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December 28-January 3, 2011

The last word

Remembering 10 people who died
in Greater Lansing in 2011

p. 8



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SEE P. 10

**Ingham County's
Top Ten Tax Delinquents**

SEE P. 5

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Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Berl Schwartz, Editor and Publisher

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Feedback

Have Something to Say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail Mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

(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.)

2.) Write a guest column:

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANSING HOUSING COMMISSION - HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM ("HCV") WAITLIST IS OPEN
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INTERNET ACCESS IS REQUIRED TO APPLY AT:
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Community Partners are assisting applicants as described below.

Applicants who need internet access ONLY may go to:

- Any of the 13 Capital Area District Libraries during business hours
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 - 3500 South Cedar Street, Lansing
 - 200 North Foster, Lansing
 - 1939 South Aurelius Road, Mason
 - 145 West Ash Street, Mason
 - 1379 East Mason Street, Dansville
 - 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett
 - 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt
 - 201 Pennsylvania Street, Leslie
 - 4321 Okemos, Road, Okemos
 - 200 Wood Street, Stockbridge
 - 115 South Main Street, Webberville
 - 201 School Street, Williamston

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124 Michigan Avenue
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Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm

Applicants who need Internet access and application assistance may go to:

- Advent House Ministries, Inc.
743 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48915
- Capital Area Community Services, Inc.
1301 Rensen Street
Lansing, Mi. 48910
- City Rescue Mission
607 E. Michigan Avenue
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
- Lansing City Hall
4th floor
124 Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48933
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
- Volunteers of America
New Hope Day Center
430 North Larch Street
Lansing, Michigan 48912
Mon-Fri 9:00am - 12:00pm

Applicants with disabilities and those who need interpretation or computer assistance may go to:

- Community Mental Health Authority
812 E. Jolly Road
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm
- Lansing City Hall
Human Relations Department
4th Floor
124 Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan
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Additionally, St. Vincent Catholic Charities will provide assistance to existing clients ONLY



ONLY ONE APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED PER HOUSEHOLD
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CityPULSE

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Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz



7 p.m. Wednesdays
This Week

Highlights show featuring Virg Bernero, Tobias Wolff, Jim Herbert and Rick Jones



REMEMBERING by JUSTIN BILICKI

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2011 AN ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE AND UTTERLY SUBJECTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW PART THE SECOND (YES, IT IS VERY WORDY)

2011
AN ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE AND UTTERLY SUBJECTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW
PART THE SECOND (YES, IT IS VERY WORDY)

MOST OF THE SUMMER: OBAMA REPEATEDLY TRIES TO STRIKE A "GRAND BARGAIN" WITH REPUBLICANS. PLEASE, MAY I OFFER FURTHER CONCESSIONS?
NO.

AUG. 12: ALLEGEDLY SERIOUS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN TELLS CROWD--
"--A POET ONCE SAID 'LIFE CAN BE A CHALLENGE, LIFE CAN SEEM IMPOSSIBLE...'
IT IS THE THEME SONG FROM A POKEMON MOVIE.

SEPT. 12: RON PAUL SAYS UNINSURED "TAKE (THEIR) OWN RISKS"; G.O.P. CROWD CHEERS AT THOUGHT OF HYPOTHETICAL PERSON DYING DUE TO LACK OF INSURANCE.
WHICH ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ONE OF RON PAUL'S OWN STAFFERS IN 2008.

SEPT. 20: "DON'T ASK DON'T TELL" REPEALED; REPUBLIC FAILS TO COLLAPSE.
SEPT. 24: OCCUPY WALL STREET GAINS TRACTION WHEN VIDEO OF COP MACING PEACEFUL PROTESTERS GOES VIRAL.
NICE WORK, DUMBASS.

ALSO: THANKS TO THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT, PUNDITS BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT ORDINARY AMERICANS DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT THE DEFICIT.
APPARENTLY THEY WANT "JOBS."
WHO KNEW?

SEPT. 30: U.S. GOV'T ASSASSINATES U.S. CITIZEN ACCUSED OF TERRORISM. I GOTCHER DUE PROCESS RIGHT HERE!
A FEW WEEKS LATER: U.S. GOV'T KILLS HIS TEENAGE SON.

OCTOBER 29: FREAK SNOWSTORM ALONG EAST COAST MEANS...OH, YOU KNOW.
YARLOE BARGLE BLARGH AL GORE!
JUST IN CASE ANY-ONE THOUGHT WE HAD STARTED WORSHIPPING CTHULHU!

NOV. 1: HOUSE VOTES TO REAFFIRM "IN GOD WE TRUST" AS NATIONAL MOTTO.
NOV. 9: ALLEGEDLY SERIOUS CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN DECLARES: "FOR EVERY ONE PERSON THAT COMES FORWARD WITH A FALSE ACCUSATION, THERE ARE PROBABLY THOUSANDS WHO WILL SAY NONE OF THAT SORT OF ACTIVITY EVER CAME FROM HERMAN CAIN!"
NOV. 21: "SUPER-COMMITTEE" FAILS TO ACHIEVE MAGICAL BIPARTISAN DEFICIT-REDUCING COMPROMISE.
NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN THIS!

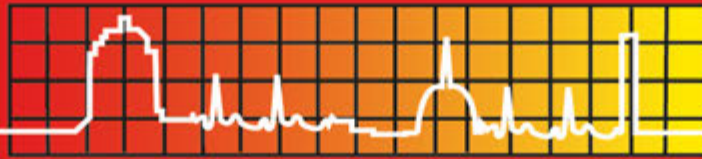
NOV. 30: MICHELE BACHMANN SAYS GAYS DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO MARRY.
"THEY CAN MARRY A MAN IF THEY'RE A WOMAN, OR THEY CAN MARRY A WOMAN IF THEY'RE A MAN!" SERIOUSLY, SHE SAID THAT.

DEC. 15: DEFENSE BILL CODIFIES INDEFINITE MILITARY DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZENS ON U.S. SOIL, BUT THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
MONTH OF DECEMBER: INCREASINGLY DESPERATE G.O.P. CONTEMPLATES PRESIDENTIAL VIABILITY OF DISGRACED FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER WITH LONG HISTORY OF ADULTERY.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, HE'S NOT MIT ROMNEY!

ALL OF 2011: MORE LUNACY THAN WE COULD FIT IN AN ENTIRE YEAR'S WORTH OF CARTOONS--
--THOUGH OF COURSE WE TRIED!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM TMW! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

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PULSE



news & opinion

Past due

The top 10 property tax delinquents in Ingham County

The annual list of property tax delinquents in Ingham County keeps growing, but at a much less alarming rate than recent years. And the Ingham County treasurer is hesitantly hopeful that the amount of foreclosure activity is about to plateau.

“2009 was the peak year for the dollar amount of delinquent taxes turned over,” Treasurer Eric Schertzing said. “2011 I would hope is the peak year for forfeiture action you’re seeing. ... Forfeiture activity is still going up. It’s no slam dunk the number of forfeitures and foreclosures are going down into 2013.”

The annual list is published each year by law, showing the properties and their owners in Ingham County on which delinquent property taxes are owed. If taxes are unpaid by March 31, the property may be foreclosed upon and turned over to the county treasurer. This year’s list (which is inserted in this issue) reflects taxes owed from 2009.

The number of properties facing foreclosure increased 9 percent from last year: 1,654, up from 1,504 parcels last year. In 2009 there was an 82 percent increase in the number of parcels from 2008.

The Treasurer’s Office prepared a top 10 list for City Pulse of property owners who owe the most in Ingham County. The list turns up a variety of LLCs backing housing developments and commercial real estate and also a long-time Lansing-area business.

The resident agent of three LLCs in the top 10 — 101 S. Washington Development LLC, Vlahakis Family Limited Partnership and Montrose Professional Centre LLC — is Paul Vlahakis. (But an Ingham County judge ruled this year that Vlahakis is in effect the owner of the properties in deciding against him in a libel suit he filed against City Pulse for calling him the county’s second biggest tax delinquent in 2009.) The resident agent of a business entity may not outright own a property, but he or she receives notice of owing taxes. The three companies owe a combined amount of \$392,759.39 for the prominent commercial building at 101 S. Washington Square downtown; a shopping center on Waverly Road near Michigan Avenue; and at Vlahakis Co. Inc. at 4900 Montrose Ave. in Okemos. Most of that owed — \$265,133.34 — is on the downtown office building.

Vlahakis blamed high vacancy rates for why his properties are delinquent. He added that making necessary repairs and making mortgage payments typically comes before paying property taxes, as a sort of bill-paying triage: “Sometimes property taxes are one expense that you have the luxury of repaying.”

Vlahakis said “absolutely” the property tax bills will be paid by March 31 — “they get paid every year.”

Fielek Land Development LLC and BCD Apartments LLC sit second and third, respectively, on this year’s top 10 list for properties in Leslie and south Lansing. Julie Fielek, resident agent of Fielek Land Development, could not be reached for comment. BCD Apartments,

Investments LLC, Stefan and Tamara Farrell and the resident agent for Mason-based Marmike Investment Co. LLC could not be reached for comment.

While nowhere near making the top 10 list, at least two Lansing-area elected officials appear on the non-payment of property taxes list: Ingham County Commissioner Carol Koenig and Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann. Koenig owed \$3,388.27 on the property at 108 N. Magnolia Ave. in Lansing, but said she paid that off since the list was published. Lindemann owes \$6,197.92 for the commercial property at 2010 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing. Lindemann said he intends to pay off the property taxes by mid-February.

	NAME	PARCEL	PAYOFF	ADDRESS
Top 10 Tax Delinquents of 2011	1	101 S. Washington Development LLC	33-01-01-16-401-002	\$265,133.34 101 S. Washington Sq., Lansing
	2	Fielek Land Development LLC	116 Parcels	\$174,273.30
	3	BCD Apartments LLC	7 Parcels	\$142,086.40
	4	Pro Bowl	33-01-01-05-476-062	\$82,641.07 2122 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing
	5	MD Real Estate LLC	10 Parcels	\$78,208.28
	6	Labath Investments LLC	33-25-05-02-200-036	\$73,411.06 3490 Belle Chase Way, Lansing
	7	Vlahakis Family LTD Partnership	33-21-01-18-301-036	\$67,229.58 321 S. Waverly Road, Lansing
	8	Stefan & Tamara Farrell	22 Parcels	\$62,294.12
	9	Montrose Professional Centre LLC	33-02-02-21-176-020	\$60,396.47 4900 Montrose Ave, Okemos
	10	Marmike Investment Co. LLC	33-01-01-33-452-011	\$57,662.27 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing
	Source: Ingham County Treasurer	33-25-05-23-135-023		1957 Cedar St., Holt

whose resident agent is Dua & Associates PLLC, owes \$142,086.40 on seven parcels in Lansing. A request for comment sent to attorney Sameer Dua was not returned. Dua topped City Pulse’s top 10 tax delinquent list in 2009.

James R. Johns, who has owned the Pro Bowl bowling alley at 2122 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. since 1979, said he is challenging the assessed value of the property with the Michigan Tax Tribunal because he believes the city has had the taxes “way too high.” While more than \$82,000 is owed in property taxes, Johns said he is paying it off “little by little.”

Mark Diebolt, the resident agent for MD Real Estate LLC, said, “I think anyone who has property taxes intends to pay them” when contacted about this story. MD Real Estate owes a total of \$78,208.28 — and ranks fifth on the top 10 list — on 10 parcels throughout Lansing. He declined to comment further.

The resident agent for Labath

“It’s a building that’s hard to make money on. It needs a lot of repairs and I’m trying to keep it up. It’s the same old thing every landlord is crying about,” Lindemann said.

Property owners have until April 2 to pay off taxes due from 2009. Show cause hearings scheduled for Feb. 2 and Feb. 7 allow property owners to contest the foreclosure notice. The county adds a \$245 fee and a retroactive, monthly 1.5 percent interest rate to each property that is delinquent for more than a year. By the second year of delinquency, the interest rate could reach 18 percent on top of a 4 percent administrative fee attached in the first year.

