

CityPULSE

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— City Pulse's —
2015
Holiday
Gift Guide

Man up

Rich Michaels has colon cancer, p. 7

Black, white and brass

Hugh Masekela and Larry Willis share musical friendship, p. 9

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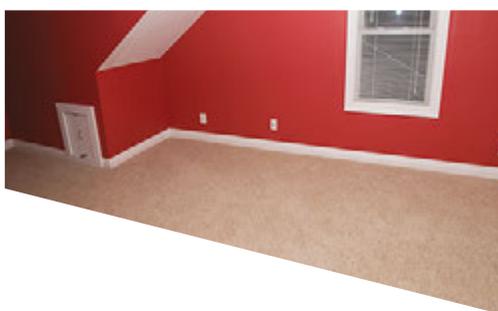
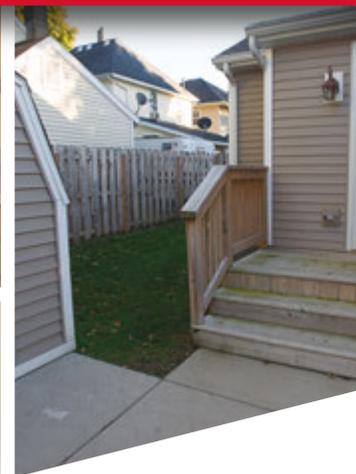


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Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor:
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
 - Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:
 - Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

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Hirten: Infidels, heathens, ISIS and Puritans.

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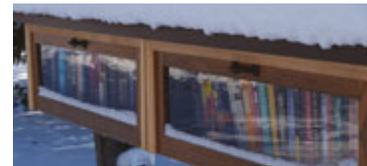
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Festival of Trees returns to Turner-Dodge House

PAGE 27



Little libraries popping up around Lansing

COVER ART



By LUKE SWAB

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On November 18, 2015, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

- Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
- Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
- Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
- Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
- Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
- Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
- and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

November 3, 2015 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_284

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following ordinances:

- Ordinance No. 1360;** an Ordinance to amend Sections 108.2 and 108.4 of the International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Ed, as adopted by Section 6-171 and amended by Section 6-175 of Article III - Property Maintenance Code - of Chapter 6 - Building and Building Regulations - of the Code of the City of East Lansing to make amendments to the provisions regarding dangerous buildings
- Ordinance No. 1362;** an Ordinance to amend Sections 2-83 and 2-85 of Division 2 - Code of Ethics - of Article III - Officers and Employees - of Chapter 2 - Administration - of the Code of the City of East Lansing to prohibit the acceptance of certain campaign contributions and to require the council members' to disclose campaign contributions in excess of one hundred dollars from businesses when voting on issues affecting that business
- Ordinance No. 1363;** an Ordinance to amend Sections 48-91, 48-93, 48-94, and 48-95 of Chapter 48 of the Code of the City of East Lansing and to add Section 48-94A to Chapter 48 of the Code of the City of East Lansing to protect certain trees within the City of East Lansing

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

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#15_285

CITY PULSE on the AIR

NOW AT 10:30 A.M. SATURDAYS on

WDBM IMPACT 88.9FM

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

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THE ATTACKS IN FRANCE WERE ALSO AN ASSAULT ON OUR MOST CHERISHED VALUES--

--WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO JETTISON AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!

MANY AMERICANS FOCUSED THEIR INCHOATE FEAR OF TERRORISM ON THE MENACE OF REFUGEES FLEEING TERRORISM.
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WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

ONE TEXAS LAWMAKER OPENLY WORRIED THAT HIS STATE'S LAX GUN LAWS WOULD MAKE IT TOO EASY FOR REFUGEES TO PROCURE FIREARMS.
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAPPEN--IF PEOPLE OF ILL INTENT HAD READY ACCESS TO SUCH WEAPONRY?

HORRIFIC GUN MASSACRES COULD BECOME A ROUTINE OCCURRENCE!

AND OF COURSE THERE'S THE SUGGESTION (EMBRACED BY JEB BUSH) THAT WE SHOULD ONLY ADMIT "PROVEN CHRISTIANS"...

BUT--WHAT IF THEY'RE REALLY SECRET MUSLIMS?

WE COULD MAKE THEM TAKE SOME SORT OF BIBLE QUIZ!

AND ALSO MAKE SURE THEY HATE GAY MARRIAGE AND STUFF.

JOHN KASICH PROPOSED "PAUSING" REFUGEE RELOCATION--AND CREATING A PROPAGANDA BUREAU TO SPREAD "JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES."

LOOK OUT, REFUGEES WHO MIGHT BE TERRORISTS! ASS-KICKING AMERICAN JESUS IS HERE!

YOU WANT INTO MY COUNTRY--

--YOU GOTTA GET PAST ME.

MEANWHILE THE AMERICAN RIGHT STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH FRANCE--JUST LIKE THEY ALWAYS HAVE!

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A DRAMATIZATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF APPROVED RELIGIONS

TOM TOMORROW © 2015

Moving on the mover

Neighbors battle unwanted neighbor; city slow to respond, they say

Elena Keller and her neighbors first noticed the giant Budget rental trucks parked on their busy southeast Lansing neighborhood street a year ago. One was parked in the driveway of 2623 Wabash Road — just blocks from Beekman Center and around the corner from Forestview Elementary School. The other was parked on the shoulder.

December gave way to January, then February — and still the trucks were there. Sometimes they left during the day; but they always returned. When the trucks were gone, the street was crowded with cars of the people who came and drove the two trucks.

“The snow plow would go around the truck parked on the street,” Keller said, noting that one truck was often buried in snow. “Why didn’t the Police Department or the snow plowing department pick up on that?”

On May 20, neighbors said they gave Scott Sanford, the head of the city’s Code Compliance Office, an earful about the trucks. Documents obtained from the City of Lansing show official photos of the trucks were taken on May 21, but still the trucks stayed.

Five months later, the trucks are still being used by Jae L. Burnham, 45, who operates U-Save Moving and Storage LLC from his home in the middle of a busy residential area.

His operation, city and state officials said, likely violates city zoning ordinances and state laws dictating authorization of people and businesses to operate moving companies in the state. Court and other public documents show this is not the first time Burnham and his company have run afoul of the law.

After months of neighbors screaming for action, Lansing and state officials have finally moved. Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division has requested the Ingham County prosecutor to issue a warrant for his arrest on a charge of operating a moving company without state authority, a crime punishable by up to six months in jail and or a \$500 fine.

On Thursday — after Bob Johnson, the city’s Planning and Neighborhood Development department director, met with irked neighbors — city zoning officials finally followed up on an Oct. 5 letter notifying Burnham that his business is “clearly in violation of the above conditions.” The letter, signed by Susan Stachowiak the city’s zoning administrator, gave Burnham 10 calendar days to bring his home business operation into compliance with the zoning for his home. Failing to comply, Stachowiak wrote, “will result in issuance of a civil fine. In addition, the city will seek a court order of compliance.”

City law regarding home businesses requires that the business have no employees other than family members and that it operate without special equipment. To be in compliance with

the city’s ordinance, Burnham would have to find another location not in a residential area to operate from. Failing to comply can result in fines of \$500 per day, a court order and — if the activity continues after the court order — criminal charges for contempt of court.

Burnham said in a telephone interview that his licenses are current, that City Pulse was “lying” about the information it had collected, and the upset neighbors were “fictitious.”

As recently as Friday morning, a large Budget rental truck was parked on the driveway on Wabash. A rut with frozen water in it scarred the shoulder of the road in front of the house, giving evidence of a truck having been there regularly. The garage door stood open, revealing piles of moving pads and other moving related equipment. Burnham’s red Cadillac, plastered with U Save signage, sat in the driveway beside the truck.

While city and state officials were closing in on Burnham’s business, he was making runs. His Facebook page show trips moving people out of the state and across the state.

One of Burnham’s clients during the last year was the Lansing city clerk. He was hired to move voting equipment to various polling locations throughout the city, Clerk Chris Swope said.

“We used them for all three elections in 2015, two days of pre-election delivery and two days of post-election pickup of equipment,” Swope wrote in an email. “As we did with Stevens [the former contractor] for many years, my staff accompanies them in a separate vehicle on the delivery and pickup. We paid them \$6,626.25 for the three elections. We did not do a background check, other than a simple web search. I am not aware that we have a copy of license or bond.”

