

"She's kind of removed from it. She's unbiased; she couldn't care less," she said. "But she also represents a person from their past. A decision the boys made earlier in life affected her in an intense way. I had to ask, 'At which points do I care, and at what point am I just the referee?'"

The script calls for the referee — who is clad in a one-piece bathing suit for reasons that are not immediately apparent — to climb into and out of a lifeguard tower sev-

eral times during the production. To mostly avoid the awkward tower work, Keller decided to incorporate aerial silks, a form of gymnastics using a long silk hammock to suspend oneself in the air.

"I thought the lyricism of the silks would add an element of circus to the battle," Keller said. "It takes you out of the normal; it heightens the mystical element."

Tanner, who does most of the silk work in this production, had no experience with aerial silks before she started rehearsals for "Never Swim Alone."

"I had a month to learn silks," she said. "Most people train for four months before they do any sort of public performance. I had to rehearse four times a week. It was exhausting."

Featuring a cast of just three actors, the play clocks in at about an hour. The production's small scale gave Keller a chance to hone in on details.

"We rehearsed like a three-hour drama," she said.

"Every single moment, every gesture was rehearsed," added actor Heath Sartorius, who plays one of the businessmen. "You can go more in-depth."

The cast and crew have already resumed rehearsals. The biggest challenge they face is adapting the intimate show, originally designed for LCC's black box theater, to the festival's 500-seat theater space. In a way, it's a metaphor for what LCC's theater program is trying to do: compete on a larger stage.

"Community colleges usually don't go," said Tanner of LCC being selected for the festival. "It's kind of an underdog thing."

"We have this one-hour show that no one has ever heard of," Sartorius added. "We're up against big universities doing shows like 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and 'Equus.'"

Tanner said that the reality of the festival hasn't quite set in for her yet.

"We're really calm about it, but the closer we get, the more real it becomes," she said. Sartorius, on the other hand, is looking forward to reprising his role a for a few more performances.

"It was the best experience I've ever had, and it's one of the best roles I've ever played," Sartorius said. "To get a role that challenges me, that's outside of what I've normally done, it was a great experience."

Right at home

Caitlyn Dial takes on museum educator role

By TY FORQUER

On a recent afternoon, Caitlyn Dial walked me through the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame

Noon-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month
213 W. Malcolm X St.,
Lansing
(517) 372-0170,
michiganwomenshalloffame.org

While she has only been with the center for two weeks, she seemed right at home. As we walked into the room devoted to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, her eyes scanned the dozens of portraits representing some of the state's most accomplished women.

"I'm so glad to be here," she said.

Dial, 30, was recently appointed museum educator for the historical center. She holds a bachelor's degree from MSU and a master's degree from Wayne State University, both in history, and is a doctoral candidate in public history at Western Michigan University. Most recently, Dial served as curator for the Heritage Mu-

seum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph. A major focus of her research is women's history.

"When I saw the posting, I said, 'This is my job,'" Dial said. "I really liked the marriage of women's history and education."

The cozy historical center, in the Coolsey-Haze house at 213 W. Malcolm X St., is nestled between Lansing's downtown, GM's Grand River Assembly Plant and REO Town. The museum also features rotating exhibits and a fair trade gift shop.

Museum educator is a brand new position at the historical center. While the museum has always had an educational mission, the museum educator position was designed to bring focus and creativity to those efforts.

"The museum educator is in charge of the educational programming for the public," Dial said. "I envision my role as being the person who can draw in a younger audience."

Dial plans to create more interactive exhibits and family-friendly programs for the museum. She is also helping to plan the upcoming "Great Girls in Michigan History" exhibit, which will celebrate the accomplishments of young women from Michigan.

One of Dial's favorite Hall of Fame members is Sarah Emma Edmonds (1841-1898). Born in New Brunswick, Canada, Edmonds moved to Michigan in 1860.



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Caitlyn Dial was recently appointed museum educator at Lansing's Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

Shortly after, she saw a call for volunteers and enlisted as a Union soldier in the Civil War — disguised as a man.

"She cross-dressed as a soldier in the Civil War," Dial said.

Edmonds proved to be a valuable spy for the Union, infiltrating Confederate lines 11 times in disguises ranging from a young boy to a dry goods salesman.

"Her best 'disguise' was disguising as a woman," said Dial, with a laugh.

It's no wonder Dial was drawn to Edmonds' story. Dial wrote her master's the-

sis on British women from the 18th and 19th centuries who disguised themselves as men to serve in the military.

Dial appreciates the diversity of women represented in the hall of fame, from Saginaw-born tennis star Serena Williams and Motown legend Aretha Franklin to women's suffrage advocate Lucia Grimes and 19th century anti-slavery advocate Laura Haviland.

"We have a rich history here," Dial said. "We celebrate the accomplishments of all Michigan women."

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Fight the power MSU Museum looks at the history of student protests

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Social activist, pastor and MSU graduate Jim Wallis, in a visit to East Lansing in 2006, stressed how his involvement in the university's antiwar protests of the late 1960s changed his life.

"Student Voices: MSU Student Protest"

Jan. 18-May 1
FREE (\$5 suggested donation)
MSU Museum
409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
(517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu

"MSU forged who I am," he said.

It was a turbulent era at the university, and demonstrations against the Vietnam War were a regular occurrence. Most of the campus demonstrations were heralded by simple, often hand-drawn posters that were tacked up on bulletin boards across campus, inviting students to rallies, demonstrations and marches.