Schertzing predicts about 80 percent of the property owners will end up paying the delinquent taxes before the deadline, which is on par with trends over the past two years. “They did last year, I presume they will again. But there’s no guarantee.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

Eyesore of the week



Property: 3000 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
 Owner: KZ Investments LLC
 Taxpayer: KZ Investments LLC
 Assessed: \$118,300
 Owner says: Unable to be reached for comment

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: It is clear by the sizable number of derelict gas stations that the Lansing metro area doesn’t require the plethora of gas stations that marked every third intersection. The question isn’t what to do with the gas station itself but what to do with the site when the station is gone. Situated in what is quite possibly the best strategically placed shopping area in the state of Michigan, this former gas station at the intersection of Homer and Saginaw streets is perfect for a great new building like the three-story brick building under construction a mile west at Marshall Street and Michigan Avenue on Lansing’s east side. The Gillespie Group has the right idea — replace a former gas station with a potentially great building.

Regardless of what the site may become in the future, its current condition is poor. The front panels of some of the gas pumps are gone, exposing the pipes to the elements. Signs advertising cigarette specials paper the windows of the vacant station and the phone attached to the pay phone has disappeared. Splotches of gray can be seen through the white paint on the building, adding to the decrepit look. A demolition is in order.

— Nyssa Rabinowitz

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

Support businesses who share the wealth

SUSTAINABILITY



TERRY LINK

Who doesn't love a discount? Still, I don't want to balance my retail savings on the shoulders of underpaid help. That's one reason I avoid Walmart and Sam's Club. But how do we know if a retailer is paying a living wage or otherwise providing a compensation package that affords their workers a hand out of poverty? This isn't information I see retailers sharing, so one must look for clues.

In a society where everyone was guaranteed access to needed health care and a livable pension in old age it might be less of a concern, but we all know sagas of folks whom our system lets fall between the cracks — all the while the top 10 percent accrue more and more wealth. The Occupy patriots have finally helped make sure that this trend does not go unnoticed.

Ponder this: The immediate family members of the Walmart family, as last reported, are worth roughly \$90 billion, while their employees make wages and benefits that make it hard to live on. If the minimum wage of Walmart employees was raised to a whopping \$12/hour, it would only cost the Walton family \$3.21 billion of their massive wealth, according to a recent study by the University of California Berkeley, Center for Labor Research and Education. But even if they wouldn't share their obscene wealth, it would only cost Walmart shoppers all of \$12.49 a year more.

One clue we can look for is whether the workforce is unionized. For all their potential flaws, unions do work for better compensation packages for their members. But most shops don't even share that information, save maybe the union print shops that exhibit the union bug on their material. Employee-owned businesses or firms that offer "employee share ownership plans" (ESOPs) are yet another vehicle for improving the chances that employ-

ees are valued and compensated well.

Perhaps the most obvious hints are co-ops, where more than just profits are shared. Of course, co-ops don't all work exactly the same way. The East Lansing Food Co-op pays all employees above minimum wage to start, offers sick-time benefits to all who stay beyond the probationary period, then offer retirement, health care contributions, and vacation time for full-time employees. Beyond that, all employees receive significant discounts and a share of the profits at the end of the year. ELFCO also maintains a small wage ratio between the highest paid and the lowest paid staff.

When Ben and Jerry founded their ice cream company many years ago, they made the wage ratio a basis of their business model, operating at an "8 times" ratio, meaning the owners could not make more than eight times what the lowest paid employee received. Judy Wicks, noted Philadelphia restaurateur and business leader, had a "6 times" ratio in her business. But for some reason, bragging about sharing the wealth doesn't seem to be a business model anyone around here feels

confident in pursuing.

The U.S. is noted for its huge ratios between CEOs and the average employee. And these symbolize more and more the growing gulf between those who have and those who don't. A recent report shows that the tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, originally enacted in 2001 and 2003 — and extended for two years in December 2010 — will this year save those 1.4 million taxpayers more (\$66,384 average) than the remaining 140.8 million taxpayers (the 99 percent) make annually (\$58,506 on average). One study of 365 largest public U.S. companies noted that the average American CEO-to-worker ratio that had been 42 to 1 (1980) grew to 85 to 1 (1990) and to 535 to 1 (2000).

Now, most small businesses in our community don't pay their owners any-

where near those ratios, but no doubt that ratio varies. Many of us do want to support those businesses that share their success with their employees. It will be a great day when businesses compete to see who shares more. As the ELFCO example above suggests, there are many ways to share prosperity. In a world where the average annual hours worked grew by 240 hours between 1973 and 2004, time off might make all of us better off. With so many looking for work while some have to work too much, we should be able to create some sharing that could benefit everyone. Perhaps a future column could look at some of those examples from the area, where job sharing and other quality of life benefits are offered by businesses and organizations that aren't just in it for the wealthy few.

(Terry Link was the founding director of MSU's Office of Campus sustainability and recently retired as director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request to remove and replace the clay tile roof at 810 West Grand River Avenue. The applicant proposes to change the existing clay tile roof to a metal roof, mimicking the style.

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

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

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from the Michigan Farmhouse Association for Site Plan approval for the property at 151 Bogue Street. The proposed application would permit an expansion of the existing Farmhouse fraternity, increasing occupancy from 44 to 60 persons, and would add retail space on the first floor of the addition. The property is zoned EV, East Village.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1271, a City-initiated ordinance to rezone the property at 300-310 West Grand River Avenue from B-3, City Center Commercial (and subject to a Conditional Rezoning Agreement), to B-2, Retail Sales Business. The property is being rezoned back to the previous zoning due to the developer not meeting the timing requirements laid out in the Conditional Rezoning Agreement.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1269, a City-initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-222 of the Zoning Code to allow commercial outdoor recreation facilities in the RA, Residential Agricultural District.

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 McKenna
City Clerk

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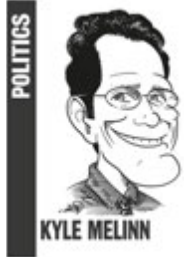


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11 groups run over by GOP agenda in '11



Name an interest group traditionally aligned with the Democratic Party and progressive thinking and they took it without the benefit of lube in 2011.

A Republican governor, legislature, attorney general and Supreme Court equaled the toughest conservative crackdown in Michigan since John Engler's end of general assistance in 1991 gave rise to tent cities on the Capitol lawn.

The GOP succeeded in nuking the progressive landscape with its "cost-cutting" policies, but who got it the worst in 2011? Number one isn't hard to figure out.

1. Organized labor — Gov. Rick Snyder's "reinvention" of Michigan equaled a "shared sacrifice" for just about everybody except business — who saw lower taxes, fewer regulations and long-sought policy changes that improve their bottom line at the expense of the injured and the unemployed.

True, Snyder didn't seek "Right to Work" or an end to collective bargaining for public employees like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker tried, but it's because Michigan's governor saw "value" in nickel and diming organized labor on so many fronts.

The result: Public employees can still bargain in Michigan, but the added restrictions have left few negotiable items on the table.

2. Medical marijuana users — Attorney General Bill Schuette is basically recriminalizing marijuana use now that he's gotten the courts to shutdown the dispensaries. Unless a cancer patient can "grow their own" or happens to know somebody who does, the underground drug trade is the only place to go. He's succeeded in making poor sick Grandpa and Aunt Susy choose between becoming a criminal or using a real addicting, harmful narcotic like Oxycontin. Perfect.

3. The poor — You've been laid off. The state is cutting off your unemployment checks after 20 weeks instead of 26. The state just cut your ability to collect welfare to 48 months. You'd get a job, but the job you found pays less than what you make on unemployment after childcare costs are factored in. The bank is calling for your mortgage. Merry Christmas.

4. Teachers — As if the \$269-to-\$99-per-pupil cut in state funding to schools wasn't bad enough, the state capped the amount of health benefits a teacher can receive. Teacher tenure is gone. A couple of bad classes of kids and you could be gone, too. At least your retirement wasn't touched . . . that's 2012.

5. LGBT — The year started off well. The Civil Service Commission agreed to a domestic partner benefit for state employ-

ees. And then House Speaker Jase Bolger and Rep. Dave Agema went bananas. Snyder held them off during the budget process but when confronted with a bill, he couldn't say no, a case of hypocritical pandering since he supports civil unions.

More legalized discrimination. When homophobic acts are grounds for criminal prosecution in 20 years (hopefully less), will these people hold their heads in shame for this atrocity?

6. Elderly — Grandma and Grandpa are going have a heart attack when they see how much they're paying the state in '12. Snyder coaxed the Legislature into balance the state's budget by killing the state exemption on retirement income. We'll see how shopping goes for older folks, too, when they can't find the price tags.

7. Urban cities — Hello, Mr. Un-Elected, Unaccountable Emergency Manager. Since the state cratered our revenue sharing, please take over our cities — Benton Harbor, Flint, Pontiac, Ecorse, Detroit, Please gut our city services and the butcher the pay/benefit package of any employee left standing.

8. Feminists — A legislative session just isn't complete unless Right to Life can find a new and creative way to pass a bill outlawing what they call "partial birth abortion." It's a federally banned medical procedure. There is no proof that one has been performed in years. And yet, the '11 offering was practically the first thing out of the Senate this year. What a waste of time.

9. Working families — As long as you don't lose your job, get injured on the job

or make enough where you didn't count on the Earned Income Tax Credit, everything was OK. If you have kids, you can't exempt them from your state returns next year. Shared sacrifice, baby.

10. The Democratic Party — Of the 300 bills signed into law in 2011, Democrats sponsored 12. Democrats in Oakland County got to redraw county commission districts for the first time in a gazillion years. The Republican legislature simply changed a law, killed the maps and gave the drawing pen to a GOP-controlled commission. Power has its privileges, I guess.

11. Environmentalists — Schuette is fighting a one-year delay in new federal clear air in court instead of working with the decimated staffing levels at the Department of Environmental Quality to hold more polluters accountable.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of MIRS. You can e-mail him at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)

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'Like wind I go'

Remembering 10 Lansing-area people who died in 2011

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

To write this story about 10 people who died in greater Lansing this year, I looked at every daily obituary for 2011. Why? Shawn Riley, father of Aaron Riley, the 21-year-old MSU student who drowned in July, said it perfectly: "It's a shame we don't know more about our fellow people." A representative sample was impossible, but I wanted a variety of life stories, I would only talk with people who wanted to talk, and I would not mention golf once, just out of contrariness. Those were the only rules. Some people shared the circumstances of their loved one's death in detail; others didn't even want the cause known. Their privacy was respected. If there is any lesson to be drawn from one full year of death, here is the best I can come up with: Love people, listen to them, and take good care of them, yourself included, while they are still around. Then go back for extra. You won't regret it.



Courtesy Photo

Theodore Terzian Sr. ran a wholesaling business out of Lansing for 40 years.

Theodore Terzian Sr. woke up worried on Sept. 30.

That night, the Detroit Tigers were facing the New York Yankees in a crucial playoff game. What if he couldn't find the game on TV? His son's Comcast had so many channels.

Terzian, 84, had lived happily with his son, daughter-in-law and two grandkids at their home in Lansing for several years. "My wife got along with him better than

me," Ted Jr. recalled.

Ted Jr. assured his dad they would find the big game that night and went off to work. Ted Sr. cooked eggs for the boys, wrote up a list of things to pick up at Sam's Club, put on his jacket, went to the garage and fell dead of a massive stroke.

"The kids in the neighborhood called him Grandpa Ted," Terzian said. "You couldn't find anybody that didn't like him."

Terzian, a native of Highland Park, went to Boston University upon his return from World War II duty in the Pacific theater. His suite mate at Boston was a young theology student named Martin Luther King Jr.

"He told me the university considered him a minority student from Detroit, being Armenian, and put him the same suite with King," Ted Jr. said.

All Terzian remembered about King was that he was quiet. Both were in their early 20s.

While King stayed in Boston to become Dr. King, Terzian made his way to Detroit, took over his grandfather's wholesaling business, moved it to the middle of the state and renamed it the Lansing Candy and Cigar Co., where he ran it for 40 years. When bigger companies muscled in, Terzian and his wife, Paula, retired to run the Paramount News magazine stand in the downtown Knapp's Building.

As a kid, Ted Jr. worked after school and summers in the candy and tobacco warehouse on 1133 May St., between Oakland and Saginaw streets. On his first day, he turned black from hefting 20-pound bags of charcoal, but now he's glad of every minute he spent with his dad.

"He had no meanness in him," Ted Jr. said. "He used to tell us that if anybody ever made you mad, kill 'em with kindness."

*And look — a thousand blossoms with
the day
Woke — and a thousand scatter'd into
clay.*

George Petrides loved nature, even as a Boy Scout. In the U.S. Navy during World War II, he taught pilots how to deal with jungle snakes and insects in case they were shot down in the Pacific. He came to MSU in 1950 to teach in the Zoology Department and, soon after, in a brand new department: Fisheries and Wildlife.