In a followup email, Swope defended hiring the company, noting its \$95-an-hour quote was the lowest of three bid from movers Allied bid \$125 an hour while Two Men and Truck bid \$115 an hour. He also noted the total for all the moves came in well below the \$15,000 mark that the city has delineated by policy as requiring formal bidding processes to kick in.

“I am not familiar with licensing requirements for moving companies, so I do not know that they were required to be licensed or indicated to us that they were licensed,” wrote Swope. “I will look into their licensure requirements for the work they performed for us.”

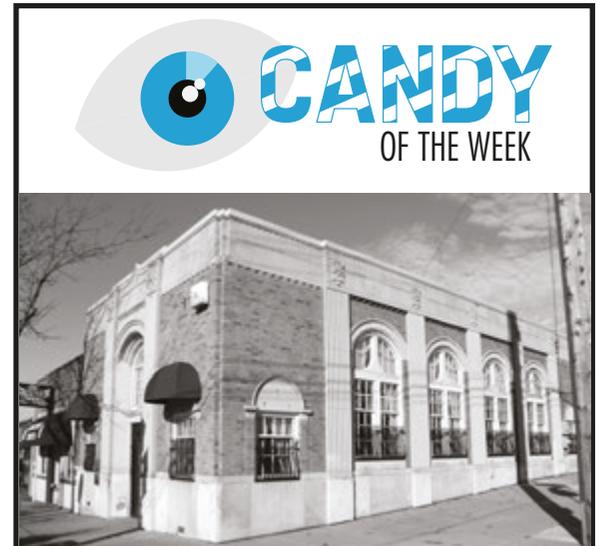
A 1933 law requires any business advertising moving services to have the licenses, according to the Michigan State Police.

Had the city clerk’s office done a full background check, it would have learned that Burnham and U Save Moving were not licensed, as its website claims. The Michigan Public Service Commission authorization Burnham advertises is out of date. A review of the website for that authority reveals that Burnham applied for the authority in summer 2014, but the application was rejected in January. Federal records show his



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

One of the trucks operated by Jae Burnham out of a house on Lansing’s southside side. Neighbors started complaining a year ago. Belated action is being taken to shut down the business.



Property: 329 E. Grand River Ave. (Bank of Lansing Building)
Lansing

When the current owners bought the Bank of Lansing building in 2005, their purchase agreement stipulated that they would not operate the facility as a bank for at least 10 years. Mary and David Swanson have managed Swanson Design Studios in the building since that time and have no intention of switching their chosen professions.

Although the tellers’ windows were removed to accommodate the trappings of an architecture firm, the soaring ceilings of the original space remain, as does the thick steel door into the vault and the bank’s night depository box. In 2007, the owners repaired exterior limestone and added round top awnings, assisted by a grant from the Old Town Commercial Association.

According to contemporary newspaper stories, the structure was built in 1928, making it about three years older than Comerica’s branch, Lansing’s oldest bank building, at 101 N. Washington Square. Completed in a loosely Art Deco style, the Old Town building features fluted limestone pilasters that flank the entry and run along the east elevation facing Center Street. The yellow brick exterior rises from a limestone base and terminates in a simple dentil just below the stone cornice, which is periodically punctuated with acanthus leaf panels.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

“Eye candy of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

Mover

from page 5

Department of Transportation number is also not current. On Friday, the Michigan State Police confirmed that Burnham and U Save are operating without licenses.

The clerk's office also would have learned that Burnham had faced misdemeanor charges for running the moving business without a license before. Records from 56 District Court in Charlotte show Burnham was ticketed on Aug. 7, 2013, for operating a hauling business without authorization. He was ultimately arrested in March 2014 and pleaded guilty to a one-count misdemeanor of operating with defective equipment.

As part of a plea bargain entered into the court record on May 5, 2014, Burnham's guilty plea resulted in the dismissal of one charge of operating without authority. He paid \$125 and the matter was closed. The full payment was \$75 for court costs and \$50 in fines. At the time he was operating out of a rental duplex just off Elmwood in Delta Township.

In addition to the ticket from 2013, Burnham's landlord in Delta Township was cited for violating zoning laws there as well. Records from the township show that on June 19, 2014, Burnham's landlords, Janice and Tom Ruhala of Haslett, were notified that the moving company violated the township's zoning ordinance. On July 31, The Ruhalas were issued a \$50 civil fine because the business continued operations

from the rented duplex on Dorene Drive. That fine was paid on Aug. 6.

Swope said his office is still reviewing how U Save was hired and what actions need to be taken to make sure contractors in the future meet all the legal requirements of their profession.

Officials from the Bernero administration deny that it took the city months to take action on the situation. (See following story.) Swope said Tuesday his office will not require contractors to be licensed and will verify licensing with the state.

— Todd Heywood



The city's response

Editor's note: On Friday, reporter Todd Heywood sent Randy Hannan, who is Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's spokesman, and Bob Johnson, director of the Planning and Neighborhood Department, 11 questions about this story, with the request that they respond by noon Monday.

(Here are Heywood's questions:

1. Is it normal for a zoning violation complaint to take so long for action to be taken?
2. Please provide the average length of time from zoning violation complaint to issuance of notification.
3. Please provide the average length of time from violation notification to civil action by the city.

4. What specifically caused the delays in this case, as the evidence provided by the city clearly shows a violation was documented on May 21 of this year, but notification was not sent until Oct. 5?

5. What actions has the city taken since the Oct. 5 letter of notification of violation to enforce the city's ordinance related to home occupation businesses?

6. Is the significant delay between identification of the violation, and documentation of it, and issuance of notification of violation the result of understaffing in the zoning office?

7. How many staff are currently employed by the city to investigate and handle zoning violations? Do these employees have additional responsibilities in addition to this responsibility? If so what are those responsibilities?

8. How many positions in zoning have been eliminated through budget cuts since Mayor Bernero was first elected to office as Mayor?

9. Are there any policy or procedural fixes that are necessary and identified as a result of this situation? If so, please explain what those problems are and what the administration is doing to address those.

10. As I noted, Clerk Swope did hire this company to perform moving services for the city. He was unaware that moving companies need to be licensed in Michigan to perform those services, and said his office conducted no background check on the company before hiring them. He said background checks were unnecessary because the contract did not rise the \$15,000 threshold in purchasing. Is this a policy issue? Should all contractors of the city of Lansing, regardless of the size of the contract, be subjected to licensing and criminal background checks, as well as verification that city taxes are being paid? Why or why not?

11. The residence where this operation is happening is being purchased by Mr. Burnham on Land Contract. However, the actual contract is not on file with either the Register of Deeds or the City Assessor office -- and in fact, the city assessor's office does not reflect a land contract has been granted on the property at all. As you are aware, city ordinance requires the land contract itself to be registered with the county, not just a notification of land contract, as Mr. Burnham currently has on file. Mr. Burnham was warned through Code Compliance, of his failure to register the property as a rental or comply. However, publicly available records show that he was allegedly in compliance, despite the fact that actual land contract is not on file with the county. Does this point to an issue with enforcement of the city's rental registration program and legal requirements related to land contracts? Why or why not?

What follows is Hannan's answer, which arrived Tuesday afternoon, in its entirety.

"Todd, once again you have requested responses to detailed and very complex questions on a completely unreasonable timeline, so I will forego any apology for our delay in answering your inquiry and for any

questions we have not yet answered while we continue to research your issues.

"As to the substance of your concerns, please note that there are at least two separate issues at play that relate to the use of the property in question. The first is an unregistered rental complaint, which was addressed by Code Compliance in a Failure to Register notice sent to the property owner on May 23, 2015 with a requested compliance date of June 20, 2015. On June 22, 2015 Code Compliance sent the property owner a Failure to Comply notice with a July 22, 2015 compliance date. When the matter was not resolved by the property owner by that deadline, Code Compliance sent a Lack of Certificate notice on July 28, 2015 for failure to register the property as a rental with a compliance date of August 27, 2015. After the final violation notice was sent, the property owner provided Code Compliance with the Memorandum of Land Contract, which as you know was filed with the county Register of Deeds on August 3, 2015. The land contract memo is considered by Code Compliance as sufficient proof that the property is not a rental.