The late Val Berryman, a former MSU Museum curator, grabbed many of them off bulletin boards, squirrelling them away for posterity. Mary Worrall, the museum's cultural heritage curator, is using Berryman's cache for "Student Voices," an exhibit on student activism that opens next month.

In response to the recent reinvigoration of activism on campus — led by the Black Lives Matter movement — Worrall decided to look into the museum's collection of ephemera to "make connections to the past."

While the 1960s were the pinnacle of student demonstrations, student activism "never stopped," she added. The exhibit includes a display of dozens of posters and fliers promoting causes and events as far flung as the anti-apartheid movement, the Gallo wine strike of the 1970s, the gay brothers and sisters gathering of 1972, a free Bobby Seale rally and a "Stop the Shah" event to protest the controversial MSU-Iran Film Project. Worrall hopes that professors will

bring their classes to examine the posters and handbills and use them to spark class discussions and writing exercises.

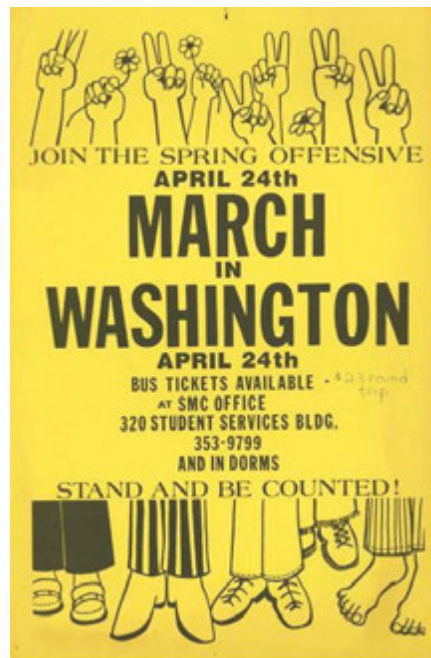
"I hope to help create dialogue for current events," she said. "Physical items can be a catalyst for discussion."

The exhibit will also take a look at how modern students coordinate demonstrations and raise awareness of issues by using social media.

"What used to be a flier is now a tweet," she said. "Although communication is more virtual, there is still non-virtual ephemera like posters."

The exhibit will show how even the evolution of handbills has been shaped by technology. Over time, posters go from hand-lettered, photocopied missives to elaborate computer-designed layouts. In the aftermath of the events in Ferguson, museums across the country began reevaluating what they should collect, including everything from Facebook posts to cell phone videos.

The exhibit also includes photographs of "the Rock," MSU's famed boulder that



Courtesy image

A 1970s poster, included in the MSU Museum's upcoming "Student Voices" exhibit, invites students to join a protest march in Washington, D.C.

for decades has been painted with messages for or against causes of all kinds. One goal of Worrell's goals is to connect to students to the vast array of on-campus demonstrations related to social justice.

One of the more interesting parts of the exhibit, Worrall said, is the collection related to a campus strike following the 1970 Kent State shootings. In protest to the killings and the ramping up of the Vietnam War, many students quit going to classes. One rare poster from the era features an up-raised fist drawn in graffiti-style art with the words "on strike" emblazoned across it in red.

Another piece, from the faculty graduate assistant strike committee, argues that "students who are striking are doing so for the highest moral reasons and should be supported." Among its recommendations is that "a student would be given a grade for the course based on his work up to the time he joined the strike."

In addition to the "Student Voices" exhibit — which opens in coordination

with the Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day programs on campus — the museum is also mounting "Up Cloche," an exhibit that highlights fashion, feminism and modernity with a focus on the 1920s and 1930s. "Up Cloche" opens Jan. 4. A related Feb. 25 fundraiser at MSU's Kellogg Center features cocktails and canapés and a prohibition-era speakeasy theme.

Worrall said there is a dearth of material relating to women's issues in the museum's collection. She also noted that the social movements of the '80s and '90s aren't well represented either. The museum is interested in donations of documents and other ephemera in those areas. Worrall hopes that "Student Voices" will show that even "throw-away" items like event posters can become important historical documents.

"The exhibit will help the museum to think about what we are collecting relating to social justice," she said.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, December 23

MUSIC

Marshall Music Ukulele Play-Along. All ages and levels welcome. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

Fusion Shows Presents. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

Festivus Party at the Green Door. Global Village performs live music. 9 p.m. The Green Door Blues Bar and Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Preschool Storytime. Stories, songs and activities for ages 3 to 6. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius Library, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743, cadl.org.

EVENTS

Holiday Show and Sale. Artwork for sale. Noon-5:30 p.m. FREE. Grove Gallery and Studios, 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 333-7180, grovegalleryandstudios.com.

Drop in Holiday Crafts. Supplies provided while they last. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius Library, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743, cadl.org.

Minecraft School Break Edition. Ages 8-15 of all levels welcome. Call to register. 2-3 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 South Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840 ext. 202, cadl.org.

Stockbridge Coffee Chat. Adults meet up to chat about books, local events and whatever other topics come up. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810, cadl.org.

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees on display.

See Out on the Town, Page 16

New Year's Eve events guide

(All events Dec. 31 unless otherwise noted)

MIDTOWN BREWING CO.

No cover charge, and the kitchen stays open late. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 977-1349, midtownbrewingco.com.

GOING GREEN FOR NEW YEAR'S AT GRACIE'S PLACE

Football-watching party with giveaways, including a big-screen TV. Admission includes a food buffet and midnight champagne toast. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. \$23. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-1100, graciesplacewilliamston.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE AT BORDEAUX

Masquerade party with live jazz, a photo booth, special dinner features and drink specials. Reservations and masks encouraged. VIP package available. 5 p.m. Tickets start at \$50. Bordeaux, Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-4190, bordeauxlansing.com.