Petrides studied big game in Kenya and Uganda for two years. He brought his family to live for a year in the heart of Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park. Elephants munched their thatch roof at night and trampled the garden.



Courtesy Photo

George Petrides traveled the world studying wildlife. He and his wife, Miriam, died 11 days apart after 70 years of marriage.

"It was a very lovely, incredible experience," his daughter, Olivia Petrides said. "He hunted, and did all those manly things. He was an adventurous spirit."

Petrides worked on projects all over the world, including bird studies in Antarctica and wildlife management in Afghanistan. His MSU grad students are running national parks in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

George and his wife, Miriam, squeezed the maximum out of life and then squeezed more in retirement. They lived together 55 years at Orchard Hill, their 80-acre farm in Williamston, where Miriam turned the garden into a work of art.

After 70 years of marriage, they died 11 days apart. Miriam, 97, died Oct. 29. George, 95, died Nov. 9.

*But still the vine the ancient ruby yields,
And still a garden by the water blows.*

Aaron Gregory Riley, 21, knew that swimming and epilepsy do not mix, but his mode of life was to dive into everything, water included.

"Aaron was aware that he was on a different time line than the rest of us," his father, Shawn Riley, said.

Aaron, an Okemos High and MSU student, skinny dipped in Swedish rivers, fished the Great Lakes, rafted down the Snake River in Wyoming. He went climbing in the Alps, the Andes and the Rockies, skied black diamond slopes from Colorado to Italy. He played violin with the Okemos High School Orchestra in Viennese cathedrals, ate and drank and romanced and argued without letup. His professors at MSU marveled at his energy and intelligence.

"Most people didn't know he had epilepsy," Shawn said.

Every year, doctors would adjust Aaron's medications, but the seizures never stopped.

On July 9, Aaron jumped into Pennsylvania's Raystown Reservoir for a swim, had a seizure and drowned. He died with an epilepsy awareness bracelet on his wrist that read "Out of the Shadows."

"The easy course would have been to



Courtesy Photo

Aaron Gregory Riley defied epilepsy by living a life of adventure. He drowned during a seizure at 21.

retreat, stay home, live a simpler, safer life," Shawn said. "He chose to step out."

Many of Aaron's teachers and classmates told his parents they've been inspired to do more and to live more intensely. Over 150 people have donated to his scholarship fund. "How much more could a parent want, than to hear that about their kid?" Shawn said.

Courtesy Photo

Rufus D. Gladney rose from janitor to vice president at Consumers Energy and raised thousands for the Uplift Our Youth foundation.



At Mississippi College in 1973, **Rufus D. Gladney** and his future wife, Evelyn, were part of the first group of 40 African Americans to integrate the private southern Baptist school. Two years ago, Gladney took over as board chairman of the Uplift Our Youth Foundation, a 9-year-old group that raises money for agencies that help at-risk youth.

The organization's founder, Larry Leatherwood, wanted to step aside and "bring a younger person who could take it to the next level."

"He was on his way to doing that," Leatherwood said.

But Gladney, 55, died Aug. 31.

In Lansing, Gladney's ascent was swift and sure. He worked his way up from janitor at Consumers Energy in 1978 to vice president of energy operations shortly before in May 2010, with a list of responsibilities that would fill the rest of this page. He was a family man, chairman of the Deacon Board at Friendship Baptist Church, and community sports coach.

"Rufus was a low-key person, more a thinker than a talker," Leatherwood said. "Whenever he talked, it was with

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meaning”

His reputation made him a sterling fundraiser, even after his death. This fall, Consumers Energy and its employees raised close to \$15,000 for Uplift Our Youth, in Gladney's honor.

*Ah, make the most of what ye yet may
spend,
Before we too into the dust descend.*

People put their trust in **Mel Dravenstatt** long before he became Lansing's "Mr. Holy Cross," maintenance man and jack-of-all-trades at Holy Cross Church on Lansing's west side. In 1943, young U.S. Army MP Dravenstatt was picked to be General Douglas MacArthur's bodyguard and chauffeur.

"[MacArthur] was very demanding, but my dad learned quickly how he wanted him to handle things," Jim Dravenstatt said. "He molded into that job and impressed him enough to stay in the position for about two years."

Dravenstatt was especially good at keeping Army trucks rolling. After the war, he worked for Howard Sober Inc., the trucking giant that hauled Lansing-made cars around the country. But he found his true calling at Holy Cross, where he maintained the school, church, rectory, cars and buses for 34 years and helped hundreds of neighbors in need of a handyman.

"He never said no, and a lot of people called on him," Jim said. Dravenstatt's mechanical skills were so esteemed that Mayor Gerald Graves invited him to serve on the Lansing Planning Commission. When a caller was needed for a square dance at the church, Dravenstatt would call his friend, Gov. G. Mennen Williams. "Soapy" would oblige while Dravenstatt and his wife, Shirley, burned up the dance floor.



Courtesy Photo

Melvin Dravenstatt was "Mr. Holy Cross" in Lansing and chauffeur to General Douglas MacArthur in World War II.

As a youngster, Jim helped his dad at the church, especially after an assistant was laid off.

"I'd help him shovel the snow off the church steps for 6:30 mass," he recalled. Father taught son a lot of skills, from auto mechanics to welding to charity work, that stand him in good stead.

"I love following in his footsteps," Jim said. On Sunday, Jim raised a Christmas glass of wine without a clink from his dad for the first time. Melvin E. Dravenstatt died Jan. 30 at 88.

*The moving finger writes, and having writ,
moves on.*

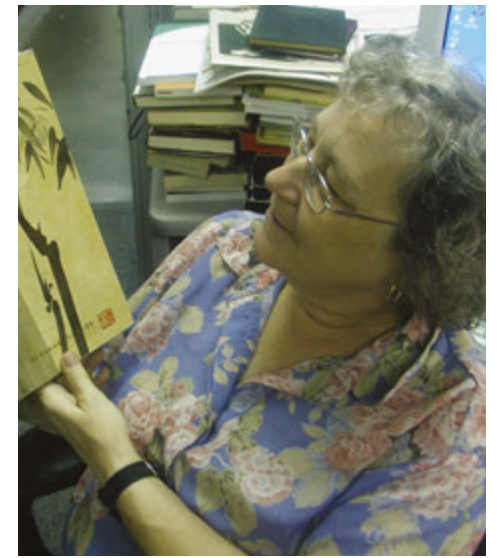
Sally Holliday used to say it was Christmas every day to work in the Book Burrow, a subterranean labyrinth of used books sold to raise money for the downtown Capital Area District Library.

Holliday, 65, passed away April 5 after

running the Book Burrow for six years. Her successor in the job, Patricia York, called her "as much a landmark of Lansing as the Capitol building."

Before she came to the Book Burrow, Holliday had 30 years of retail bookselling behind her, starting at Waldenbooks in the 1970s, but the library's browsing dungeon, with its tens of thousands of volumes, was the perfect habitat for her. She organized the books meticulously but creatively. The 1950s paperback rack belonged in a museum. Co-workers and Book Burrow habitués treasured her strong, colorful personality. "She collected experiences and was learned in ways far beyond book learning," librarian and Lansing history expert David Votta said. She was an animal trainer, massage therapist, and artist. Most of all, she loved the Book Burrow's egalitarian spread of knowledge via cheap books and had little

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Courtesy Photo

Sally Holliday treated everyone equally at the Book Burrow in the basement of the downtown library.

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respect for class or rank.

One afternoon, Votta ambled downstairs and saw Holliday break off a conversation with a group of adult customers to talk with a 4-year-old girl. "She bent over, listened intently and treated her as an equal because the girl had something real to say versus the mundane chatter of the adults," Votta said.

In early 1996, two African-American men died in police custody in Lansing. Tension ratcheted between the police and the black community. **Wilson Henry Caldwell**, a passionate civil rights leader and respected local businessman, had just become president of the local NAACP. Caldwell turned out to be the right man in the right place.

Caldwell, 64, died Dec. 10.

Lynn Jondahl, who represented East Lansing and the Meridian Township area in the state Legislature for 22 years, was serving in the house when Caldwell took charge of the NAACP in 1991.

"He was an easy person for us to go to with problems," Jondahl said. "He was a master of sitting down with people who were feeling victimized by decisions and bringing them together with community leaders. He bridged the gap."

The formula of confrontation and respect served Caldwell well on his talk radio show on WJIM AM in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "You had to be prepared when you talked with him," Jondahl said.

Larry Leatherwood, a close friend for decades, said Caldwell's contributions to the community went largely unnoticed. "You heard that expression, 'You get your flowers before you go?'" Leatherwood asked. "He didn't get them."



Courtesy Photo

Wilson Henry Caldwell helped to calm racial tensions in Lansing in the mid-1990s.



Courtesy Photo

Rick Tumanis designed computer art for clients and created electronic music for himself.

In July 2011, **Rick Tumanis** had high hopes for the on-and-off computer business he owned with a longtime friend and business partner, Gregg Seelhoff.

Tumanis went to his retail day job Thursday, July 28, thinking of the time he could devote himself completely to his first love, creating art for computer games. When the shift was over, he went home and got into bed. He never woke up.

"He didn't know he was sick," Seelhoff said. "He died from coronary disease."

Tumanis would have been 55 on Dec. 30.

When they worked together at Quest Software in Lansing in 1988, Tumanis was the "pixel pusher" (artist) and Seelhoff was the "code monkey" (programmer). They became close friends.

"He was one of the most intelligent people I ever met," Seelhoff said. They talked so much over the years that Seelhoff got a headset attachment for his phone. "I'd sit and hold the handset up for so long it started to hurt," he said.

Tumanis also poured his energy into the pulsating electronic music he created at home. He was in a local band called Idle Hands, and collaborated with his friend, a mysterious theremin player named Wolf, in a band called Mutually Assured Destruction.

For the Microsoft Plus game pack, Tumanis created tropical backgrounds and card-playing avatars with loads of personality. (You can play poker as a Clint Eastwood-ish guy with a poncho.) He also created the art for "Pretty Good Solitaire," one of the top-selling shareware Solitaire games of all time.

"He could put the pixels in the right way and it would look like a little elfin

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adventurer," Seelhoff said.

But Tumanis only wrote music for himself. "Music was the one place he wouldn't compromise," Seelhoff said. "He wouldn't let a client tell him, 'more drums' or 'more bass.' He wouldn't get into that position."

Both partners felt their most creative years were ahead, until July. "We were talking about making our business full time again, doing the stuff we like, and suddenly he's not there," Seelhoff said.

One thing is certain, that life flies.

Beatrice Richards retired as a Lansing elementary school librarian more than 30 years ago, but as recently as last year, graying former students would spot her and say hello.

Richards, who died March 29 at age 99, had plenty of admirers, including several of the children's authors whose books she read to Lansing kids.

One correspondent sent a framed picture of himself, taken by Richards, with a poem: "It's always been my fervent wish/ to be framed by Bea of Lansing Mich." The frame-ee was Ted Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, a Dartmouth buddy of Richards' brother-in-law.

Richards' daughter, Susan Brewster, recalled visits to La Jolla, Calif., where her uncle and Geisel lived across the street from each other. "Mother and he struck up a friendship," Brewster said. "They would write each other and he would send her little books."

One year, mother and daughter went to the Bologna Book Festival with children's author Tomie DePaola. "She liked to just take off and do something that sounded

fun, but it was usually related to children or education," Brewster said.

Richards traveled a lot — she was among the first educators invited to the former Soviet Union and China — but she was a Lansing lady through and through. She grew up on Ottawa Street and rode the streetcar down Michigan Avenue to MSU. (Her father, Thomas O'Brien, was elected mayor of Lansing in November 1940, but died before he could take office.)

Brewster considered her mom her best friend.

"We lived close by and I saw her every day," Brewster said. "She was sweet and kind. If people were gossiping she just ignored it."

In 1969, **Winston Wilkinson** was teaching philosophy at Harpur College in upstate New York. A smart, fiery woman with flowing black hair was one of his students. The course was in aesthetics.

"He was the only teacher to give me a 'B' that semester," Carolyn Wilkinson recalled. She was annoyed and intrigued.

"We started going together six hours after the grades were in," Carolyn said.

By Oct. 30, Wilkinson, now a retired MSU philosophy professor, had been in the hospital for two months, fighting cancer. He was 70 years old. He and Carolyn had been married 42 years.