"In addition, it would appear that you are misreading the relevant city ordinance (1460.44e), which does not, in fact, require land contracts to be filed with the county or the city. The code of ordinances makes reference to land contracts that are filed with the county, but does not mandate it. Furthermore, according to the county Register of Deeds, there is no legal requirement in state law that land contracts or deeds must be filed with the county or the city. It is also worth noting that this section of the code of ordinances applies only to "any rental dwelling or unit required to be registered under this section." There is no evidence in city records to suggest that the property in question is now, or ever was, a rental.

"The second issue is a zoning violation complaint, which the Zoning Administrator addressed by sending a warning letter to the property owner on October 5, which will be followed by an ordinance violation citation and, if needed, a request for court-ordered compliance. For some unknown reason, you conflate the unregistered rental issue with the zoning violation complaint and suggest that the city did not follow up on the unregistered rental complaint that was received in May until the Zoning Administrator took action in October. As evidenced by the Code Compliance actions outlined above, this is simply not the case. The photos that you cite, which were taken by Code Compliance in May as part of their investigation of the alleged unregistered rental, were provided to the Zoning Administrator for use in her investigation of the alleged zoning violation.

"As to your concerns about the qualifications of city contractors, we continue to evaluate and improve the city's policies and procedures for selecting contract vendors and will certainly consider your suggestions in that context."

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Rich Michaels' story Drop Your Pride! Drop Your Drawers

(Longtime Lansing radio show personality Rich Michaels is now a financial planner and retirement adviser.)

How does it start? A nightmarish slow motion of disbelief. Overwhelming grief. Yelling at God! Hiding teary-eyed from reality under the comfort of blankets for days. Eventually, encouragement from friends fortify you to rise up and slowly peek at the dragon and then gradually you buck yourself up on wobbly legs to stare him down. Then, you start your battle.

Out of the blue, without any health warning signs, it was a routine colonoscopy where I heard: "Rich, you have a Stage 3 tumor in your upper intestine." Terror. For seven months, I hid it and lied about it while furtively dealing with one doctor visit after another. I felt like a defect. I am not going to fib about the downside to cancer treatment. But I'll take it and the struggles any day, because the choice to ignore it will lead to tragic results and I'm not ready to meet my maker.

The Oxaliplatin in Folfox brought ravaging fevers and put me into the

hospital more than once as my body rejected it. It was awful. At the nadir, riding the meat wagon to Sparrow with a blood pressure of 49/24, we knew we had to change the drug cocktail. This one, Folfiri, has its own special delights as it turns your intestines into Mount Vesuvius and aching bones make it hard to breathe. But what is the alternative?

How do we become so prideful and ignore our bodies? We're not living in the 1700s! A rectal exam, gentlemen, is not rape or a violation of your sensitivities or manhood! If it makes you feel better, ask the doc to leave you chocolates and flowers. Ask a female friend about the kinds of procedures THEY endure, being prodded, fingered, and probed with cold metallic Jaws of Life objects. Butch up, boys. For me, there are new mountains to climb. A bucket list of dreams, travels, diverse cultures to explore, an exciting new growing business. Grandchildren, someday.



Michaels

Why do I implore you (especially men) to get a colorectal screening? Because many of you are my friends. You blessed my life the past 30 years. I want you around. Even if you are too bashful to do it for yourself, would you stop and think about all those who depend on you? Your partner, a child, employees, coworkers and others who need your guidance, knowledge, leadership, financial assistance and support. Flipping the argument around, if THEY were gone from YOUR life, how would you do without THEM?

Drop your pride. Drop your drawers. I am mortified by the inflatable large rubber colons or polyp costumes, but I know a catchy phrase or goofy symbol is what some people need to get their attention.

When we hit our 40s and then 50, a lot of people start disappearing. They're gone. It took me years to DELETE these friends from Microsoft Outlook as I couldn't bear to make the admission they were dead. Then I was knocked up alongside the noggin not once, but twice last year.

Bill's cancer, started at age 51. He was one of my best friends from the Class of '78. The evil dragon flew off with his precious life last September. Devastated, I dragged myself back to Pennsylvania to show final respects. I

abhor funerals. Three months later, a very kind and beloved police officer, Jason Gooley of Grand Ledge, was ripped from the community by the cancer dragon. Dear God, why? Colon Cancer at age 32, which decimated him by 37, leaving a young widow and 9 year old daughter. I heard the voice loud and clear: "Hey moron, you were supposed to get that butt check several years ago. Are you not getting the message?" So I picked up the phone.

And that's when they found it. Friday the 13th of March. Stage 3 colon cancer, 6 out of 21 nodes cancerous, but the dragon had just made it through the intestinal lining. No other organ had yet been affected! Thank you, Jesus.

With the tremendous advances in medicine, many of us will live enjoyable and meaningful lives to age 100. How can you abbreviate such a beautiful opportunity being offered to you? Think about all the mountains YOU have yet to climb. We all have talents and purpose here and it's a one way ticket on a train I want to ride for a long time.

Reach out to a friend. Tell them you want them around. Get tested! Drop your pride! Drop your drawers. I'll say it again if it takes that to knock you alongside the head. You can have a very full life ahead of you. Don't ignore dragons, take them head on.

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Terror, then conquest

New World's natives faced sadly familiar tactics

Last week it was a terrorist attack in Mali. The week before, it was Paris. From our 21st Century perspective, we ask how such barbaric acts are possible. What motivates such evil, such disregard for innocent lives? Our American history provides some perspective. The conquest of the Americas in pursuit of New World empires by the Spanish, Portuguese, French and English often relied on the same terror tactics employed by the Islamic State in a drive for a reborn caliphate in Syria and Iraq.



MICKY HIRTEN

Howard Zinn's classic best seller, the "People's History of the United State," recounts the imposition of an alien and merciless European ideology on the people and culture they found in America. Reading Zinn's take on early, early American history is to recognize that terrorism tactics that worked then work now, particularly in the Middle East. Just as ISIS embraces slaughter of the innocent, low status for women and theological certitude for its actions, so did the Europeans who first ventured to the New World.

Spanish conquistadors like Cortes and Pizarro treated the natives brutally. And like ISIS, the tactic was destabilize and conquer. But I find Zinn's description of English tactics particularly graphic. The Puritans who settled New England in the 1630s and staked claims to tracts in Southern Connecticut and Rhode Island found a land that was inhabited but not owned as it would be in Europe. The inevitable land grab was but one of the culture clashes with the Pequot Indians that made for what Zinn called an uneasy truce that inevitably led to war.

"Massacres took place on both sides. The English developed a tactic of warfare used earlier by Cortes and later in the twentieth century, even more systematically: deliberate attacks on non combatants for the purpose of terrorizing the enemy," Zinn wrote.

Unwilling to battle with Pequot warriors and endanger his inexperienced troops, the English commanded by Captain John Mason attacked the innocent. Today we call them civilians. His matter-of-fact account tells of setting fire to wigwams in the village and the slaughter that ensued. "We must Burn Them; and immediately stepping into the Wigwam ... brought out a Fire

Brand, and putting it into the Matts with which they were covered, set the Wigwams on Fire,"

The result of the massacre — of the terrorism employed by the English — was 400 deaths. Those who escaped the fire were butchered — speared or hacked to death.

And as with ISIS, the Puritans validated their actions with their theology.

Zinn writes that the Puritans appealed to the Bible, Psalms 2:28, to endorse their superiority: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee, the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

Substitute infidel for heathen and you've got ISIS.

"To justify their use of force," Zinn wrote, "they cited Romans 13:2: 'Who-soever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.'" In the aftermath, Cotton Mather, the Puritan theologian wrote "It was supposed that no less than 600 Pequot souls were brought down to hell that day."

The conquest of America reflected the European's rejection of values other than their own, a disdain for an Indian culture that was less rigid and certainly more communal and egalitarian than the tightly ordered Old World. "All of this was in sharp contrast to European values as brought over by the first colonists, a society of rich and poor, controlled by priests, by governors, by male heads of families," Zinn wrote.