KNIGHT CAP

Two-hour dinner slots available. Price includes four course meal; drinks are available a la carte. Reservations required. 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. or 10 p.m. \$75. 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7676, knightcap.com.

COACH'S PUB & GRILL

Deal on two dinners, an appetizer and a bottle of champagne, with party favors at midnight. Snack bar open after the MSU football game. \$30. Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. coachspubandgrill.com.

GREEN AND WHITE BALL AT RADISSON HOTEL LANSING

Start the evening off with the Cotton Bowl — shown via HD projector — then party it up with DJ Chewy. Admission includes dinner, drink tickets, a champagne toast and breakfast at the Capitol City Grille the next morning. Best of all, a one-night stay is included in the ticket price, so you don't have to worry about how to get home. 7 p.m. \$295/couple. Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0188.

CAUSEWAY BAY HOTEL

Enjoy a classic cocktail hour and three-course dinner, followed by a live DJ set to ring in the new year. Hotel room and breakfast packages available. 8 p.m. Packages start at \$98.50 per couple. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 694-8123, causewaybaylansinghotel.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE GREEN DOOR

Grab a drink and watch some MSU football, then rock 'n' roll your way into 2016 with local pop/rock cover band the Hot Mess. Cover will include party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. 8 p.m. \$10. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

THE ENGLISH INN

Start the new year off in style with dinner at the English Inn. Enjoy a gourmet four-course meal, including choice of appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. Reservations required. \$69. 677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids. (517) 663-2500, englishinn.com.

WHITE OUT NYE AT LANSING BREWING CO.

Entertainment for the evening is provided by MSU football, followed by DJ John Beltran. Tickets include a midnight buffet and three pints of beer. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. \$50/\$45 mug club members. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517) 371-2600, lansingbrewingcompany.com.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS VS SEVEN HEAVENLY VIRTUES AT SPIRAL

Heaven and hell-themed party at Spiral Dance Bar featuring gogo dancers, drag queens and music by DJ Sizi. Special themed cocktails are available, and a fruit buffet and champagne toast are included. The first 50 people in before 9 p.m. get in free. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. \$10 for 21 and over/\$15 for 18-20. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221, spiraldancebar.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Live music by the Johns. All dances are taught, and no

partner is required. Wear comfortable shoes and loose clothing. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$18/\$15 members/\$8 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 614-5858, tenpoundfiddle.org.

GATSBY'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE LOFT

(See Turn it down, page 15, for event description)

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE AVENUE CAFÉ

(See Turn it down, page 15, for event description)

FIFTH TUESDAY NEW YEAR PAIRING AT AMERICAN FIFTH SPIRITS

TUESDAY, DEC. 29 — Celebrate the new year early with a cocktail and food pairing hosted by American Fifth Spirits and the Good Bites Food Truck. Tickets include three cocktails and three plates of Good Bites' gourmet fare. 6-8 p.m. \$60/\$51 Crystal Club members. 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, facebook.com/americanfifth.

ZOOBIE'S/COSMOS

Enjoy a special New Year's Eve menu that includes three courses and a champagne toast. The game will be on TV. No cover charge, and Zoobie's/Cosmos are not taking reservations. \$35. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern/The Cosmos, 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-2737 or (517) 897-3563, zoobiesoldtown Tavern.com, thecosmoslansing.com.

THE CREOLE

Old Town's newest eatery presents special three course, four course or five course dinner options, complete with champagne toast. Reservations required. The Creole, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com.


MI FOOD FIGHT AT RED HAVEN

East Lansing's Red Haven hosts a culinary battle between local chefs Dan Konopnicki, executive chef for the Potent Potables Project, and Anthony Maiale, executive chef for Red Haven. Admission includes a lavish food spread, two complimentary drinks and a champagne toast. Tickets are available at Red Haven. 8 p.m. \$85. Red Haven, 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 679-6309, mifoodfight.com.

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

LIL' DARLINS PRESENTS GATSBY NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH




Thursday, Dec. 31 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$30/\$50 per couple/\$100 VIP per couple, 8 p.m.

Since 2008, Lil' Darlins has been a fixture in Michigan's thriving vaudeville/variety-show scene. Its immense cast features live music from a pit band, fire eaters, hula hoop artists, jugglers, magicians, sword swallows and more. The troupe takes over the Loft on New Year's Eve for Gatsby New Year's Eve Bash — event organizers are calling it “the grandest party in Lansing.” The festive, Roaring '20s-themed evening includes a live 1920s jazz music and a swing-dance competition. Admission also includes hors d'oeuvres, complimentary party favors and noise makers, a photo booth, a costume contest and a champagne toast at midnight. If you're looking to drop some extra coin, \$100VIP couple passes include table service, private Charleston lessons, reserved seating and other perks.

THUR. DEC 31ST

Lil' Darlins

PAST TENSE AT THE AVENUE CAFE'S NYE CELEBRATION




Thursday, Dec. 31 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. FREE. 9 p.m.