"He wanted to live for me," Carolyn said.

When Winston got pneumonia, it was clear he would not go home. He asked for his ventilator to be removed. Five people sat vigil for two days.

"He felt he had done the things he wanted to do," Carolyn said. "He had been a poet, a world traveler, a philosopher."

In his earlier years, Wilkinson lectured while walking back and forth in front of the students, smoking cigarettes and tossing them out the window. He was a tough, funny, conscientious prof, with a



Courtesy Photo

Winston Wilkinson was a philosophy professor at MSU for 37 years.

special interest in existentialism.

Wilkinson found grading the only torturous part of his job. When friends came to visit, they would usually find him in the basement, bent dutifully over piles of half-baked student philosophy. When he retired in 2006 after 37 years at MSU, Carolyn and his friends threw him a bash they called "Professor Wilkinson Grades His Last Paper." At the party, Winston's

friend, singer/songwriter Joel Mabus, wrote him a tune that only used the notes A, B, C, D and F.

In retirement, Wilkinson dived into books he always wanted to read and hung with the other three members of the Merleau-Ponty Society, dedicated to a French philosopher you wouldn't expect to get his own society, however small, in East Lansing. Within a few years, serious health problems began to close in.

On Oct. 30, Winston closed his eyes and seemed to withdraw. At 3 a.m. Oct. 31, Carolyn sent everybody home. When they came back at 9 a.m., he opened his eyes.

"He was just delighted to see us," Carolyn said. "After that, he actively began to die. You can do that. It took maybe an hour."

Someone broke away from the deathbed vigil to find a computer and download Wilkinson's favorite poem, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," an 11th-century Persian poem about life's fleeting joys and the source of the verses sprinkled throughout this story.

Carolyn read the brief book to Win as he died.

There was a door to which I found no key:

There was a veil past which I could not see:

*Some little talk awhile of thee and me
There seem'd — and then no more of thee and me.*



Courtesy Photo

Lansing elementary school librarian Beatrice Richards befriended several children's authors, including Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss), pictured here.

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Top marks in the arts

City Pulse theater and music critics share favorite highlights from 2011

Rock: Lansing acts made waves nationally and internationally

By RICH TUPICA

Playing in a local rock band is a tough job these days, especially in this new world in which many think music should be absolutely free, downloadable or streamed.

Going to local rock clubs like Mac's Bar or The Loft isn't one click away, and most often it isn't free (unless one has managed to weasel their way onto a guest list). So it's a remarkable feat when bands not only win a local following, but also manage to make some waves nationally and internationally. Here are a few local outfits that have drawn crowds and sold records beyond state lines and across oceans.

Frontier Ruckus has been steadily growing since its debut indie-folk EP back in 2006. Led by songwriter Matthew Milia and banjo player David Winston Jones, the American-roots

group has toured the world playing intimate and melodic songs at clubs and massive festivals like Bonnaroo: Rolling Stone dubbed the band's appearance an "essential set" to see. A couple of cool points were earned when the Adult Swim network recently used the band's song "Dark Autumn Hour" in a plug for the network. Frontier Ruckus' latest full-length, "Deadfalls and Nightfalls," was re-released as a double vinyl LP this summer by local label Lower Peninsula Records. The deluxe LP features "Way Upstate and the Crippled Summer Pt.2," a collection of songs with a country twang to them. The extravagant package features eight square feet of artwork and liner notes.

The Cheap Girls has been staying true to its throwback power-pop motif for five years now (yup, it's been that long). The band, which debuted in 2008 with "Find Me a

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Theater: Stormfield's 'Heroes' was a triumph

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

My favorite show of 2011 was Stormfield Theatre's "Heroes," a play in which all the major elements of what makes fine theater came perfectly together. Based on a French play by Gerald Sibleyras and translated by Tom Stoppard, it is the sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes absurd story of three old World War I soldiers with a dream and scheme to escape the shackles of their veterans home.

Foremost, there was the brilliant acting of Richard Marlatt, Gary Houston and Richard Henzel, all three professionals obviously at the top of their game, and the thoughtful direction of Stormfield founder Kristine Thatcher. These four, however, did not stand alone. They were superbly supported by Kirk Domer's beautiful set and by the inventive lighting, costume and sound designs by Tim Fox, Holly Iler and Sergei Kvitko, respectively.

The journalist in me at first resisted naming "Heroes" as best of the year because of my personal connection to Stormfield (my husband serves on the theater's board of directors), but hey, this is



Courtesy Photo

Richard Marlatt starred in Stormfield Theatre's "Heroes," directed by Kristine Thatcher.

what's true for me. "Heroes": a shining gem.

A close second was Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Blackbird," by David Harrower, a complex look at child sexual abuse/pedophilia and its lifelong effects. Choosing this play was a raw act of courage by Peppermint's artistic director Chad Badgero and equally so by director Lela Ivey and its two actors, Doak Bloss and Angela Mishler, who had to execute a confronting, often frightening script.

Mishler was riveting as the abused child/woman and Doak Bloss unforgettable as the possible abuser. Always a consummate actor, "Blackbird" was Bloss' best work this year and perhaps of his entire theater career.

Also outstanding was director Rob Roznowski's "A Streetcar Named Desire," produced by the Michigan State University Department of Theatre. One of the elements that made this "Streetcar" so stunning is that director Rob Roznowski stayed true to the classic poetry of playwright Tennessee Williams' words while at the same time giving the audience a feeling of never having seen this play before. Honest, fleshed-out performances by Christina Traiser as Blanche and Curran Jacobs as Stanley added to the power of this production.

I also loved Williamston Theatre's wildly successful "And the Creek Don't Rise." Quirky, smart and touching, it was pure enjoyment grounded in the talents of playwright Joseph Zettelmaier; director Joseph Albright; actors Thomas D. Mahard, John Leopard and Kate Peckham and a crew (Daniel C. Walker, Reid G. Johnson, Holly Iler, and Will Myers) that delivered a spotless production in the arenas of set design, lighting, costumes and sound.

Theater: Riverwalk's 'Conspiracy' electrified

By PAUL WOZNAK

Community theaters, particularly in small towns, often rely on the tried and true. However, theater is far more exciting when companies take risks. New and daring works can turn into overambitious fiascos, but they can also soar higher than old standards when they succeed.

This past year, two productions stood out as courageous acts of theater. Riverwalk Theatre's "Conspiracy" and Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Blackbird" can surely credit their success to the strength of the scripts and the extraordinary commitment of their pro-bono cast and crews. But considerable credit should go to the directors who helmed and/or proposed these ambitious projects, and to the companies backing them. After all, neither show featured catchy songs or cute laugh lines designed for a guaranteed buck. These were engrossing, sometimes grossly descriptive dramas that forced audiences to contemplate situations beyond their daily comfort zones — and they were magnificent.

On paper, "Conspiracy" seemed an impossibility. Adapting an Emmy Award-winning television script for the stage by a first-time community theater director with an enormous cast and a relatively tiny budget should have prevented the production from ever beginning. The story

of 15 Nazis plotting the Holocaust over a lunch conference was not — and was never intended to be — crowd-pleasing fluff. Yet director James Houska persuaded Riverwalk Theatre leaders to consider the script as a mainstage production. The final result impressed even screenwriter Loring Mandel. Innovative blocking that nearly neutralized the lack of camera close-ups, strong acting from Michael Hays and others, plus a stunningly detailed set and costumes combined to create a show that was

equally as riveting as the

televised version.

Peppermint Creek's task seemed equally insurmountable. In "Blackbird," two actors had to believably portray an adult couple seeing each other for the first time since their affair when he was 40 and she was 12. Doak Bloss and Angela Mishler did just that, taking audiences on an exhausting and often heartbreaking journey that left everyone speechless. Director Lela Ivey once again set a new high bar for community productions, applying her brand of high-octane, dark, twisted

chemistry to an already volatile script and creating electric performances that took days to digest.

Audiences that saw "Blackbird" understand that the show went far beyond assumptions about pedophilia. They should also know that this was one of Peppermint Creek's most daring steps yet into the realm of terrifying and awesome theater.



Courtesy Photo

Michael Hays in Riverwalk Theatre's "Conspiracy."

Jazz and classical: Endangered? Not here

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

What Madagascar is to endangered lemurs, America's universities have become to those exquisite and rarely observed species, classical and jazz music. In 2011, bucking all market trends in the surrounding musical ecosystem, greater Lansing was lemur central. An astonishing array of musical events, large and small, kept music lovers ring-tailed and frisky, thanks largely to the professors and students of Michigan State University's burgeoning College of Music.

These musicians are not a shy species. From gigs in local restaurants, coffee shops and bars to the Wharton Center and the Metropolitan Opera, they really got around.

On the jazz side, a superb series of concerts at Old Town's Creole Gallery rolled out original suites by each member of the MSU Professors of Jazz, expanding their growing legacy. (Watch for a double CD featuring all four suites to be released some time in 2012.)

There were big names at the Wharton Center, including trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, vocal legend Tony Bennett and vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater, who came

to town just after winning a Grammy, but the biggest jazz story of 2011 was the greening of the local jazz scene. MSU professors, students, alumni and veteran local jazz musicians fanned out to more than a dozen venues and filled every week from end to end with music. There were Jazz Tuesdays at Stober's, Wednesdays at Gracie's Place, Thursdays at Mumbai, Fridays at ENSO's (expanded to three nights), Second Sunday at Stober's and much more, with plenty of one-off surprise jams at pubs, coffee shops, galleries and, for all we know, Board of

Water & Light substations all over town. Promotion and support from Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, a new jazz organization, helped spread the word and seed the scene. Such organizations come

See Jazz, Page 15



Chris Galford/City Pulse

Jazz saxophonist Grace Kelly performed twice this year in the area.

Rock

from page 12

Drink Home," is gaining more steam than ever after countless tours and a couple trips to Europe. The band also released a list of new tour dates that start in March and stretch from New York City's Knitting Factory down to Texas. After inking a deal with Rise Records, the trio immediately began recording its third full-length, "Giant Orange," which Rise releases Feb. 21. The album was recorded by Tom Gabel, frontman for Against Me!, a national punk band. For a preview of the record, which is already garnering buzz from Alternative Press and other publications, visit YouTube, where the songs "Ruby" and "Cored to Empty" are being streamed. The band's local release show is Feb. 17 at Mac's Bar.

The Peoples Temple has acquired a small pile of 7-inch vinyl singles, released by an assortment of indie labels. The '60s-inspired psych-punk band was formed in 2007 by two sets of brothers, and has since played reverb-drenched shows from Lansing to South By Southwest in Austin. In May, the band dropped "Sons of Stone," its debut full-length. The slab of wax was released by HoZac Records, a Chicago-based label. The LP received praise multiple times from Pitchfork Media, along with positive write-ups from The Los Angeles Times, Maximum RocknRoll and countless blogs. Internationally, the album was applauded by magazines like Uncut and New Musical Express. The band is recording its sophomore album.

Bermuda Mohawk Productions, a

relentlessly busy local label, was in full swing in 2011. The label co-released an LP by All Eyes West, a Chicago-based melodic-punk trio. In the spring, the label released a 12-inch by The Fucking Cops, a Cleveland punk rock band. That album also picked up stellar reviews nationally, and had a video featured on BlankTV. Local metal band Cavalcade, which includes BMP founder Cale Sauter, was signed by Housecore Records, a label owned by metal legend Phil Anselmo (former vocalist of Pantera). Anselmo even name-dropped the Lansing rockers in an interview with Decibel Magazine. The label plans to release a full-length Cavalcade album in 2012.