What the English found was a society where women were important and respected, particularly the Iroquois. "Families were matrilineal," Zinn wrote. "That is, the family line went down through the female members, whose husbands joined the family, while sons who married then joined their wives'

families. Each extended family lived in a 'long house.' When a woman wanted a divorce, she set her husband's things outside the door."

In 1600s Europe, women were regarded as possessions, by law, custom and religion, subservient to their husbands if married, to their fathers or brothers if single. That natives allowed women prominent roles in their communities only demeaned them to the Europeans. The attitudes toward children, ownership of property and concepts of crime and punishment also

were alien and therefore without value.

Zinn poses this question: "How certain are we that what was destroyed was inferior." But then as now, it isn't relevant. What propelled the conquest of the Americas was the pursuit of wealth. Gold for the Spanish; land for the English. Expeditions were financed and payments were due. Modern terrorism seems to lack commercial intent. But conquest is conquest and terror is the tool. It was in America's earliest days and is worth remembering as we fight terrorism now.

PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #42c – Sneathkamp Redevelopment Plan – Former Governor's Inn pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 1000 Ramada Drive and 6131 South Pennsylvania Avenue located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

Lot 1, of Abood-Ramada Subdivision, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 30, Page(s) 10, 11, and 12, Ingham County Records, 33-01-05-10-126-011 and; Lots 2, 3, 4 & 5, of Abood-Ramada Subdivision, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 30, Page(s) 10, Ingham County Records, 33-01-05-10-126-002.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2015 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#15_287

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Redevelopment Plan #63 – East Town Flats pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 2000 East Michigan Avenue located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

33-01-01-14-302-001, LOT 117 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-461, W 9.7 FT LOT 118 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-451, E 23.3 FT LOT 118 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-441, LOT 119 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-431, LOT 120 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-421, LOT 121 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-411, LOT 122 LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-392, LOTS 123 & 124; LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-352, LOTS 125 THRU 128 INCL LESLIE PARK SUB;
33-01-01-14-302-012, LOTS 113 THRU 116 INCL LESLIE PARK SUB.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3387.

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Etude in BRASS and IVORY

Trumpeter Hugh Masekela and pianist Larry Willis carry on a 50-year conversation

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Hugh Masekela's trumpet shimmers like the noontime sun in his native South Africa. Larry Willis' piano twinkles like the lights on a slick Manhattan street, 'round about midnight.

"Now you're getting poetic," Masekela said, laughing at the metaphor. "We don't analyze what we do. We just work hard and reach out for the beauty."

For a trumpet player, Masekela seems reluctant to blow his own horn. But be forewarned: music lovers will have a rare opportunity in East Lansing to hear two venerable jazz masters, in relaxed duet format, at the Wharton Center's intimate Pasant Theatre Tuesday.

With a combined century-plus of history playing jazz, traditional African and pop music, the duo's 50-year friendship is a long-running etude in brass and ivory.

They met while studying classical music at the Manhattan School of Music in the early 1960s.

"We liked the same composers. We went club-hopping together," Masekela said. "We just have the same muse, I guess."

Although jazz is at the heart of their art, both Masekela and Willis have contributed to a lot of chart-topping music over the decades. Willis was a member of Blood, Sweat & Tears for seven years. Masekela famously collaborated with Paul Simon on "Graceland" and has played with a long list of rock stars, from the Byrds (in the late 1960s) to the Dave Matthews Band (in Johannesburg last year). "Grazing In the Grass," Masekela's big 1968 hit, is still a staple at his concerts.

Barely out of his teens, Masekela co-founded the Jazz Epistles, the first group of African musicians to make a jazz recording. He left South Africa and its oppressive apartheid regime to study music in London and Manhattan — with the help of high-placed fans like violinist Yehudi Menuhin and actor-singer-activist Harry Belafonte.

Between tunes Tuesday, expect Masekela to tell stories of the glory days of New York jazz clubs, when Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, John Coltrane and other jazz giants walked the earth.

"You showed your student card and you went in for free," Masekela recalled. "You could see 10, 12 great people playing in one night."

Willis snagged a gig with legendary alto saxman Jackie MacLean at age 17.

"It was also a time of hard study," Masekela said. "We did a lot of jamming — not for fun, but to learn."

In the 1970s, Masekela reconnected with his South African roots, folding traditional melodies and rhythms into his eclectic sound.

Tuesday's duo set will reflect both men's wide-ranging tastes.

"It's a cross-section of our musical experiences in traditional South African music, the great American songbook and jazz classics," Willis said.

"The only thing we don't do is the classical music we studied in school," Masekela added dryly.

On stage, Willis and Masekela settle into thoughtful, witty musical conversations, frequently taking venerable standards and jazz classics like Herbie Hancock's "Cantaloupe Island" as a starting point.

Willis regards the standards as living touchstones of a bygone era.

"They tell stories about human life," Willis explained. "We don't talk to one another very much anymore."

Never mind stopping to smell the roses — Willis is worried that nobody is taking the time to grow them in the first place.

"There are no written songs that come from movies anymore," he said. "Most movie scores have become a conglomeration of sound effects. We are left with what we have."

Masekela and Willis have their most satisfying musical conversations at that sweet spot where African rhythms and melodies intersect with post-bop 1960s jazz. For a glorious, funky dose of the Masekela/Willis partnership in full Afro-jazz bloom, check out their 1972 quintet recording, "Home is Where the Music Is," re-mastered to ear-popping perfection on the Verve label.

Since 1992, Willis has turned out more than a dozen gorgeous recordings on the small jazz label Mapleshade, where he is also producer and music director. One of the best is "Solo Spirit," a fervent, crystalline solo exploration of Willis' religious faith. In another classic, "A Minute With Miles," Willis teamed up with the muted trumpet of Eddie Gale to create the finest post-Miles-Davis rainy-day disc ever made. And that's no coincidence.

"When I was a teenager, somebody turned me on to Miles Davis' 'Kind of Blue,' and it blew me away," Willis said. "It influenced both Hugh and myself. It was cutting edge, but at the same time very, very simple."

Willis plays in a limpid, liquid style that has complemented many great trumpet players, from Gale to Nat Adderley, Lee Morgan, Roy Hargrove, and, of course, Masekela. His lyricism, fluidity and use of silence evokes pianists Wynton Kelly and Bill Evans, both of whom played on "Kind of Blue."

"There's not one song on that record where the melody consists of any more than five notes," Willis said. "Miles put that simple concept into the hands of these virtuoso players in his band. That, in itself, inspired me to want to do this."

(Note to jazz lovers: the only surviving member of the legendary "Kind of Blue" band, drummer Jimmy Cobb, is coming to East Lansing for a week-long residency starting Monday and ending in a Dec. 4 concert at MSU.)

These days, Masekela is involved in a slew of projects, including a new record with Willis, a foundation to help schools in South Africa and a second volume of his autobiography, "Still Grazing."

"I'm working on a novel, I'm reading a lot. I'm just excited to be alive," he said.

In music and life, Masekela carries himself like a healer, but he doesn't go in for platitudes.

"I'm a realist. I don't think you can go to a hospital and play for people and make them heal," he said with a laugh.

Nudge him a bit, however, and his philosophy will peek through the crust.

"Music is a part of nature, just like the trees, the air and the clouds," he said. "It's not a man-made thing. It's there to be learned, studied and enjoyed. But if you're not nice to music, it can be very vengeful. If you abuse it, it can fight back."

Just when you think Masekela will never blow his own horn, he surprises you.

"When you hear us live, it's a very big difference from the studio," he said. "If you like our record, you'll probably pass out when you hear us."



Photo by Brett Rubin

Veteran jazzmen Larry Willis (left) and Hugh Masekela bring their duo show to the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre Tuesday.

'Romeo' in reverse MSU's 'Room With a View' gives some love to the lonely

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

In most love-conquers-all stories, you root for the star-crossed lovers to come together. MSU Opera Theatre's gripping version of "A Room With A View" made me root for the sad souls around them.

E.M. Forster's quietly desperate drawing-room drama — painted in vivid symphonic oils by Texas-based composer Robert Nelson and sung by a strong, deeply committed cast— had a happy ending on paper, but at heart was a paean to loneliness.

(Editor's note: This opera featured two casts that alternated performances. Lawrence Cosentino attended Friday night's performance.)