Count down to 2016 with Past Tense, a Lansing-based thrash metal band, Thursday at the Avenue Café. The free celebration also features DJ Caleb Ketchum, a masquerade party and a free snack bar. Downstairs table reservations are available for \$50, upstairs VIP reservations are \$100. Past Tense formed nearly five years ago as a throwback metal cover band, revamping tracks by Dio, Anthrax, Overkill and Slayer. Now the band cranks out originals. “We get called ‘old school’ a lot — it's pretty riff heavy,” said guitarist Richard Bates. “We think of ourselves as melodic metal.” As for a debut Past Tense album? “We don't currently have any recordings,” Bates said. “That's our plan for the new year, getting in the studio.” Fans of Dio, Testament, Slayer, Skid Row or Judas Priest might want to check out Past Tense. To reserve a table, call (517) 492-7403.

THUR. DEC 31ST

Past Tense

BLAKE WILSON AT MAC'S BAR



Saturday, Dec 26 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$12/\$10 adv., 8 p.m.

Beats Bangin Entertainment presents a long roster of Lansing-area emcees Saturday at Mac's Bar. The lineup includes Blake Wilson, JMo, Struck Eze and more. DJ Enyce spins records all night. Wilson — founder of Beats Bangin Entertainment — is promoting the new video for his single, “Everyday,” and his second mixtape, “Life of the Feather.” The slate of entertainers includes guest spots from several local artists, including Kush Kennedy, Trouble Da Tease and RC, to name only a few. In August, Wilson dropped his “Never Left” single on iTunes; it features Nino Brown, Lavish and Struck Eze. Fans of Wale or Machine Gun Kelly might want to check out Wilson. “I also have another mix-tape coming out on Jan. 1,” Wilson said. “It's called ‘The Hidden Tape.’ Myke Aikens and I put it together.”

SAT. DEC 26TH

Blake Wilson

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.			
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.				Scott Seth, 8 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.				
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Nicholas Merz, 10 p.m.			Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.			DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.			The Knock Offs, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 143 Kent St.				Open Mic Night, 7 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Global Village, 9 p.m.			ICEY/DICEY, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.				
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.				Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.				Blake Wilson, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.			The Good Cookies, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road				Chris Laskos, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.			Bobbie Standall, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				Mark Sala, 7 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Festivus with Frog, 8:30 p.m.			
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.			Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed email allison@lansingcitypulse.com. Only submit for the upcoming week's shows.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Dec. 23-29

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The raw materials you have at your disposal in 2016 may sometimes seem limited. You might not have access to all the tools you wish you did. You could be tempted to feel envy about the vaster resources other people can draw on. But I honestly don't think these apparent inhibitions will put you at a disadvantage. Within your smaller range of options, there will be all the possibilities you need. In fact, the constraints could stimulate your creativity in ways that would have never occurred if you'd had more options.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You know what physical hygiene is. But are you familiar with imaginal hygiene? Educator Morgan Brent defines it like this: "Imaginal hygiene is the inner art of self-managing the imagination, to defend it from forces that compromise, pollute, colorize, shrink, and sterilize it, and to cultivate those that illuminate, expand, and nourish it." It's always important for everyone to attend to this work, but it's especially crucial for you to focus on it in 2016. You will be exceptionally creative, and therefore likely to generate long-lasting effects and influences out of the raw materials that occupy your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your mind sometimes works too hard and fast for your own good. But mostly it's your best asset. Your versatility can sometimes be a curse, too, but far more often it's a blessing. Your agile tongue and flexible agenda generate more fun than trouble, and so do your smooth maneuvers and skillful gamesmanship. As wonderful as all these qualities can be, however, I suggest that you work on expanding your scope in 2016. In my astrological opinion, it will be a good time for you to study and embody the magic that the water signs possess. What would that mean exactly? Start this way: Give greater respect to your feelings. Tune in to them more, encourage them to deepen, and figure out how to trust them as sources of wisdom.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Swedish movie director Ingmar Bergman won three Academy Awards and was nominated for eight others. Numerous filmmakers have cited him as an important influence on their work. His practical success was rooted in his devotion to the imagination. "I am living permanently in my dream, from which I make brief forays into reality," he said. Can you guess his astrological sign? Cancer the Crab, of course! No other tribe is better suited at moving back and forth between the two worlds. At least potentially, you are virtuosos at interweaving fantasy with earthy concerns. The coming year will afford you unprecedented opportunities to further develop and use this skill.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Avoid pain and pursue pleasure. Be kind, not cruel. Abstain from self-pity and ask for the help you need. Instead of complaining, express gratitude. Dodge time-wasting activities and do things that are meaningful to you. Shun people who disrespect you and seek the company of those who enjoy you. Don't expose yourself to sickening, violent entertainment; fill your imagination up with uplifting stories. Does the advice I'm offering in this horoscope seem overly simple and obvious? That's no accident. In my opinion, what you need most in 2016 is to refresh your relationship with fundamental principles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Many of the atoms that compose your flesh and blood were not part of your body 12 months ago. That's because every year, 98 percent of you is replaced. Old cells are constantly dying, giving way to new cells that are made from the air, food, and water you ingest. This is true about everyone, of course. You're not the only one whose physical form is regularly recycled. But here's what will be unique about you in 2016: Your soul will match your body's rapid transformations. In fact, the turnover is already underway. By your next birthday, you may be so new you'll barely recognize yourself. I urge you to