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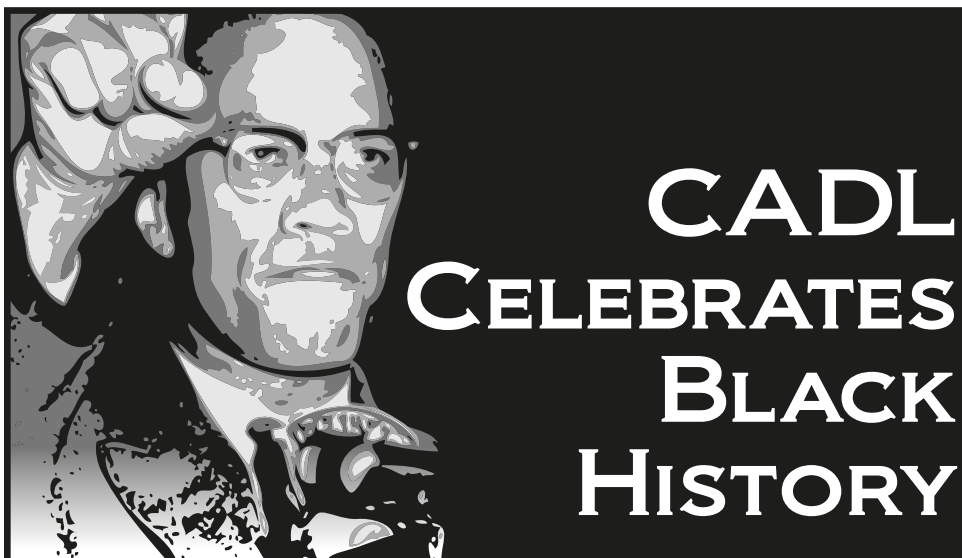
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Malcolm X & Hip Hop

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Saturday, Jan. 14 • 1:30 pm

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Saturday, Jan. 14 • 2 pm

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THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Movies: Ten of the best — and a bunch of bad news

After a somewhat slowish start, 2011 turned out to be a terrific year for movies, some of them coming from long-established artists (Woody Allen, Werner Herzog) and others from rising stars (Thomas McCarthy, Jeff Nichols).

10. **"Drive"** — Ryan Gosling had a sensational year, and this seductively stylish film-noir was the high point. Please don't confuse it with Nicolas Cage's atrocious "Drive Angry." (Cage had an awful year.)

9. **"Win Win"** — Writer-director Thomas McCarthy is turning into one of the sharpest, smartest filmmakers around, as evidenced by this superb comedy-drama built around morally conflicted wrestling coach Paul Giamatti.

8. **"Buck"** — This has been a terrific year for documentaries, and director Cindy Meehl's look at real-life "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman is one of the very finest.

7. **"Certified Copy"** — Forget "The Tree of Life": The year's most devilishly entertaining puzzle was this offbeat examination of the tricky relationship between Juliette Binoche and William Shimell.

6. **"Beginners"** — Love has many faces (and multiple definitions) as father and son Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer sort out their histories in director Mike Mills' heartbreaker of a comedy.

5. **"Cave of Forgotten Dreams"** — Director Werner Herzog leads an unforgettable, enthralling tour of France's Chauvet Cave, which houses stunning paintings from the Paleolithic era.

4. **"Shame"** — Deeply disturbing, yet ultimately hypnotic, director Steve McQueen's eerie portrait of a sex addict (Michael Fassbender) and his aimless, tormented sister (Carey Mulligan) chills the soul.

3. **"Midnight in Paris"** — After a decade or so of hits and misses, Woody Allen comes

back strong with a lovably loony tale of a writer (Owen Wilson) who gets a chance to consult with his idols, thanks to a bit of Parisian magic.

2. **"Take Shelter"** — Michael Shannon, Jessica Chastain and Kathy Baker are riveting in this spellbinding thriller-parable from writer-director Jeff Nichols about a man plagued by apocalyptic visions.

1. **"The Artist"** — A silent film in 2011? Yes, but what seems like a goofy gimmick quickly evolves into a hilarious, touching and enchanting tale of Hollywood life in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

"The Artist," "Take Shelter" and "Shame" are slated to open locally in early 2012, which gives us something to look forward to. As for these terrific runner-ups,

many are still in theaters, or on DVD:

"Hugo"
"Young Adult"
"Rango"
"The Descendants"
"50/50"
"Coriolanus"
"We Need to Talk About Kevin"
"Tabloid"
"Martha Marcy May Marlene"
"Into the Abyss"

Must we take the sour with the sweet? In no particular order, here is a bumper crop of bad news, a few musts-to-avoid at Netflix:

"Something Borrowed"
"What's Your Number?"
"Drive Angry"
"Trespass"
"Jack and Jill"
"Take Me Home Tonight"
"Your Highness"
"Sucker Punch"
"Battle: Los Angeles"
"Conan the Barbarian"



Michael Shannon sees the future (and it's really creepy) in "Take Shelter."

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Theater: 'Boys' bruised, while 'Blackbird' soared

By MARY C. CUSACK

The City Pulse theater reviewers see upwards of 50 shows a year, which means that by the end of the year many of the productions are a blur. The standouts, the ones that eventually grab up fistfuls of Pulsar nominations and wins, are typically plays that have a lasting emotional impact.

There were two stunning pieces in 2011 that still haunt me. The first was Michigan State University's "Good Boys and True," performed in the former Chrome Cat space during the Renegade Theatre Festival in Old Town. The play addresses the fallout of a sex scandal at an exclusive prep school: One selfish, stupid sexcapade by popular senior Brandon (Wes Haskell) has far-lasting repercussions. Being young, dumb and full of — ahem — stuff, Brandon believes that he can escape the situation unscathed by sheer charm and lacks empathy for damage he has done to his family, the girl he victimized and the reputation of his school.



Courtesy photo

Doak Bloss and Angela Mishler examined the aftermath of a relationship between a man and a 12-year-old girl in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Blackbird."

Director Rob Roznowski designed a minimal production, with no set and few props to distract audiences from the compelling script and sharp acting. The cast, including Dana Brazil, Leslie Hull and Andrew Harvey, was phenomenal.

Maybe there is something about the space, or maybe it is just a coincidence, but the second biggest gut-punch of a

play, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Blackbird," also took place in the former Chrome Cat. This two-character, one-act play portrays the unhappy reunion of two former lovers. The conflict arises in that Una (Angela Mishler) was only 12 years old when the relationship took place, and Ray (Doak Bloss) was 40.

"Blackbird" takes on a whole new level of creepy in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky scandal, and one wonders if Peppermint Creek or director Lela Ivey would have changed their selection if the scandal had occurred before the play. Knowing Ivey, probably not. Conversations about the play would certainly have been very different in the context of current events. "Blackbird" delves into the question of whether Ray would be clinically classified as a pedophile. His situation is not nearly as cut and dried as the Sandusky case.

The two plays make terrific bookends. "Boys" introduces a tragic situation that the audience knows will have lasting repercussions for all involved, while in "Blackbird" we see that long-term emotional toll. What happens in between provides job security to many mental health professionals.

Theater: Some of the best was in the streets

By TOM HELMA

My take on the best theater of the year is that it took place on the streets, most noticeably with the surge in flash-mob theater taking place everywhere and then, more recently, in the Occupy political street theater occurring in many cities around the world.

Highly entertaining.

Shakespeare once noted that all the world is a stage. This may explain why local staged productions of recycled chestnuts of yesteryear are drawing decreasing numbers of audience members.

Yet, if it is of interest, people will come.

Riverwalk Theatre demonstrated this in the fall as record numbers of patrons showed up for a well-performed, entirely unlikeable Nazi-era play, "Conspiracy." Earlier, Riverwalk had charmed cynical critics with a tender rendition of "Almost Maine."

Substance and style seem to be the buzzwords that stick in my mind this year. You can't have one without the other.

Jazz

from page 13

and go, but from the looks of this well-organized, broad-based group, it looks like JAMM will stick.

Although the MSU Jazz Vocal department folded its tent this year, the program's top prof and guiding spirit, Sunny Wilkinson, was more in view than ever, including a symphonic celebration with the Lansing Symphony.

More big stars came to town for April's Jazz Spectacular at MSU, owing to the pull of Jazz Studies chief Rodney Whitaker. The roster included sax legend Jimmy Heath,

trumpet star Jeremy Pelt, and young sax phenomenon Grace Kelly. The pace hardly slowed in summer, with two fine jazz festivals: East Lansing's Summer Solstice festival in June (Kelly came back to astound the older folks) and Old Town Jazz Fest in August, highlighted by an earthy and ethereal set from Chicago flutist Nicole Mitchell.

Classical music, from symphonic to vocal to chamber music, was no less aglow in 2011. The Lansing Symphony maintained a five-year blush of passion under maestro Timothy Muffitt, including a sublime collaboration with visiting pianist Anton Nel (two Ravel concertos in one night) and a stunning Ginastera harp concerto with harpist Yolanda Kondonassis.

The symphony's chamber series and its Old Town doppelganger, Absolute Music, stayed strong and inventive.

Although the Vienna Symphony invaded the Wharton Center with the Eroica Trio for a memorable large-scale thrill in September, top classical stars don't make it to town as often as they used to. That hardly mattered, though, with a constant stream of recitals by MSU's top instrumentalists and vocalists, from flutist Richard Sherman to the Verdehr Trio to soprano Molly Filmore, who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in Philip Glass's "Satyagraha" in September. (The high-def simulcast in Lansing drew over 50 people, despite some challenging music.)

But Lansing's biggest story in music in

2011 came from the world of opera. Just as Rodney Whitaker helps draw stars like Wynton Marsalis or Jimmy Heath to Lansing, opera director Melanie Helton and her superb opera program lured one of the country's hottest composers to town for the most ambitious MSU production yet, Ricky Ian Gordon's four-hour "The Grapes of Wrath." It was only the fifth production of the opera in the United States, and the student company served up a wrenching, lyrical triumph. The convergence of a brilliant, world-class composer, Helton's passionate and talented young singers, and the opera's painful relevance to America's latest economic crash made for an unforgettable, big-city, pinch-me cultural high in a town that gets more than its share.

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A harvest of Hemingway, plus first-rate reads from contemporary authors

By BILL CASTANIER

When it comes to books, 2011 was the YOH — Year of Hemingway — complete with a masterful collection of letters, a new coffee table book, a book on his first wife and a book on his boat, the *Pilar*, joining a Woody Allen movie that pays tribute to the Lost Generation of the “Moveable Feast.” This seems fitting since 2011 was the 50th anniversary of Papa’s death.

“**The Letters of Ernest Hemingway: Volume I 1906-1922**” is the first of 14 volumes that will fill our shelves over the next decade or so. What makes this book remarkable is how it covers the years in which Hemingway spent idyllic summers “Up North” in Michigan. You will find yourself asking if anyone ever threw out a single scrap of paper that Hemingway had something to do with. Of course, the answer is no, except for Hadley, his first wife, whom author Paula McLain has resurrected in “The Paris Wife,” her fictional account of those lazy, hazy, crazy days of Paris. McLain has captured the love, the betrayal and this unusual relationship in one beautiful read.

“**Hemingway’s Boat: Everything He Loved in Life and Lost**” could’ve been subtitled: “His Fifth Wife” or maybe a “Mistress for Life.” For sure, the *Pilar*, was his first and last love, and it was where Hemingway spent his happiest days, decimating swordfish and marlin, chasing women and teaching his sons the manly arts of boozing and cigar chomping. In case you didn’t know, he also chased Nazi submarines on his beloved *Pilar*. “Hemingway’s Boat” is an unusual but satisfying look at the man of letters and adventure, taken from the totally different vantage point of the flying bridge.

“**Hemingway: A Life in Pictures**” is an elegantly assembled 200-plus-page coffee table book co-authored by his granddaughter, Mariel, and Hemingway scholar Boris

Vejdovsky. The phrase “never seen before” has become a cliché when referring to Hemingway photos, but this book is packed with hundreds of such Hemingway photographs, chronicling him from childhood to manhood. There are some real stunners here, so you can forgive Vejdovsky for identifying Walloon Bay as being “near Oak Park.” He will pay for this mistake many times over next summer when the International Hemingway Society meets in the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area.

I’m not sure that R. Crumb and Hemingway would’ve been buddies, but they were both creative geniuses that loved France and art. After all, Papa did love the work of Picasso and Dali (“Midnight in Paris” tells us so).

Crumb has a new slip-covered collection of his work on music projects aptly styled to look like a faux-record album and titled “**The Complete Record Cover Collection**.” There are the gems he did for Janis Joplin, but also lesser-known pieces, like those he did for the Hawks & Eagles, the inventors of cowboy-gypsy music. A word of warning for neophytes: Crumb is best-known for his rude, misogynistic work of the 1960s, which is well represented. But put that aside and dig deeper into some of the best record cover albums ever. One question: What’s up with no Creem magazine art, Mr. Crumb?

Let’s get serious for a moment and put Stephen Greenblatt’s “**The Swerve**” on the bookshelf. “The Swerve” is a bibliomystery of sorts about how the discovery of one lost poem, “On the Nature of Things” by Lucretius, changed the world of art and literature and helped create the Renaissance.

“Swerve,” which won this year’s National Book Award for non-fiction, shows how one man’s vision of the world can change it in ways that were unimaginable to him.