The grave face and mighty baritone of Zaikuan Song, a Chinese graduate student, gave the key role of Mr. Emerson a stage presence I'll not soon forget. Emerson is the opera's moral center, a free-thinker who looks up at the stars in a world of closed windows and drawn curtains.

Late in the opera, Song unleashed his talents with full force, pleading with the reluctant heroine, Lucy Honeychurch, to give in to her passion and run off with his son, George. By then, Lucy was already a

whalebone stay away from popping off the corset of Edwardian conformity, having ditched her hapless fiancé, Cecil. All she needed was a final push.

And she got it. In one of several gut-punching set pieces that brought the story's stifled passions to a head, Song rolled out his big aria like an irresistible lava flow: "Marry him. It is one of those moments for which the world is made."

To rub it in, Nelson's potent, Prokofiev-meets-Puccini throbs surged without mercy from the orchestra pit.

Who could have withstood such an onslaught? Reader, I confess that I cried — for the second time. My first moist eye was elicited by another big set piece, owned lock, stock and barrel by Rachel Shaughnessy, as Lucy's "old maid" cousin, Charlotte Bartlett. Shaughnessy blended her powerful voice into an acting style so convincing and easy to watch that it made the whole idea of inflating a quiet novel into a loud opera seem completely natural.

The little world on stage suddenly spun into reverse when Charlotte dropped her seeming disapproval of Lucy's liaison with George — an attitude enforced by Edwardian convention — and begged her to go for it.

"A Room With a View" comes off as "Romeo and Juliet" in reverse — Lucy's own conservatism is the obstacle to romance, not the people around her. It's an intriguing switch, but it comes with a price. When young lovers are cheered on

by older people whom love has passed by, the pathos attaches to the them, not the stars. As would-be lovers Lucy and George, Katie Bethel and Nicholas Kreider pulled mightily but couldn't make as deep a mark as their co-stars. Bethel deserves a lot of credit, though, for singing so beautifully and keeping Lucy's endless indecision from driving the audience nuts. Kreider, like fellow cast member Jon Oakley as the "smirking clergyman" Mr. Eager, looked so young it was hard to suspend disbelief and accept their characters as adults. (George is supposed to have "a darkness" about him; Kreider got him as far as impudence.)

The pouting lips and perplexed brow of Isaac Frishman as the jilted fiancé, Cecil, added one more unforgettable face. Frishman's hilarious entrance, in which he bounded into the room, fire-hosing everyone with a ramped-up, Pavarotti-esque tenor to announce his betrothal to Lucy, was only the start of a long character arc that bent surprisingly toward tragedy.

In the end, when Lucy dumped Cecil for being too bookish and indoorsy, he meekly agreed with her, but added a reproach: "You might have warned me earlier so I could have a chance to improve."

(That's a paraphrase, because my eye was once again too wet to read the surtitles.)

Frishman's superbly acted, heartbreaking exit added another note to a rich, dark, lonely chord that still rings in my ears.

Festive forest Turner-Dodge House prepares for Festival of Trees

By TY FORQUER

How many holiday trees can fit inside the Turner-Dodge House? The Friends of Turner-Dodge House and Lansing's Parks & Recreation department are about to find out.

Old Town's historic Turner-Dodge House is gearing up for the fourth annual Festival of Trees. The festival places decorated tress through all three floors of the historic estate, from its first-floor Victorian salon to its grand third-floor ballroom.

Last year's festival featured everything from traditionally decorated trees to a "tree"

made from books decorated with origami snowflakes and a stunning blue glass tree created by local artist Craig Mitchell Smith.

The trees are decorated by individuals, businesses and nonprofits in the Greater Lansing community. Michael Beebe, president of the Friends of Turner-Dodge House, said this year's festival will feature over 50 trees.

"We had 37 trees last year; our goal for this year was 50 trees," Beebe said. "The challenge will be placement."

This year's festival opens to the public on Dec. 5 and will run through Jan. 3. Visitors are invited to cast a vote for their favorite tree. Proceeds from the event go toward maintenance and educational programs hosted by the Turner-Dodge House.

Editor's note: Due to a reporting error, last week's Holiday Events Guide included incorrect information about this year's Festival of Trees. The festival will not be open on Fridays this year, and there is no longer a family admission price.

Ty Forquer/City Pulse

City Pulse's 2014 Festival of Trees entry, "Black, White and Read All Over," was awarded third place at last year's opening gala. Paul Shore created the tree using past City Pulse issues.

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CITY PULSE'S 2015
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



CITY PULSE'S 2015

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

The holiday shopping season begins in earnest this weekend, with retailers offering Black Friday/Small Business Saturday/Cyber Monday deals to entice holiday shoppers. (For some of you, it may even begin Thursday. If the allure of a 40-percent-off flatscreen TV is enough to pull you away from your warm couch and turkey leftovers to battle herds of cutthroat shoppers, Godspeed my friend.)

City Pulse has scoured the area looking for ways that you, our readers, can spend your holiday budget locally. From art galleries to coffee houses to local eateries, there are plenty of options for the creative gift seeker.

(photos by Ty Forquer)



KEEP IT POPPIN'

Cravings, Lansing's premier purveyor of popcorn, is rolling out its array of holiday offerings. For convenient gift-giving, the shop offers pre-packaged gift baskets stuffed with seasonal candy cane- and sugar cookie-flavored popcorn and specialty sodas (\$25-\$40). For the real popcorn fanatics in your life, Cravings offers refillable tins of its gourmet popcorn in 1-gallon (\$15) and 3.5-gallon (\$42) sizes. While you're there, we recommend picking up a few bags of Old Town Mix (a mix of caramel corn and white cheddar popcorn) to set out for unexpected holiday guests. And maybe pick up a bag of dark molasses caramel corn with sea salt for after the kids go to bed — it goes great with late-night movies.

HOLY CANNOLI

Want to be the hit of your friends' holiday parties? Swing by Roma Bakery and pick up a tray of the bakery's signature cannoli. Filled with chocolate chip, almond or pistachio fillings, these tasty Italian pastries will guarantee your invitation to next year's party. And while you're at the back of the shop, slide over to the deli counter and pick up some olives, salami and fresh mozzarella for a killer antipasto plate. The bakery also offers a variety of fresh baked bread and holiday pies made to order.



PACKED WITH DEALS

If you watch any local TV, you've probably heard the jingle telling you to "expect the unexpected" at Kellie's Consignments. The 13,000-square-foot Okemos shop is packed to the gills with vintage clothes, used couture items, home goods, furniture, jewelry and more — and since it's a consignment shop, there are deals to be had.

There are plenty of gift-able items for men and women, including classy hats and scarves and designer sunglasses and handbags. Kellie's Consignments even has a limited number of actual Spartan Stadium seats (\$250) that were removed during renovations. They're a perfect addition to any Spartan sports den.

See Gift Guide, pg. 16

CITY SIDEWALKS, BUSY SIDEWALKS



Chilly temperatures arrived in Lansing just in time to give Lansing's Silver Bells in the City festival a wintry feel. Thousands of Lansing-area residents braved the sub-freezing weather to take in Friday night's festivities, which included a community sing-along, an Electric Light Parade and the ceremonial lighting of the State Christmas tree.

Photos by Luke Swab

Members of Pewamo-Westphalia High School's marching band wrapped their instruments in holiday lights to match the parade theme.



The Electric Light Parade featured several vehicles, like this truck from Lansing's Mongoose Pro Monster Trucks, decorated with colorful lights.



Crowds gathered along Capitol Avenue to take in the parade and official tree lighting.

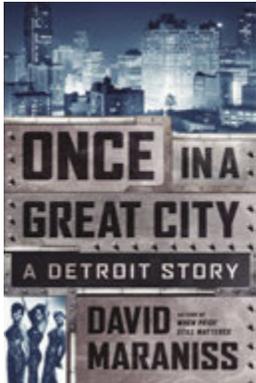


Lansing Community College's #starpower float featured old Saint Nick dressed up in LCC blue and white.



Singer/songwriter Joshua Davis, a former Lansing resident and finalist on "The Voice," served as the parade's grand marshal and delivered the evening's headline performance.

Schuler Books & Music Your One-Stop Gift Shop!