take full charge of this opportunity! Who do you want to become?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The English word "ain't" can mean "am not," "is not," "are not," or "have not." But it ain't recognized as a standard word in the language. If you use it, you risk being thought vulgar and uneducated. And yet "ain't" has been around since 1706, more than 300 years. Most words that are used for so long eventually become official. I see your journey in 2016 as having resemblances to the saga of "ain't," Libra. You will meet resistance as you seek greater acceptance of some nonstandard but regular part of your life. Here's the good news: Your chances of ultimately succeeding are much better than ain't's.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): My old friend John owns a 520-acre farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Blueberries are among the crops he grows. If he arranges their growing season so that they ripen in July, he can sell them for \$1.75 a pint. But if he designs them to be ready for harvest in late summer and early fall, the price he gets may go up to \$4 a pint. You can guess which schedule he prefers. I urge you to employ a similar strategy as you plot your game plan for 2016, Scorpio. Timing may not be everything, but it will count for a lot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 1803, the U.S. government bought a huge chunk of North American land from the French government. At a price of three cents per acre, the new republic doubled its size, acquiring what's now Louisiana and Montana and everything between. I don't think you'll add that much to your domain in 2016, Sagittarius, but it's likely you will expand significantly. And although your new resources won't be as cheap as the 1803 bargain, I suspect the cost, both in terms of actual cash and in emotional energy, will be manageable. There's one way your acquisition will be better than that earlier one. The Americans bought and the French sold land they didn't actually own — it belonged to the native people — whereas your moves will have full integrity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The coming year will be a favorable time for you to nourish a deeper devotion to truth, beauty, and goodness. Anything you do to make your morality more rigorous will generate benefits that ripple through your life for years to come. Curiously, you can add to the propitious effect by also cultivating a deeper devotion to fun, play, and pleasure. There is a symbiotic connection between the part of you that wants to make the world a better place and the part of you that thrives on joy, freedom, and wonder. Here's the magic formula: Feed your lust for life by being intensely compassionate, and vice versa.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I predict that 2016 will be your Year of Fruitful Obsessions. In giving this positive spin to the cosmic tendencies, I'm hoping to steer you away from any behavior that might lead to 2016 being your Year of Fruitless Obsessions. One way or another, I think you'll be driven to express your passions with single-minded intensity. Focused devotion — sometimes verging on compulsive preoccupation — is likely to be one of your signature qualities. That's why it's so important to avoid wasteful infatuations and confounding manias. Please choose fascinations that are really good for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your symbol of power in 2016 will be the equal sign: =. Visualize it in your mind's eye every morning for 20 seconds. Tattoo it on your butt. Write it on an index card that you keep under your pillow or on your bathroom mirror. Gestures like these will deliver highly relevant messages to your subconscious mind, like "Create balance and cultivate harmony!" and "Coordinate opposing forces!" and "Wherever there is tension between two extremes, convert the tension into vital energy!" Here are your words of power in 2016: "symbiosis" and "synergy."

Out on the town

from page 14

1-7 p.m. \$5/children FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/tdodge.

Thursday, December 24

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

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

Christmas Eve Service. Celebration of the meaning of Christmas. 6-7 p.m. Christ Community Church, 227 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. christcommunitylansing.org.

Ladies Figure Skating. Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room 214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

Tarot Study Group. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

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

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

MUSIC

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

Friday, December 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Christmas Message and Satsanga. Meditation and blessing. 10:15 a.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

EVENTS

Berry Merry Holiday. Hot breakfast and gifts for children, who can select gifts for parents as well. 8 a.m.-noon. Advent House Ministries, 743 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 485-4722.

Saturday, December 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Tai Chi at Allen Market Place. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

MUSIC

Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

ICEY/DICEY at Green Door. AC/DC cover band performs. 9:30 p.m. The Green Door Blues Bar and Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Blake Wilson at Mac's Bar. Blake Wilson headlines show that includes local artists. 8 p.m. \$12/ \$10 advance. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

Drop in Holiday Crafts. Supplies provided while they last. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius Library, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

Free Public Tours. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Tripper's Comedy Club. 9-10:30 p.m. \$12 Subject to change or cancellation. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees on display. Noon-8 p.m. \$5/children FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/tdodge.

Sunday, December 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate

See Out on the Town, Page 17

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23 >> FESTIVUS PARTY AT THE GREEN DOOR

Feeling left out this holiday season? The Green Door Blues Bar and Grill offers a Festivus for the rest of us. Based on an episode of "Seinfeld," Festivus is a celebration for those looking for something a little different from the stereotypical holiday parties. Local cover band Global Village will help folks rock around the Festivus Pole with its array of funk, R&B, Motown, disco and classic rock tunes. 9 p.m. FREE. Green Door Blues Bar and Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Out on the town

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levels. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Road, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlottetyoga.net.

EVENTS

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUf7c.

Free Public Tours. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Drop in Lego Club. Ages 4-6 play with legos provided by library. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos

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

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees on display. Noon-6 p.m. \$5/children FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/tdodge.

Tuesday, December 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

LEGO Robotics. Three-day class. Ages 9-14. Call or register online. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. Scholarships available. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393, bit.ly/ITECregistration

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Learn public speaking. 7-8:30 a.m. Studio 1210 Place, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 859-2086, yawnpatrol.com.