Two authors also helped redefine the

river trip and riding the rails this year by looking at those literary conventions in totally new ways. Bonnie Jo Campbell’s “**Once Upon a River**,” about a young woman on a coming-of-age river trip, seemed to be on everyone’s “best of list” this year. Continuing on the noirish themes she has perfected in previous work, Campbell’s “River” is a beautiful, complex and haunting look at nature and a way of life.

After “Once Upon a River,” jump a train with Scott Sparling’s “**Wire to Wire**.” The Jackson native jumped trains as a teenager and turned that experience into a novel that is dark and disturbing without vampires or zombies — although his characters sometimes seem to be devoid of any lifelike characteristics. When you’re finished reading “Wire,” you’ll wonder if you just read a mystery or a dystopian adventure. This debut novel is quite unlike any ride you have ever taken.



Courtesy Photo

Former Jackson resident Scott Sparling wrote “Wire to Wire.”

It seems we are always looking for the next Robert Johnson and his legendary pact with the devil. Susan Whitall, noted rock historian and former Detroit News journalist and editor of Creem Magazine, has dug deep to tell the story of Detroit Little Willie John, who arguably helped create soul music. “**Fever: Little Willie John’s Fast Life, Mysterious Death and the Birth of Soul**” delves into John’s life in music, which was one of great plateaus and deep trenches. Whitall’s engaging writing captures his life with great intensity. I’d take this book over a presidential biography anytime.

If you ever wondered how Michael Moore became Michael Moore, pick up “**Here Comes Trouble**,” his memoir of his early years. You’ll find yourself totally immersed in the sweet stories of childhood (and some less sweet). And the cover photo of Michael as a toddler is priceless.

As long as we are well into nostalgia, “**Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend**,”

Susan Orlean’s biography of the one dog that helped shape America, is made for the movies. It’s the best dog book you may ever read, and Orleans, a University of Michigan grad, is one of the best storytellers around.

Another U-M graduate, Jesmyn Ward, will bring you back to reality with her National Book Award-winning “**Salvage the Bones**,” about a poor black family in Mississippi confronting Hurricane Katrina. You will find out how familial love takes on all comers and, against all odds, stands tall against nature and other invaders.

Finally, two Michigan poet-novelists have written two of the most compelling collections of poetry you will find in one year. Jim Harrison’s “**Songs of Unreason**” and Laura Kasischke’s “**Space in Chains**” are sometimes desperate looks at a fleeting life. But taken one at a time over a long period they are more about who we are as human beings and what we care about the most.

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AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Q: A divorced male friend and I recently became “friends with benefits.” However, I’m not receiving the same, uh, level of benefits as he is. He isn’t giving me orgasms from intercourse, and his pleasuring of me is measured in seconds rather than minutes, despite my telling him that this is a problem. (I haven’t felt this pressure before: “You’ve got 60 seconds to orgasm!”) He also keeps reminding me that he doesn’t want any kind of commitment. I get that, and I keep telling him so, but he’s persisted with the warnings to the point where I have to say stuff like “I hear and understand the boundaries of this relationship and am in agreement with them.” I’ve known him since we were 8, and he isn’t a player. Part of me thinks he isn’t attracted to me. He’s fit and I’m...less-than-fit and have big boobs, and I think they freak him out. However, out of bed, we laugh and have fun and connect. Oh, what to do...

—Bothered

A: This guy treats pleasuring you like it’s something on a chore wheel.

Bizarrely, you’re in “friends with benefits” relationship that’s short on benefits, which is like buying a blender that doesn’t blend, a Cuisinart that doesn’t cuise. Unfortunately, the elusive female orgasm is especially persnickety when one’s partner sets up a sexual ambience reminiscent of one of those movies where Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson are staring down a ticking time bomb: “Hey, baby, just relax, lay back and let it happen — anytime before this kitchen timer I’ve placed on your nightstand strikes :60!”

Sure, poor Booboo might have niggling fears you’ll get attached, but it isn’t like you’re buying baby clothes and leaving wedding magazines around. It’s unlikely he’d force numerous icky conversations about boundaries on some chickie of his

more recent acquaintance. But, probably because he’s known you forever, he feels free to go manners-optional and let his worries all hang out: “Don’t take your coat off. You won’t be staying. And by the way, I’d prefer if you’d fake your orgasms. It would be so much less work for me.”

Yep, this boy toy of yours is a real animal in bed — a rat gnawing away at your self-confidence. Why are you still involved with him? Well, there’s a tendency to try to fix a thing instead of just bailing and to get so caught up in the momentum of your efforts that you neglect to consider whether the thing should just be put out on the curb. In continuing to get in bed with a man who *can* keep his hands off you and pretty much does, you’re a co-conspirator in your feeling like crap. It’s really damaging to be with somebody who isn’t into you. Even in an FWB situation, you need a man who finds you hot — or at least is enough of a friend to give you the sense that he’s undressing you with his eyes, not using them to drop a refrigerator box over you.

Q: I’ve had a crush on a guy who’s been flirting with me at my neighborhood coffeehouse. Today, he sat by the door, watching as four elderly people struggled to go out — a couple pushing walkers and, about five minutes later, a couple who were all hunched over and using canes. I was seated in the back, but when I saw nobody was helping them, I ran over and held the door. Is his behavior a clear sign that he’d be bad boyfriend material?

—Door Closing

A: Sometimes it’s hard to know what to do when you see somebody in need. A person falls down on the sidewalk in front of you. Do you just step over him? Or do you stop and take his wallet and then step over him? In assessing people, I tend to go with F. Scott Fitzgerald’s notion: “Action is character.” Or, in this case, inaction. I personally don’t know how you sit back and enjoy the view as a parade of infirm elderly people struggle

out a door, but I do know that things aren’t always as they seem. Maybe it looked like he was looking but he was in some sort of fugue state. Maybe he has a cranky, independent granny who sees any help as an insult: “Why don’tcha just throw me in a hole and stick a wreath over my head?!” If you end up going out with him, do what you should with any guy you date: Look closely at his behavior, especially when he thinks nobody’s watching. Be honest with yourself if it seems a fundamental lack of empathy kept him in his seat — much as you’d like to believe that there’s a rash of pranksters going around to coffeehouses and gluing all the hot guys’ feet to the floor.

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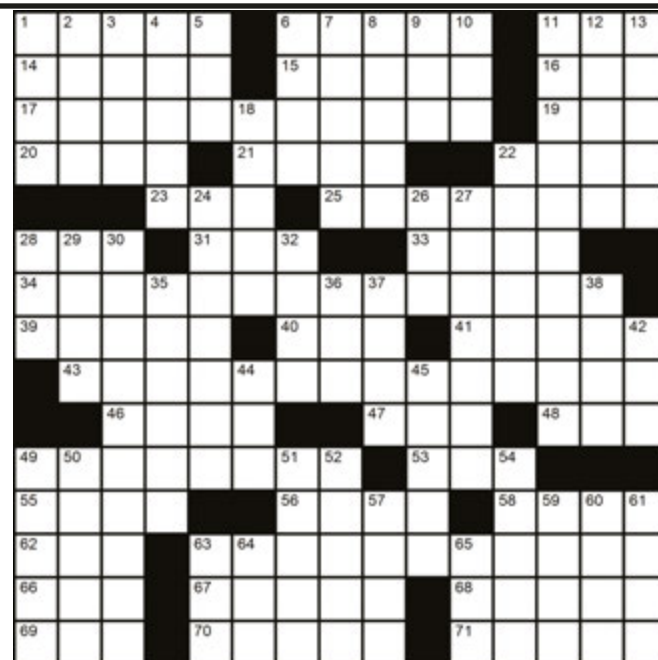
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“The Worst of 2011” —it’s year-end, my friend.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 ___-Barbera cartoons
- 6 Thesaurus guy
- 11 Fight determination
- 14 Another name for a person
- 15 With a BMI over 30
- 16 Burgundy played by Will Ferrell
- 17 Adam Sandler cringe-fest that topped many “Worst Movie of 2011” lists
- 19 “Who ___ you kidding?”
- 20 “Very interesting...”
- 21 “Hey, wait ___!”
- 22 U.S. Treasury agents
- 23 Scrappy-___ (crime-fighting pup)
- 25 HP tablet released in July 2011, then discontinued six weeks later (then revived later in the year!)
- 28 Leftover in a tray
- 31 Yukon manufacturer
- 33 Cote d’Ivoire’s prime minister Guillaume ___ (hidden in WINDSOR, ONTARIO)
- 34 Metacritic’s lowest-rated Fall 2011 TV show
- 39 “Nice haircut...did you ___ bet?”
- 40 Dorm leaders
- 41 Artless
- 43 His “Seeking Major Tom” made Pitchfork’s “Worst Album Covers of 2011” list
- 46 Kettle Brand’s line of corn chips
- 47 Skin art, slangily
- 48 Chang’s Siamese twin
- 49 Doomed Netflix offshoot on CNET’s “20 Worst-Named Tech Products”



- 53 “The Darjeeling Limited” director Anderson
- 55 Fork point
- 56 Brand of big rig
- 58 Steel beam named for the letter it resembles
- 62 Dominique Strauss-Kahn’s former org.
- 63 Tackle box item turned hair accessory that was one of Yahoo!’s “Worst Trends of 2011”
- 66 Health care assn.
- 67 Come up
- 68 Sing from the mountaintops
- 69 Neighbor of Isr.
- 70 Underneath
- 71 Persuasive piece

- 5 Simile center
- 6 Guns, in old slang
- 7 ___ d’art
- 8 Company with a green mascot
- 9 Course for immigrants: abbr.
- 10 Abbr. on a business card
- 11 Gymnastics event in the Olympics
- 12 Seoul’s location
- 13 How hair may stand
- 18 Supermodel Campbell
- 22 It may be empty
- 24 Crazy Horse’s group of Sioux
- 26 Org. for an admiral
- 27 Word with a common origin
- 28 Athlete’s knee injury site, often
- 29 Take third place
- 30 Secretly is conspiring against
- 32 Michael of “Arrested

- Development”
- 35 Approve something again on Facebook
- 36 Late comedian Kinison
- 37 Helper, for short
- 38 Cinematographer Nykvist
- 42 Rowing machine unit
- 44 “Was ___ das?”
- 49 Wax removers
- 50 Milquetoast
- 51 Medium where addresses include “@”
- 52 Rizzo of “Midnight Cowboy”
- 54 Grain holders
- 57 Take some tabacky
- 59 Chums
- 60 Section
- 61 Count (on)
- 63 Laundry detergent brand
- 64 Before, to poets
- 65 Reuben bread

City Pulse Classifieds

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

Creative General Manager Lansing’s Top Gay Nightclub is seeking a full-time creative general manager. Must possess a high-school diploma and have bar management experience. Must be highly organized and have great people skills. Send cover letter and resumes to clubspiral@aol.com. Please no calls.

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED Cash paid daily. Apply at 4773 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. Bring current driving record. Must be 23 years or older. Two years taxi driving experience required. Spartan Yellow Cab.

REFRIGERATOR - French door, bottom freezer, vastly spacious 29 cu ft stainless steel Samsung fridge with door ice and water dispenser. Only 4 months old. Originally priced at \$3,000 - a deal at \$1400 now. Must go by 15th. Imagine what this would look like under, well, beside the tree Christmas morning! Call 517-575-5599 anytime.

DELIVERY DRIVER NEEDED

City Pulse needs a driver with car to deliver the paper on Wednesdays starting by 9 a.m. Call (517) 999-5069.

©2011 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548.

OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, December 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

EVENTS

Holiday Break Family Films. Featuring a G- or PG-rated movie. 1 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Kwanzaa Craft. For ages 7 and up. Learn the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and craft. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

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

Dec. 29

Jazz swings into Old Town

Jazz guitarist Randy Napoleon and his sextet perform at Old Town's Perspective 2 studio. Listen to original songs by Napoleon, as well as new arrangements of jazz standards from the group's CD "The Jukebox Crowd." Napoleon is touring with singer/pianist Freddy Cole and was featured on his last three albums: "Live at Dizzy's Club: The Dreamer in Me," "Freddy Cole Sings Mr. B" and "Talk to Me." Napoleon has performed all over the world with vocalist Michael Bubl , including appearances on "Today," "Regis and Kelly" and many more. A pre-show party with a signed copy of Randy's new CD begins at 5:30 p.m., and tickets are \$45 each, or \$80 a pair. General admission begins at 7 p.m. \$17 general admission advance tickets online, \$20 at door; \$12.50 student advance tickets online, \$15 at door. Perspective 2, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880. Perspective2studio.com.