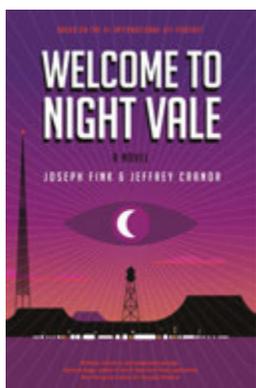
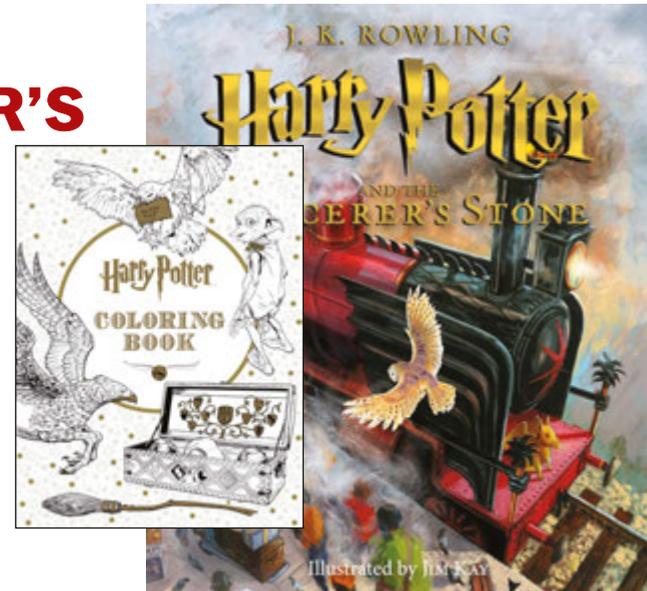


ONCE IN A GREAT CITY: A DETROIT STORY

Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss returns to the city of his birth for a powerful, affectionate look at Detroit in 1963, when it was still at the top of the world. Richly detailed and earning rave reviews, *Once in a Great City* is a perfect gift for Detroiters, history buffs, and fans of skillfully executed non-fiction!

HARRY POTTER & THE SORCERER'S STONE: ILLUSTRATED EDITION & HARRY POTTER COLORING BOOK

Harry Potter fans will adore these new additions to the Potter collection! Award-winning artist Jim Kay has created over 100 stunning illustrations, making the deluxe format of *The Sorcerer's Stone* the perfect gift for both the first time reader and the devoted fan. Pair it with the new Harry Potter Coloring Book for a winning combo!

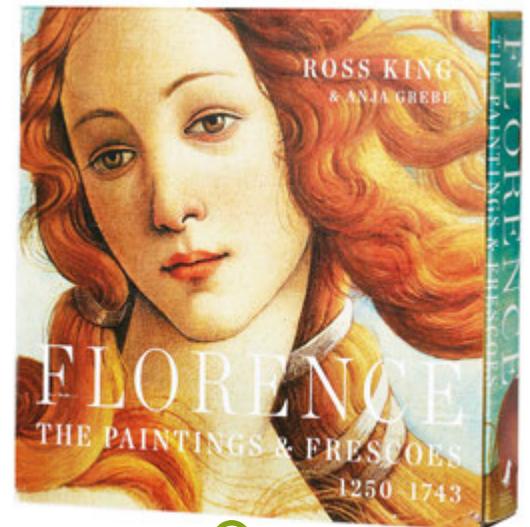


WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE: A NOVEL

Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor turned their oddball Welcome To Night Vale podcast into an international sensation, and now make fans rejoice with a novel that explores and expands the mythology of their strange desert town. The Guardian deemed it "hypnotic and darkly funny. . . . Belongs to a particular strain of American gothic that encompasses The Twilight Zone, Stephen King and Twin Peaks, with a bit of Tremors thrown in."

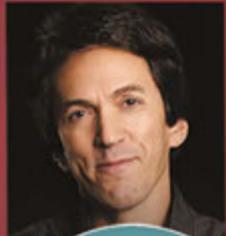
FLORENCE: THE PAINTINGS & FRESCOES, 1250-1743

This is the most comprehensive book on the paintings and frescoes of Florence ever undertaken, with nearly 2,000 beautifully reproduced artworks from the city's great museums and churches. Every painted work that is on display in the Uffizi Gallery, The Pitti Palace, the Accademia, and the Duomo is included in the book, plus many or most of the works from 28 of the city's other magnificent museums and churches. A perfect gift for art lovers!



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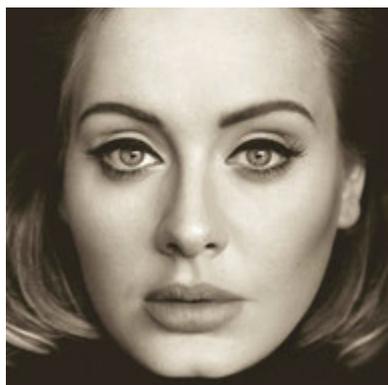
THE BASSOON KING by Rainn Wilson

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For nine seasons Rainn Wilson played Dwight Schrute, everyone’s favorite work nemesis and beet farmer. Viewers of The Office fell in love with the character and grew to love the actor who played him even more. Now Rainn Wilson has written a memoir about growing up geeky and finally finding his place in comedy, faith, and life.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 2015 COTTON BOWL DVD

We’re rooting for MSU football to head to another bowl game this year, but it’s still up in the air. Get pumped by reliving all the nail-biting action from the 2015 Goodyear Cotton Bowl between Michigan State and Baylor. Awesome for hardcore Spartans and football fans!



25 by Adele

Adele’s newest album is not available on streaming services, and it is on track to break sales records! In a crowded pop music marketplace, Adele stands alone. Her lovely contralto voice, unblemished by Autotune or vocal effects, and her commitment to soulful material instead of club-influenced dance music, make her one of a kind.

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Gift Guide, from pg. 12



FLOWER POWER

The obvious play here is a holiday classic: the poinsettia. Smith Floral offers the seasonal favorite in several sizes in classic red, as well as yellow, pink or festive tri-color varieties (\$5.75-\$40). In non-floral offerings, the shop carries a variety of seasonal and year-round home and garden decorations. Lansing history junkies should check out the shop's selection of beverage coasters featuring historic Lansing landmarks. The coasters are \$11 each, and if you buy four you get a free wooden display stand.

WINE AND DINE

Give your holiday parties some local flavor with booze made right here in the Lansing area. The region's newest brewery, Lansing Brewing Co., offers its beer to go by the growler. Grab a growler of Spartan Dawgs Pale Ale or Dumb Ass Rick India Red, and you'll be a hit with your beer-loving friends. Or if you prefer wine, make a trip out to Burgdorf's Winery in Haslett. Check out the local winery's Marquette wine. One of the first medal-winning wines made with Marquette grape, this wine features a floral bouquet and notes of juniper, oak and black raspberry.



FIFTY SHADES OF CHRISTMAS

Bradly's Home and Garden offers a multitude of options to bring the spirit of the holidays into your home. The Old Town shop offers several takes on holiday décor, including classic, rustic and garden-themed holiday fare. There's even a "greige" Christmas tree. A mash-up of grey and beige, greige décor features a soothing, muted color palette that is popular in contemporary interior design. For gift ideas, check out the shop's array of hip faux-rustic items, including ceramic deer busts and metallic deer antler coat hangers (\$17.25-\$51.75).