Winter Survival Adventure Camp. Grades K-4 learn survival skills in three-day class. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$125/\$110 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 18

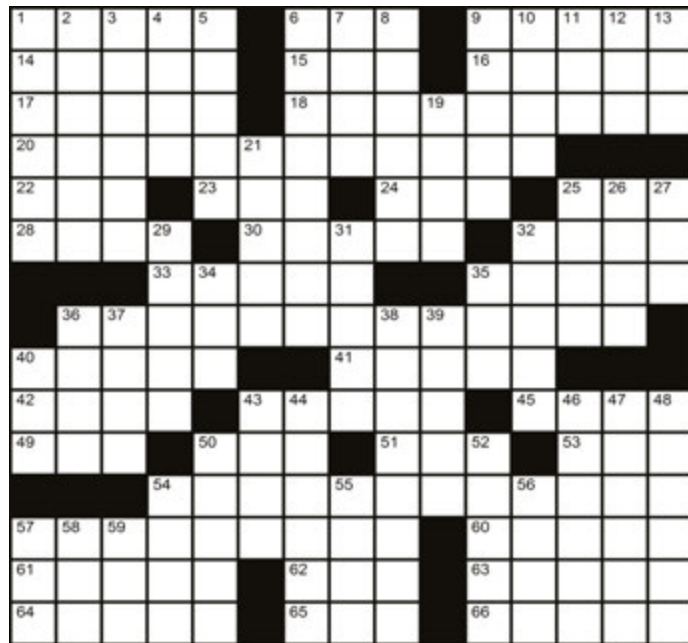
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"No Whey!"— somehow you gotta take your lumps.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Letterhead illustrations
- 6 Key holder
- 9 "Your Movie Sucks" author Roger
- 14 "I'm on ___!"
- 15 Anonymous Richard in court cases
- 16 Where it's happening
- 17 Like some French sauces
- 18 Observation from one person to another, part 1
- 20 Observation, part 2
- 22 Street of bad dreams?
- 23 "Ice Age" sloth
- 24 Allow
- 25 Stick (out)
- 28 Singer who dropped "McEntire" from her performing name
- 30 Last name in cartoon skunks
- 32 Appease fully
- 33 Possible pigeon perch
- 35 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tony
- 36 Observation, part 3
- 40 "Oh ___! -- it's full of stars!" (line from the novel "2001")
- 41 "And there you have it!"
- 42 Rake in
- 43 British artist Lucian
- 45 BBQ specialty
- 49 180 degrees from SSW
- 50 Membership charge



- 51 Red or Dead follower
 - 53 "Poetry Out Loud" org.
 - 54 Response to the observation, part 1
 - 57 Response, part 2
 - 60 "The Kiss" artist Gustav
 - 61 Baby food, typically
 - 62 Legendary coach Parseghian
 - 63 Word before craft or board
 - 64 Northernmost NYC borough
 - 65 Modern, in Munich
 - 66 Make some z's
- 7 "Game of Thrones" actress Chaplin
 - 8 Scarab, e.g.
 - 9 What's happening
 - 10 Titanic obstacle
 - 11 Pair of bunnies?
 - 12 Bitterly regret
 - 13 Golfer's support
 - 19 Mountaintop feature
 - 21 First name among early "SNL" regulars
 - 25 Crows' cousins
 - 26 "Reader" founder Eric
 - 27 Lowest two-digit positive integer
 - 29 "Good Eats" host Brown
 - 31 "Pet" annoyance
 - 32 Say some naughty words
 - 34 LAX listing
 - 35 Pomade alternative
 - 36 Blue used in printing
 - 37 Shrek, for example
- 38 "Undersea World" explorer Jacques
 - 39 Evades the seeker
 - 40 Checkers pieces
 - 43 Pool table fabric
 - 44 Grant another mortgage
 - 46 Describing a living organism process (unlike, say, from a test tube)
 - 47 Yuppie's German car, slangily
 - 48 "Being and Nothingness" author
 - 50 UPS rival
 - 52 Goth necklace pendants
 - 54 Small songbird
 - 55 1950s Hungarian leader Nagy
 - 56 Tesla founder Musk
 - 57 "Be on the lookout" message
 - 58 Low-down sort
 - 59 Prefix sometimes seen around vasectomies

Monday, December 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

General Cancer Support Group. Call to register. 7-9 p.m. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 364-5471.

LEGO Robotics. Three-day class. Ages 9-14. Call or register online. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. Scholarships available. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393, bit.ly/ITECregistration.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health. Weekly class. 1 and 5:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-0717.

Winter Survival Adventure Camp. Grades K-4 learn survival skills in three-day class. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$125/\$110 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27 >> REBEL PICTURES FILM SHOWING AT MIDTOWN BREWING CO.

If you are looking for a way to break up the post-Christmas lull, Lansing-based film company Rebel Pictures presents two comedic shorts at Midtown Brewing Co. Sunday. The first, "Wake," is a 10-minute dark comedy originally made for the production workshop at last year's Grand Rapids Film Festival. The other, "Eskimo Brothers," is a 15-minute film about finding love in a very small dating pool. The shorts feature several local actors, writers and musicians. The evening includes live music by Justin Richard Holcomb, who wrote music for "Eskimo Brothers." Cast and crew for both films will participate in a Q&A session after the screening. 6 p.m. \$5. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. ow.ly/W0rx0.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27 >> HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT MSU BUG HOUSE

When you think of Christmas, you probably don't think about creepy, crawly creatures. But if that sounds like fun to you, swing by the MSU Department of Entomology's Bug House Sunday for its Holiday Open House. Tarantulas, scorpions and walking sticks are just some of the bugs that are on display. And if you're not too squeamish, you can even pick up some of the bugs — under the guidance of entomology students and faculty, of course. 1-4 p.m. FREE. Natural Sciences Building, Rooms 146 and 147, 288 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 355-4662, ent.msu.edu/bughouse.

SUDOKU

ADVANCED

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 18



ESCAPE 20/20 OPENING/R CLUB CLOSING

Ty Forquer/City Pulse

After 23 years of business, west side eatery R-Club closed its doors earlier this week.