Ceramic show begins year

Jan. 1

Saper Galleries will hold a reception for its exhibition "Love and Family: The Ceramic Relief Tiles of Ruth Faktor" from 1 to 4 p.m. Faktor's handcrafted glazed ceramic tiles depict families, couples and the ancient cities of Jerusalem Jaffa, and Cesarea. Faktor creates these tiles in her studio in Israel. The tiles are versatile, and can be displayed on stands or hung on walls. The show runs through January. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. FREE. Saper Galleries & Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0815. www.sapergalleries.com.



Courtesy Photo

Winter Break Activity Days. Ages 6-14, can do hobbies & crafts. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Cat Adoption. For Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue. 6 p.m. Price varies. PetSmart (West Lansing), 305 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (517) 622-4653.

MUSIC

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

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

Karaoke. By Ryan. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Bar & Grill, 2085 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 367-7755.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Out of this World Book Club. Discuss "The City and the City," by China Mieville. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Thursday, December 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Holiday Drop-In Art. Come paint, draw, collage,

print, make cards, and more. Make art yourself, with friends and with family. 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$5 per participant. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

EVENTS

Toddler Storytime. Stories for ages 2-3. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Winter Break Activity Days. 2 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Dec. 28)

Winter Break Cinema. A family film on the big screen on our auditorium. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

MUSIC

Randy Napoleon Sextet. Songs by Napoleon and new arrangements from Detroit Music Factory. 7 p.m. \$12.50-20. Perspective 2, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880. perspective2studio.com.

Rush Clement. Live music. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Marks Watershed, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 999-7433.

Don Middlebrook. Live music. 6-10 p.m. FREE. Reno's West, 5001 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

Ray Townsend. Live music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

Friday, December 30

EVENTS

Popcorn and a Movie. Featuring "Cars 2," (G). 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Winter Womp Dubstep Showcase. Featuring Br'ink, CaliBuddz, JMillz, Satta Don Dada and Antonio Bliss. 9 p.m. \$5. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.

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

Rush Clement. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Bar & Grill, 2085 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 367-7755.

Saturday, December 31

EVENTS

Cat Adoption. For Mid-Michigan Cat Rescue. 1 p.m. Price varies. PetSmart, 305 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (517) 622-4653.

SEE NEW YEARS EVENTS PAGE 20

Monday, January 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

GriefShare. DVD series, with group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston

See Out on the Town, Page 21



Meditation

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quanamtemple.org

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Hard

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TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 21

TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

NA STYLE JAA'S PRE-NYERAP SHOW



Courtesy Photo

Na Style Jaa

For those who cannot wait until New Year's Eve, The Loft hosts a night of unconventional hip-hop acts at a Friday show dubbed "New Year's Eve EVE." Lansing-based Na Style Jaa takes the stage. The eccentric rap group formed in January, and has since created a genre the group calls "story core," which most often combines humor and dramatized historical events into the lyrics. For example, its song "Party at the Panama Canal" has a central idea that, since the Panama Canal took 10 years to build, there must've been a huge drunken party to celebrate. Other songs take a more ambiguous angle: "Lost in the City" is about a young saxophone player who traveled to the city to pursue music, but ended up a sidewalk performer. All the beats are self-engineered, mixed and mastered by the group. Also making some noise will be Goat Machine, a Lansing-based high-energy group that mixes

hip hop, folk and funk. Opening the show is The Silver Sun.

Friday, Dec. 30 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$5 advance, \$6 for 21+, \$8 for 18 and older door - 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. show.

NEON NEW YEAR'S AT MAC'S



Courtesy Photo

DJ Ruckus

A roster of area DJs spins into 2012 at Mac's Bar Saturday. The event, titled "Neon NYE 2012," features bass-bumpin' sets from DJ Ruckus, Nic Bouldin, Sizl, AK DJ and Andy Lynch. The bar serves until 4 a.m. and will also supply gourmet hors d'oeuvres, champagne for a toast, cheeses of the world, a fruit platter, a mixed vegetable tray, various desserts and a chocolate fountain. This event is an extension of "Neon Tuesday," a weekly electro night hosted by Mac's Bar.

Saturday, Dec. 31 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$7, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

FUNKY NYE BLUES BASH

The Green Door's New Year's Eve show includes a funky-blues performance by Smooth Daddy, some party favors and a champagne toast. A limited amount of V.I.P. tickets are also available. Smooth Daddy, which claims to be the "funkiest band in Lansing," plays a mixture of funk, blues and rock. It includes drummer and vocalist Mike Daniels, lead singer/guitarist Sam Brown and bassist Joe Cardinas.

Saturday, Dec. 31 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$10, 21 and over, doors at 8 p.m., show goes to 3 a.m.

FAHRENHEIT 2012

Lansing's south side lights up with the "2012 Capital City New Year's Eve Bash" at Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge. The event takes place in two themed rooms. In the main bar, the club will have dual DJs mixing all night. In the lounge is the laid-back "Euro bar," with Euro-pop music bumping all night. Fahrenheit offers seven bars to shorten waits for drinks, several couples-only tables and three cabanas just off the dance floor. General admission includes a reception from 9 to 10 p.m., a New York City-style blow-out at midnight, complete with balloon drop, a confetti storm, champagne toast, party favors and hors d'oeuvres. Other attractions include a 3 a.m. breakfast buffet, a specialty martini bar from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and free parking. Serving up the music are DJ Skitzo, DJ Face, E-MAN, DJ Breezy, DJ Restless and DJ Enyce. Special V.I.P. packages are also available. Visit www.facebook.com/fahrenheit.vip.

Saturday, Dec. 31 @ Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing, \$15 advance general, \$25 day of, V.I.P. passes from \$55 to \$125, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE 'SPECKTACLE'



Courtesy Photo

The Specktators

The Loft hosts a varied mix of local talent on New Year's Eve, including The Specktators, a hip-hop duo that is headlining the evening

dubbed "New Year's Eve Specktacle."

The Specktators is made up of brothers Moe-T (Matt Duda), who records and produces, and Packi (Patrick Duda), who supplies lyrics and vocals. The Specktators' first complete mix-tape project, "Familiar with Floss," was released back in October and features the singles "Neon Lights," "That Thang" and "EL Girls."

Also performing is Burton's Garden, JKnox, Philthy and Spartan Pro Audio DJs.

The event is hosted by The Amature, a Lansing hip-hop artist, and the night is topped off with a light show and decorations, a champagne toast, V.I.P. seating and some "cheesy party favors."

For those in need of a ride home, The Loft has cab services easily available.

Saturday, Dec. 31 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$10 advance, 21 and over, doors 8 p.m.

DARK, AVANT-GARDE DANCE PARTY

For those who prefer the darker side of life, some cold, haunting and abrasive music may be the best cure for the New Year's Eve hang-over. Black Mass Sunday, a series of counter-culture shows, has its next event Sunday at Mac's Bar. The show is an avant-garde dance party, showcasing songs and artists from the darker spectrum of music, complete with \$7 servings of Lucid Absinthe (for those 21 or older). Before 10 p.m. there's free admission. Spinning some tunes are DJ Stichiz Massacred (breakcore/industrial), DJ Glitch Colony (breakcore/industrial), Dav Jamz (DJ set of hardstyle), Jaysen Craves (DJ set of industrial/aggro-tech) and Ein Sof Goyle (DJ set of dark-wave/EBM/techno).

Sunday, Jan. 1 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. FREE before 10 p.m., \$3 after 10 p.m., doors at 9 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

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

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ with Travis, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Shawn Hughes, 9 p.m.	Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9 p.m.	
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Gadget, 9:30 p.m.	Hidden Adgenda, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Catalina Wine Mixer, 9 p.m.	Big Dudee Roo, 9 p.m.	Goat Machine, 8 p.m.	The Specktators, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Conceptions, 9 p.m.	BRINK & CaliBuddz, 9 p.m.	DJ Ruckus & Nic Bouldin, 9 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic with Dan Louisell, 10:30 p.m.	Joel Randolph & DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	Joel Randolph & DJ JS, 9 p.m.	
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Ull's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing.
Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

NEW YEAR'S 2012

The Boardroom A buffet and midnight champagne toast. Call to make reservations. 8 p.m. \$30, \$50 per couple. 107 East Allegan St., Lansing. (517) 515-1120.

Central United Methodist Church Kathy Anderson & music by Fiddlefire with pot-luck dinner. 6:30 p.m. \$18; \$15 members; \$8 students. 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.TenPoundFiddle.org.

Edmund's Pastime Featuring \$3 Mimosas, Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers and \$6 pitchers. 8 a.m. Price varies. 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-8700.

The Exchange With The Smoking Jackets. Reserve tables for \$100 for 5 people, includes appetizer and champagne. 8 p.m. 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500. www.lansingexchange.com.

Grand Ledge Country Club Dance & music by the Jay Mitzner Orchestra. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$60 per couple. 5811 E. St. Joseph Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 484-3130.

Harem Urban Lounge. 21+ VIP section with champagne, table and drinks. Featuring DJ Element. 9 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 507-2348.

Lansing Liederkrantz Club. Dinner and dancing to The Hy-Notes. Includes hors d'oeuvres and champagne. 5 p.m. \$40. 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 763-3488.

The Loft Featuring The Specktors, with Burton's Garden, JKnox, Philthy & more. 21+ only. Light show & champagne toast. Call for table. 9 p.m. \$10, table \$25. 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 507-2348.

MBC Lansing Drink specials and watch the ball drop on large projection screen. 8 p.m. FREE. 402 Washington Square, Lansing. www.mbclansing.com.

The Nuthouse Sports Grill DJ with free snack foods, champagne and party favors. 9 p.m. FREE. 420 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6887.

Omar's Show Bar Omar's standard party night with a midnight toast and drink specials. 9 p.m. Price varies. 316 East Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 371-4500.

Rum Runners Buffet dinner, party favors and champagne toast. Reserved seats are \$29 for Dueling Piano Show. 6 p.m. \$19. 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4949.

Spiral Dance Bar Masquerade ball theme; best mask wins \$100. With DJ John Cruz, hors d'oeuvres, champagne and party favors. 8 p.m. \$10 18+, \$5 21+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 898-3625.

Tavern on the Square Includes party favors, a late-night buffet, champagne toast and entertainment. 9 p.m. \$15, \$20 at door. 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Tin Can A PBR toast at midnight. Open until 4 a.m. 9 p.m. FREE. 644 Migaldi Lane, Lansing. (517) 708-3441.

Tropo Four-course dinner for two. With DJ, red-carpet entrance, party favors, late night buffet, dancing and champagne by the bottle. 9 p.m. \$150. 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Wild Beaver Saloon Drink specials, great music and the Dancing Beaverettes. 6 p.m. FREE. 205 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-1300.

XCel Nite Club With Ace Deville. VIPs don't wait, have private lounge, hors d'oeuvres and champagne. 9 p.m. \$25 VIP 18-20; \$20 VIP 21+; \$15 regular admission 18-20; \$10 regular admission 21+. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 281-9502.

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9 a.m.-Noon, Sat.

600 Pickard Rd.,
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 772-6421
Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m., M-S
10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun.

834 West Ave.,
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 780-4530
Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m., M-S
10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun.

www.HydroWorld.biz

Out on the town

from page 18

Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, January 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. At small parking lot at end of 2600 Clifton Avenue. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Mt Hope Cemetery, 1709 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

Wednesday, January 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. (Please See Details Dec. 28)

EVENTS

'Downtown Abbey.' Screening of first episode of the new season. Registration is required. WKAR Theatre 145. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Communication Arts and Sciences Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. WKAR.org.

MUSIC

Together, Let's Jam. Teens and adults of all levels gather for musical activities. 7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Nick Chase. Karaoke. 8 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. (Please See Details Dec. 28)81-9502.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

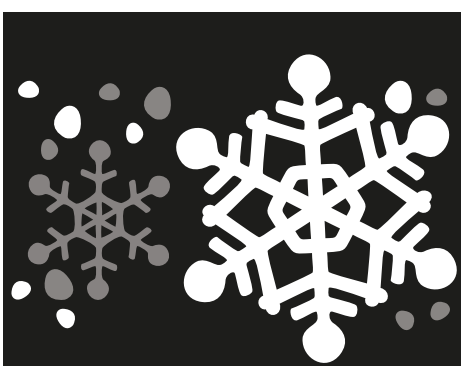
From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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



Winter Break Fun @ CADL

No need to be bored while the kids are out of school! Find great reads, family films and plenty of playtime at these libraries.