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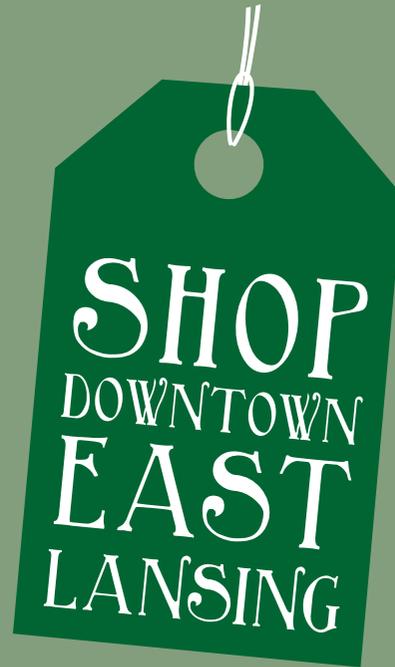
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See Gift Guide, pg. 21

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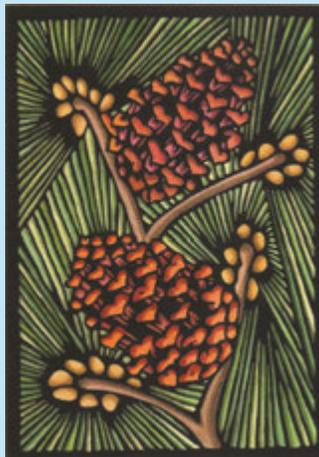
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Downtown East Lansing Holiday Shopping
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Gift Guide, from pg. 16



HOLIDAYS AT THE CRUNCH

If you're an MSU alum, there's a good chance you spent a few too many drunken nights belting out karaoke tunes at Crunchy's. (Yes Tina, that version of "Don't Stop Believin'" was the most epic ever. Could you maybe get down from that table?) Commemorate those karaoke nights with Crunchy's gear like shirts, beer glasses or window clings. For the beer snob on your gift list, the bar also offers "crawlers" — 32 oz. cans of beer made one-the-spot with beers from Crunchy's extensive craft beer tap list.

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Downtown East Lansing
 Holiday Shopping
 November 26-December 24



Stay tooned

Sick of cooking? Tired of holiday turkey and hams? Let Zaytoon Mediterranean take care of a meal or two. The westside eatery offers a family feast that includes chicken and beef kebabs, shish kafta, chicken shawarma, fried kibbee, grape leaves, hommous, baba ghanoush, tabooli and fattouch, all served over a bed of rice with a side of pita bread (\$14.99 per person, minimum three people). Zaytoon also offers catering starting at \$9.99 per person, including vegetarian-only options.

Staycation

For your friends who need a break but are too busy to get out of town, give them a vacation experience that's practically in their own backyard. Pick up a gift certificate to East Lansing's Wild Goose Inn and treat your friends to a cozy bed and breakfast experience without leaving Greater Lansing. Or if they want to get a little farther away, the English Inn in Eaton Rapids offers luxurious lodgings at its elegant riverside location.

The gift that keeps on giving

If you're in a pinch, gift certificates to local eateries are always a good option. Snag a gift certificate to Jersey Giant or Meat, and your carnivorous friends will surely appreciate it. Or grab a gift card for East Lansing's HopCat — and you may as well get an order of Crack Fries to go while you're there, right?

See Gift Guide, pg. 22

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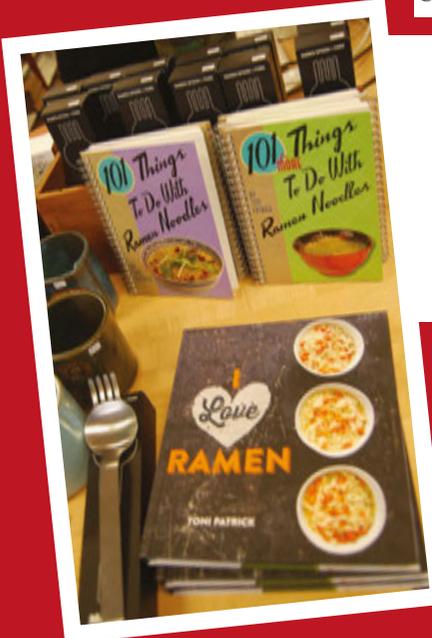
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Gift Guide, from pg. 21

HOLY MACKEREL

Even Greater Lansing's art galleries are getting in on the Michigan's craft beverage obsession. East Lansing's Mackerel Sky has a killer selection of barware, ranging from faux-vintage cocktail glasses and funky pint glasses to stainless steel, Michigan-shaped bottle openers and hand-fashioned corkscrews. For the college student on your guest list, the gallery offers three cookbooks by Toni Patrick using that staple of dorm room cooking: ramen noodles. It even carries a spork specially designed for slurping up your noodly concoctions. The gallery also has a respectable collection of Stormy Kromer hats. These made-in-the-U.P. plaid hats are so hot right now among the urban lumberjack crowd.



TAKE A LOOK, IT'S IN A BOOK

The hottest item at Schuler Books & Music right now is coloring books — for adults. From intricate, Zen-inspired designs to elaborate cityscapes, Schuler's collection of grown-up coloring books is a great way to bring some whimsy into a friend's life. The bookstore also carries the latest releases, so whether you need to pick up this week's John Grisham legal thriller or the new book by that one girl from Youtube, Schuler's has you covered.

If your tastes tend more toward the obscure, head over to Ray Walsh's Curious Book Shop in East Lansing. A Lansing-area staple since 1969, Curious Book Shop boasts a collection that should please even the snobbiest of book snobs. The three-floor bookstore is packed with rare and early edition books, old school posters, classic science fiction magazines and much more. MSU sports fans should definitely check out the shop's collection of vintage MSU football programs, and comic book fanatics will love sifting through the shop's boxes of graphic goodness.



See Gift Guide, pg. 25

Red Nose Ruckus!

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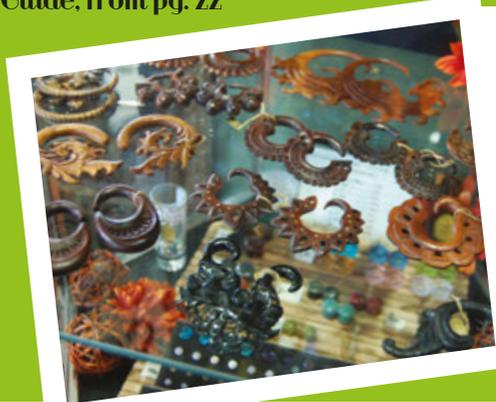
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Gift Guide, from pg. 22



GIVING INK

You know that one friend with the half-finished shoulder piece? (I know Tim, it's going to look really sweet when it's colored in.) Swing by Splash of Color and grab a gift certificate for that special tattooed someone in your life. The East Lansing shop is more than just ink, though. The shop also offers piercing, and its body jewelry shop offers everything from subtle studs to gnarly 3-inch wooden earrings.



CLEAN LIVING

Does your friend always seem a little high-strung? Out of sorts? Treat them to a spa day at Remedi. The East Lansing spa offers a variety of relaxation and wellness experiences, ranging from manicures and pedicures to floatation therapy and hydromassage. Or check out the offerings at Massage & Wellness. Located in the heart of East Lansing's downtown, Massage & Wellness offers massage therapy (obviously), as well as acupuncture, facials and body wraps. Or maybe they just need a better diet. Hook them up with a gift certificate to Foods for Living, and the crew at the East Lansing health food store can guide them to the best in organic, gluten-free, GMO-free and vegan/vegetarian options. Perhaps some activity would do them well. Stop by Action Board Shop, also in downtown East Lansing, and check out the shop's extensive collection of skateboards. (Don't forget to grab a helmet and pads — it's dangerous out there!)

HOLIDAY BUZZ

East Lansing's Espresso Royale has a special gift option for your favorite caffeine fiend. Earlier this year the coffee shop introduced the Jug, a refillable half-gallon growler. The Jug itself costs \$4, and patrons can have it filled at Espresso Royale with cold press coffee (\$10.80), house-made chai tea (\$13.50), whole leaf iced tea (\$8.25) or fresh-squeezed lemonade (\$10.35). Whether you need some late-night essay-writing fuel or just need a little kick to get you through the afternoon doldrums, a half-gallon of house-brewed coffee or tea in your fridge is a good friend to have.



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Season of giving

Social media movement encourages people to give back

By MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM

As shoppers prepare to dole out their hard-earned dollars in the name of outrageous savings this weekend, one initiative is calling consumers to set aside some of their holiday dough to giving back to their communities.

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, Dec. 1
lansinglovesgivingtuesday.com

The social media movement #GivingTuesday encourages spenders to donate time and money to nonprofits and charities on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

The local chapter of the #GivingTuesday movement, #LansingLoves #GivingTuesday, is encouraging Greater Lansing residents to participate in the growing tradition. The group is dedicated to promoting #GivingTuesday locally, providing literature to area businesses and individuals about how they can get involved. The group also provides many online resources on its website, including sample e-mails to send to donors and helpful links for those who want to get involved.

Heather Vida, one of the leading members of the #LansingLoves #GivingTuesday team and Hospice of Lansing's director of fund development, jokingly refers to herself as the "self-proclaimed chair of the committee."