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

Last month I told you about **ESC the Room**, an innovative entertainment business coming to East Lansing next year that makes participants solve logic problems to get out of an enclosed, locked setting — the “escape room” concept. I said it would be the first of its kind in Metro Lansing, but it turns out there’s one opening next week in Okemos: **Escape 20/20**. Co-owner/operator Kathleen Fox said solving and creating logic games has always been a secret passion for her, so opening Escape 20/20 was a natural move.

“I was actually the coordinator for a road rally for a long time, and I thought, wouldn’t it be good to do one in one location?” Fox said. “So I started doing some research and I found out about escape rooms. Then it was just a matter of figuring out how I could bring that to (the Lansing area).”

Fox, a human resources and talent management director for a Michigan-based nonprofit, is joined in the venture by her two sisters. She said that working in the nonprofit sector has been fulfilling, but it’s only allowed her to stretch her problem-solving muscles. Escape 20/20, however, will enable her to come up with some creative problems for other people to crack. It also gives her a cool alternative job title: *cluemaster*.

“If you’re going to be successful, you’ve got to do some-

thing you love,” Fox said. “This is a perfect match for me.”

Escape 20/20 comprises four themed rooms that can accommodate four to eight players each. The overarching theme is time travel, with each room dedicated to a specific moment in history. Next week, only two of these rooms — a Victorian-era parlor and a den straight out of the 1950s — will be up and running. The other two rooms are set to open within a couple months.

“Almost everything in the rooms is authentic to the time period, which required a lot of shopping and research,” Fox said. “We want to be a unique experience you talk about for months afterward.”

In a game, players will have one hour to solve a series of puzzles to figure out how to get out of the room. Fox said sometimes the solution will come from scavenger hunting, other times from a Sherlock Holmes-style clue collection strategy.

“In every case, it requires cooperation,” Fox said. “These rooms will allow you to test your limits as an individual and as a group. It’s great for families and for team-building exercises for organizations. We’re really trying to (highlight this) as a leadership tool.”

Hidden surveillance equipment in the rooms allows game masters in the control room to monitor progress

and provide clues if players get stumped. They will also record the action and allow the team to review its performance afterward.

“We sit down and analyze the solution and show who did what when,” Fox said. “Who delegated, who led, all the dynamics. People are often surprised by the results.”

For now, Escape 20/20 doesn’t accommodate walk-ins. If you’re itching to be locked in a room with half a dozen of your coworkers or closest friends, you’ll have to make an appointment.

“We made the rooms challenging, but do-able,” Fox said. “You’re definitely going to get that sense of accomplishment. If you teach people to fish, you’re fed for life. That’s what we’re trying to do.”

Best years of R lives

After 23 years of business, Kathy O’Neil closed her restaurant, the R-Club, Tuesday. She posted a letter to the restaurant’s website last week, thanking the community for its support and thanking her late husband, Dave O’Neil, who died in 2005, for helping her launch the west side eatery. The letter, edited for space, is as follows:

“After much thought and many tears, I have made the hardest decision of my life. On Dec. 22, I will be closing the doors of the R-Club and opening a new door to my future.

I have had the privilege of employing hundreds of extraordinary men and women (who) have become best friends and family. I can’t imagine getting through life without you. Your loyalty, dedication and passion humble me, and I will be forever grateful.

I’ve watched couples meet for the first time and later become engaged at the R-Club. I have watched so many of your children grow up, and I’ve even had the pleasure of hiring some of them, along with many of their siblings and friends.

Together we have hosted many events, raising well over \$100,000 for various causes and friends in need. I’ve lost count of how many meals have been delivered to those who are sick, or in need of some cheer, or to say thanks for your business, or just because I can.

I will hold R memories in my heart, and I hope you will do the same. I leave you with my love, my deepest appreciation and my everlasting friendship.”

Escape 20/20

2380 Science Parkway, Okemos
info@Escape2020.com, escape2020.com

Out on the town

from page 17

EVENTS

Lunch @ MSC. Call ahead to reserve meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees on display. 1-7 p.m. \$5/children FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/

tdodge.

New Years Pairing at American Fifth Spirits. Dinner and cocktails. 6-8 p.m. \$60/\$51 members. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. americanfifthspirits.com.

Crafternoon. Adults meet to share and work on crafts. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Winter Break Cinema. Pixar’s “Inside Out.” 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., cadl.org.

Speculative Fiction Book Club. This month: Rooms by Lauren Oliver. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave.

Wednesday, December 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

LEGO Robotics. Three-day class. Ages 9-14. Call or register online. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. Scholarships available. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393, bit.ly/ITECregistration

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

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6

p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Winter Survival Adventure Camp. Grades K-4 learn survival skills in three-day class. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$125/\$110 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org.

TUESDAY, DEC. 29 >> ‘SILVER BALLS IN THE CITY’ CHARITY PINBALL TOURNAMENT

It’s time to unleash that pent-up holiday stress with a fierce bout of blood-boiling competition — or perhaps just some friendly, pinball-flipping fun. The Avenue Café hosts its inaugural “Silver Balls in the City” pinball tournament Tuesday. The format is a four-strikes knockout tournament, utilizing the café’s wide variety of pinball machines. A side tournament will focus on a single pinball machine. The event is sanctioned by the International Flipper Pinball Association, which awards points for the World Pinball Player Ranking system. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, avenuecafelansing.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

LOGOS	FOB	EBERT						
AROLL	ROE	VENUE						
WINEY	INEVER	SEE						
YOU	GAGE	EATING						
ELM	SID	LET	JUT					
REBA	LEPEW	SATE						
	LEDGE	GWYNN						
	COTTAGE	CHEESE						
MYGOD	VOILA							
EARN	FREUD	RIBS						
NNE	FEE	SEA	NEA					
	WELL	ITS	NEVER					
ACUR	DTOME	KLIMT						
PUREE	ARA	HOVER						
BRONX	NEU	SNORE						

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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

Better options

Pure Options offers more products, improved service

I started my series of City Pulse dispensary reviews in February with a local shop called Pure Options. So much has changed there, so that I thought I would end the year by reviewing the shop again.