CADL OKEMOS

4321 Okemos Rd. • (517) 347-2021

Enjoy a G or PG-rated movie (All ages)

Wednesday, Dec. 28 • 1 pm

CADL DOWNTOWN LANSING

401 S. Capitol • (517) 367-6363

Create a Kwanzaa craft (Ages 7 & up)

Wednesday, Dec. 28 • 2 pm

A family film on our big screen (All ages)

Thursday, Dec. 29 • 2 pm

CADL FOSTER

200 N. Foster • (517) 485-5185

Winter break activity days (Ages 6-14)

Drop in from 2-6 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 28:

Legos

Thursday, Dec. 29:

Make a calendar

Find a complete list of library events at cadl.org/events.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

December 28-January 3

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In North America, a farmer who grows wheat gets only five percent of the money earned by selling a loaf of bread made from his crop. When my band recorded an album for MCA, our contract called for us to receive just seven percent of the net profits. I encourage you to push for a much bigger share than that for the work you do in 2012. It will be an excellent time to raise the levels of respect you have for your own gifts, skills, and products — and to ask for that increased respect, as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For much of the 19th century, aluminum was regarded as a precious metal more valuable than gold. It was even used for the capstone of the Washington Monument, dedicated in 1884. The reason for this curiosity? Until the 1890s, it was difficult and expensive to extract aluminum from its ore. Then a new technology was developed that made the process very cheap. In 2012, Taurus, I'm predicting a metaphorically similar progression in your own life. A goodie or an asset will become more freely available to you because of your increased ability to separate it from the slag it's mixed with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The coming year will be a good time for you to consider investigating the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Devotees of this religion call themselves Pastafarians. Their main dogma is the wisdom of rejecting all dogma. Having such a light-hearted approach to spiritual matters would be quite healthy for you to experiment with. For extra credit, you could draw inspiration from a church member named Niko Alm. He convinced authorities to allow him to wear a pasta strainer on his head for his driver's license photo. Having a jaunty approach to official requirements and formal necessities will also serve you well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Terrence Malick's Tree of Life is an ambitious work that deviates from formulaic approaches to film-making. Some observers hated its experimental invocation of big ideas, while others approved. New York Times critic A.O. Scott compared the movie to Herman Melville's Moby Dick, one of America's great works of literature. Here's what Scott wrote: "Mr. Malick might have been well advised to leave out the dinosaurs and the trip to the afterlife and given us a delicate chronicle of a young man's struggle with his father and himself. And perhaps Melville should have suppressed his philosophizing impulses and written a lively tale of a whaling voyage." Using this as a template, Cancerian, I urge you to treat 2012 as a time when you will be like Melville and Malick in your chosen field. Trust your darling, expansive vision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I love the way they celebrate the New Year in Stonehaven, Scotland. A procession of revelers swings big flaming baskets around on the ends of long chains. I recommend that you carry out a comparable ritual as you barge into 2012, Leo. Symbolically speaking, it would set the perfect tone. The coming months should be a kind of extended fire festival for you — a time when you faithfully stoke the blaze in your belly, the radiance in your eyes, and the brilliance in your heart. Are you ready to bring all the heat and light you can to the next phase of your master plan? I hope so. Burn, baby, burn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Historian David McCullough wrote The Greater Journey, a book telling the stories of ambitious young American artists who relocated to Paris between 1830 and 1900. They had to move away because their home country had no museums or art schools at that time. You Virgos may want to consider seeking a similar enlargement of your possibilities in the coming months. As you seek out the resources that will help you follow your dreams, be prepared to look beyond what you already know and what's immediately available.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Professional basketball player Ron Artest petitioned the court to let him change his name to "Metta World Peace." "Metta" is a Buddhist term that signifies loving-kindness and benevolence. When the new moniker finally became official, Metta World Peace sealed a radical shift away from his old way of doing things, symbolized by the time he leaped into the stands in the middle of a game to punch a fan in the head. The coming months will be an excellent time for you Libras to initiate a rite of passage that will expedite an equally dramatic transformation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Many of the questions we had as children never got resolved or answered to our satisfaction. They still remain marinating in the back of our minds. Meanwhile, fresh queries keep welling up within us as the years go by. After a while, we've got a huge collection of enigmas, riddles, and conundrums. Some of us regard this as a tangled problem that weighs us down, while others see it as a sparkly delight that keeps making life more and more interesting. Where do you stand on the issue, Scorpio? If you're in the latter group, you will be fully open to the experiences that will be flowing your way in 2012. And that means you will be blessed with a host of sumptuous and catalytic new questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The first half of 2012 will be an excellent time to for you to exorcize any prejudices you might be harboring toward anyone who lives or thinks differently from you. You'll be able to see your own irrational biases with exceptional clarity, and are also likely to have exceptional success at scouring yourself free of them. This will give you access to new reserves of psychic energy you didn't even realize you were shut off from. (P.S. I'm not saying you possess more intolerance or narrow-mindedness than any of the rest of us. It's just that this is your time to deal brilliantly with your share of it.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In Botticelli's painting The Birth of Venus, the goddess of beauty and love is shown arriving on dry land for the first time after having been born in the ocean. Naked, she is trying to cover her private parts with her hand and thigh-length hair. Her attendant, a fully clothed nymph, is bringing a cloak to cover her up. Analyzing this scene, art critic Sister Wendy suggests it's actually quite sad. It symbolizes the fact that since we humans can't bear the confrontation with sublime beauty, we must always keep it partly hidden. Your assignment in the coming year, Capricorn, is to overcome this inhibition. I invite you to retrain yourself so that you can thrive in the presence of intense, amazing, and transformative beauty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The coming months will be an excellent time to take an inventory of your life to determine whether there are any ways in which you act like a slave. Do you find it hard to defeat an addiction that saps your energy and weakens your ability to live the life you want? Are there institutions that you help sustain even though they cause harm to you and others? Is it hard for you to change or end your relationships with people who are no damn good for you? Are you trapped in a role or behavior that is at odds with your high ideals? Discover what these oppressors are, Aquarius — and then summon all your intelligence and willpower to escape them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): California engineer Ron Patrick put a jet engine in his silver VW Beetle. Now he's got a 1,450-horsepower vehicle — but it's not legal for him to drive on public highways. In the coming year, Pisces, I suspect you'll be tempted to try something similar: create a dynamic tool with a modest appearance or a turbo-charged source of energy in a deceptively small package. But if you do, please make sure that you can actually use it to improve your ability to get around and make your life better.

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Joe Torok/City Pulse

The atmosphere is mellow and the cinnamon buns are sensational at Red Cedar Café.

Caffeine and daydreams

Red Cedar Café is a peaceful oasis in East Lansing

By JOE TOROK

Red Cedar Café is a sapling of a coffee-house in an East Lansing forest full of java shops.

Red Cedar opened earlier this year adjacent to the Brookfield Plaza, at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Hagadorn Road. Within a two-mile radius, scores of coffee and tea shops abound, from multinational chains with stores in every major American city, to homegrown, locally adored franchises, to little independent start-ups like the Red Cedar Café itself.

The atmosphere invites the outside in with a row of large windows lining the front, a metal-siding wall separating the order counter from the dining space and plenty of flowers, wreaths and nature images on the walls to almost make you forget about the lake of asphalt and fleet of cars for a view.

My companion and I visited the Red Cedar Café on a Friday morning, and decided to try both savory and sweet.

The frittata (\$2.25) was a bit of a disappointment, though, to be fair, Red Cedar doesn't sell itself as a gourmet breakfast house. We tried the bacon cheddar and spinach pepper with Swiss cheese. They were a bit thin, with more air than egg, and since they were not made fresh, ours were a bit deflated — frittatas that wanted to be a soufflés, though the airy, creamy texture did play well on the palate.

I decided a few days later to revisit Red Cedar for a taste of lunch. The tomato bisque (\$2.99 cup) isn't homemade, but it doesn't taste like it's from a can, either. It's as bisque should be: creamy, with some depth. The texture of the bisque isn't over-

ly refined, and in the end, it's a nice earthy, slightly acidic cup of soup.

Pressata sandwiches are highlighted on Red Cedar's menu, and the best seller is the turkey artichoke (\$7.49), which comes with fruit, chips or potato salad. Tender flatbread is wrapped around turkey with fresh spinach leaves, a slice of tomato and artichoke. It's simple but has good ingredients and is made quickly, so at lunch you won't be racing to devour it before you're due back at the office. That's nice, because Red Cedar is a pleasant spot in which to sit back, relax and sip on a cup of coffee.

The dark roast is burly and strong, a fitting counterpart to the sweets and baked goods, which is what Red Cedar Café does best. A display case at the counter offers a bevy of pastries, cakes, muffins, cookies, breads and more.

The lemon bars have a rustic, grainy texture, and the barista signaled her good taste when she mentioned her favorite part was the crust — it's dense, buttery and very much the best part of the generous-sized treat.

Here's the thing, though: I tend to like lemon flavor in my lemon bars. Didn't find much of that here; they were pretty to look at, with a delicate, caramel-colored crust on top and a sprinkling of powdered sugar, but without even a hint of tartness. Those with a beaver-sized sweet tooth — or a cup of strong black coffee — will enjoy them.

Red Cedar promotes its cinnamon buns as a crowd-pleaser, and it's not just a bunch of hype: These sticky buns are worth a trip. They are baked nicely, the dough combining a chewy exterior with an airier inside. But it's the toupee of white fluff on top

Red Cedar

from page 22

that stands out (in a good way). Unlike the ultra-sweet white drizzle painted onto others' cinnamon buns, at Red Cedar, the topping has a cream cheese base, adding a little danish-like touch to the confection.

The cappuccino, served in an oversized cup, is delicious and as good as you'll find around town. It's light and frothy and, unlike cappuccinos I've had elsewhere, it actually has some delicious, toasty coffee underneath that froth.

There's a bustle from the kitchen in the background that mingles with the conversations of patrons, all cut off from the busy corridor of traffic flowing by outside along Grand River.

It's a jungle out there, for both coffeehouses and their patrons. If you want a quiet glade where you can warm your bones, chat with a friend and while away an hour or two without worries, Red Cedar Café stands tall.

Red Cedar Café

1331 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday
(517) 333-7366
TO, \$

foodfinder

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

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— A Lansing staple for more than 60 years, famous for its breakfast skillet. 516 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. (517) 482-4050. TO, \$

OLYMPIC BROIL

— From hand-battered onion rings to burgers covered in Coney sauce, this restaurant makes almost everything fresh daily. 1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 485-8584. www.olympic-

broil.com, OM, TO, \$

PENN AVE. DINER

— South-side diner known for its skillet and other breakfast items, served any time. 6031 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (517) 272-0504. TO, \$-\$

RESTAURANT MEDITERAN DELI

— This deli is set up as a New York-style take-out. It offers fresh rotisserie chicken, pork and lamb, as well as fresh salads. 333 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (lunch), 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (dinner) Monday-Friday, 4

p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday (dinner only). Closed Sundays. Deli is open 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. (517) 372-1072. www.restaurantmediteran.com. TO, OM, \$.

SAWYER'S GOURMET PANCAKE HOUSE

— Sawyer's is known for its all-natural, organic and local approach to food, as well as for its diverse menu (which goes far beyond pancakes). 608 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. (517) 485-9410. OM, \$\$.

SOPHIA'S HOUSE OF PANCAKES

— Pancakes and omelets

fill the tables, but a dinner menu includes other favorites. 1010 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 627-3222. TO, WiFi, \$

SOUP SPOON CAFÉ

— Open for lunch and dinner, this café serves dishes like pan-seared Atlantic salmon drizzled with garlic-dill sauce. 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-midnight Friday; 8 a.m.-midnight Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 316-2377. www.soupspooncafe.com. OM, D, TO, WiFi, \$-\$

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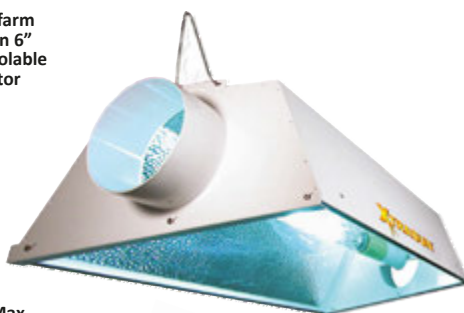
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