THE GREEN REPORT



STEVE GREEN

The location has not changed; it is still in the same small plaza near Pet Supplies Plus at the corner of Miller Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. I've heard that many patients drive by with no idea there is a medical marijuana store in that plaza. The shop has no flamboyant signage or markings and great smell control — you might never suspect they sell odoriferous marijuana inside.

Review

I entered through the front door into the lobby, which is nicer than most, and I rang the buzzer at the service window. A young lady checked my cards and buzzed me into the back. There was one patient ahead of me, so I took the time to scope out the shop's repurposed snack machine, now stocked with cannabis products. Pure Options is where I first encountered a marijuana vending machine, but I have found a few others since then.

When the patient ahead of me finished, I was waved up to a bar counter with two display cases — one for flowers and one for extracts — and a back wall stocked with various edibles. When I reviewed the shop in February, it didn't carry edibles or extracts. I'm glad to see it offering a wider variety of products for patients.

I asked several questions about strains

and products.

On my February visit, I was disappointed that some product information was not available. On this trip, the budtender was able to answer all of my questions except one — but she did take time to go find the answer. That gets an A in my book. You can't know everything; being honest and able to find the right information makes all the difference.

I appreciate that Pure Options has made improvements this year, especially in product knowledge and selection. It is a change that many patients can benefit from.

I looked over the shop's expansive pre-rolled joint section, comprising 16 different varieties ranging in price from \$5 to \$10 each. There were over 30 strains of flower to choose from, including Sativa (known for stimulating effects), Indica (known for sedative effects) and hybrid strains — a mix between the two. The shop also offers a high-CBD/low-THC strain that provides several medical benefits with little or no high. With so many options, it can take a few minutes to peruse — especially if you like to smell the jars.

I counted at least 10 types of medibles and over 10 different extract options. The shop also carries pre-loaded cartridges for vape pens, cannabis-infused drinks, topical creams and seeds.

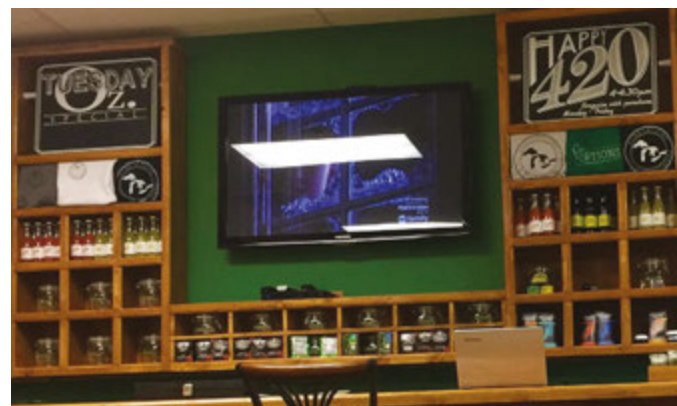
I chose a gram of Forum Girl Scout Cookies (\$20) and a \$50 half gram of San Fernando Valley OG dry sift — a product created by extracting the oils from a marijuana flower without using a solvent.

I also went to the vending machine to get a gram of Super Lemon Haze (\$10). I know that buying marijuana from a vending machine is a dream come true for a few of my readers.

The shop packed up my goodies in a discreet white paper bag, and I was soon on my way to try the new products. Once back in my smoking den, I twisted up the Super Lemon Haze. This was my third time using a marijuana vending machine, and this was some of the best vending machine pot I've ever purchased.

I was anxious to try the SFV OG, a solvent-less extract created by Incogni-grow Farms. I was very impressed by this product, both in clarity and taste. I saved the Forum Girl Scout Cookies for the next morning. It made for a pleasant start to my day; I paired the clean burning joint with a steaming latte.

Steve Green, who writes this column every two weeks, uses marijuana to prevent seizures. He has no business ties to any dispensaries or products.



Steve Green/City Pulse

Pure Options' improved marijuana counter now offers medical marijuana in edible and extract forms.

TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE!

TOP 5 ASIAN FOOD

#1 MARU SUSHI & GRILL (OKEMOS)

- High quality sushi, upscale atmosphere
- 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos
- (517) 349-7500
- marurestaurant.com
- 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#3&4 UKAI

- Sushi bar and hibachi grill, known for entertaining hibachi chefs. Two locations:
- 754 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing (517) 853-8888, iloveukai.com
- 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-11 p.m. Friday; 4-11 p.m. Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday
- 2167 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-0820, iloveukai.com
- 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday.

#2 SANSU

- City Pulse readers love Sansu's value, serving quality sushi at good prices
- 4750 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
- (517) 333-1933
- sansu-sushi.com
- 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4:30-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 3-10 p.m. Sunday

#5 AI FUSION

- Known for creative sushi rolls and good service
- 2827 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 853-3700, ai-fusion.com
- 11:30 a.m.-9:40 p.m. Monday-Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-10:40 p.m. Sunday

THE PRUDDEN STREET GYM

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