"We've never really made positions," she said. "#LansingLoves #GivingTuesday runs solely on a volunteer basis. We don't even have a budget, really. Everything we do is on our own time."

Vida and Robin Miner-Swartz, vice president of marketing and communication for the Capital Region Community Foundation, founded the group in 2014. They wanted #LansingLoves #GivingTuesday to include as many local nonprofits as possible and highlight the importance of community outreach and engagement.

"Many nonprofits have united as a result of this movement," Vida said. "We really felt that reaching out to the community and showing support for giving back would inspire people to take action. Our committee believes that the work we do here in Lansing will increase the engagement and bring the movement to the next level."

The group's main focus during the 2015 campaign has been raising awareness in the community, but it is also working with the Michigan Nonprofit Association to create a statewide initiative for 2016. Vida said that 85 local nonprofits are participating in this year's version of #LansingLoves #GivingTuesday, up from 70 last year.

The #GivingTuesday movement was



Courtesy photo

Bob Hoffman, Wharton Center manager of public relations and Fox 47 talk show host, shows off his #UNselfie as part of #GivingTuesday.

founded in 2012 by New York's 92nd Street Y. The initiative has garnered global attention as a philanthropic alternative to commerce-driven movements

like Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

A few local businesses are dedicating resources to the cause. Old Town's Elderly Instruments is hosting a ukulele class for beginners followed by a uke jam session and concert. All of the proceeds from Elderly's ukulele and accessory sales on #GivingTuesday will go to Music Is The Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to funding music programs in area schools. The Firecracker Foundation is organizing two donation-based yoga sessions at Springhill Suites in Lansing to raise funds for its work with sexual trauma survivors. Vida also encourages participants to seek out local volunteer opportunities.

"Sometime giving is monetary, but sometimes giving is volunteering at the soup kitchen for a few hours," she said. "Giving can be letting someone cross the street while you're driving, or letting someone who's in a hurry go before you in line for coffee."

Residents can also get involved by promoting the campaign on social media. The unselfish selfie, or "#UNselfie," encourages participants to share why they give by snapping a pic of themselves holding a custom-made sign and sharing it on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"The rising tide truly lifts all ships," Vida said. "At the end of the day, if it helps someone in our community to be successful, we all win."

Book nooks

Little libraries pop up all over Lansing

By BILL CASTANIER

All over Greater Lansing — and all around the country — little take-one-or-leave-one book boxes are popping up. Often shaped like little houses or cupboards, these little libraries offer passersby a chance to pick up a free book or donate a used one. By spring, six more little libraries will sprout up in Lansing's Westside Neighborhood.

Danielle Casavant and her husband, Rod Lambert, are finishing up the construction of six little libraries, which will make a total of nine little libraries to the neighborhood. Spurred by a grant, the Westside Neighborhood Association allocated \$650 to build the six new libraries.

The concept of little libraries is simple. Individuals, organizations or businesses build a box to hold books and add a sign to encourage participants to take a book — for free — or leave a book. Many libraries have a person in charge of collecting books to keep the library stocked. Part of the fun of these little libraries is never knowing what books are going to be available.

"It's definitely serendipitous," Casavant said. "But it's no substitute for a great public library."

At one time in Michigan history, boxes filled with books were the only access families outside of big cities had to books. In 1895, Michigan, under the direction of the state librarian, began shipping oak boxes packed with 50 books "of the best literature" to farmhouses, women's clubs and book clubs across the state.

The selection of books was quite broad, including fictional books as well as texts on religion, biographies, natural sciences and history. Similar boxes were delivered by the U.S Coast Guard to remote lighthouses to keep the keepers stimulated.

The current state librarian, Randy Riley, said he likes that the little libraries create opportunities for what he calls "random reading."

Today's little libraries aren't quite as organized, but Casavant said the Westside Neighborhood is considering some themed little libraries for particular types of literature. For example, one library may host children's books, while another may feature science fiction novels. The group put out a call for books,

and the neighborhood's response was almost immediate.

"Since the idea was posted on Facebook, a lot of neighbors responded," Casavant said. "We are backlogged with books."

You never know where little libraries will pop up. I recently came across a small library in the office of Michael Hourani, a Lansing nephrologist. If you are catching the I-69 expressway off of Dewitt Road, you may have noticed a new little library near Clark Road erected by John Seymour. A carpenter by trade, Seymour went all out on his little library, a 6-foot-long box filled with books. He also sells eggs from free range chickens at the same site.

"I had my first customer two days ago," he said.

A prodigious reader, Seymour said he has "two and a half bushels of books ready to go." A little sign tucked in front of the little library advertises "Grampa John's Library" in black magic marker. Seymour also added a wooden head he had carved 40 years ago.

"It looks like an alien," he said. On a recent snowy day, it looked more like a white-haired Homer Simpson.

On the east side, a "Free Little Library" sits at the southwest corner of Fairview Avenue and Tulane Drive. On the southwest side of Lansing, just off Mount Hope Avenue on Westchester Road, a beautiful blue "Doctor Who"-esque tiny phone booth hosts a little library. On Bartlett Street, close to Saginaw Highway, another little library decorated with the imprints of little hands greets book lovers. The Pinecrest, Marble and Red Cedar el-

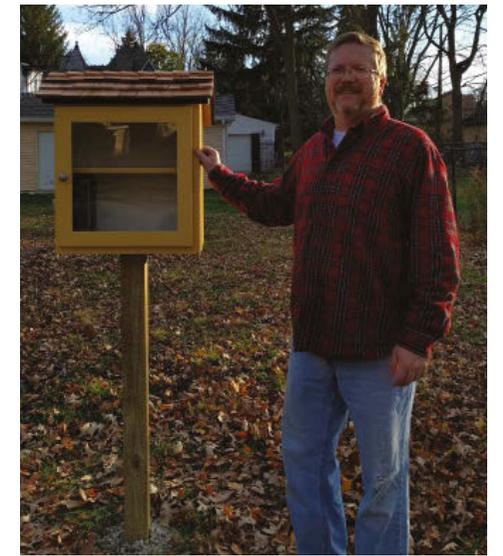
ementary schools also have free little libraries.

One of the more prominent little libraries is on Turner Street, just north of Grand River Avenue in Old Town. On Sunday, the little library was covered in snow with the book "Summer Harvest" peeking out.

This summer, Grand Ledge resident Matt Lloyd constructed two little libraries as an Eagle Scout project. Both are in Delta Township, one on the East West Pathway trail near the Delta Township Library and the other where the trail crosses Brookside Drive. For the little library at the Delta Township Library, Frank Lloyd Wright's Winslow House was used for inspiration.

While most of these libraries are a grassroots effort, a Wisconsin-based nonprofit, appropriately named Little Free Library, provides support to folks interested in creating their own little library. Its website, littlefreelibrary.org, sells pre-made libraries, as well as kits to build your own. For a \$40 fee, library creators can register their little libraries with the group, which maintains a Google map of registered little libraries worldwide. (The registration also includes the legal right to use the term "little free library," which the group has copyrighted.) There are over 32,000 registered sites worldwide, but if the Lansing experience is any indication, there are likely two to three times that number that are unregistered.

Casavant said that their organization will not register its little libraries. She would rather use the money for an additional li-



Courtesy Photo

Westside resident Rod Lambert stands next to a recently completed little library.

brary in the neighborhood.

The little library movement isn't exactly new. Little Free Library traces its roots back to 2009. In 2012, City Pulse profiled an East Lansing little library on Cowley Avenue, just north of Michigan Avenue.

"It's exciting to see what new books will show up," owner Liesel Carlson said at the time.

Check out lansingcitypulse.com for a photo gallery of little libraries. Do you know of any that we missed? Send the location and a photo of the library to ty@lansingcitypulse.com.



Courtesy Photo

A "Doctor Who"-esque little library on Westchester Road offers free books to passers by in southwest Lansing.

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HALF OFF APPETIZERS

from 3 p.m.-Close
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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, November 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2. French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Aux Petits Soins-Travel bugs 2. French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lanc.info
Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org.

Gentle Yoga. Yoga basics. 9-10 a.m. \$10

See Out on the Town, Page 30

A musical 'Carol'



Photo by LukeAnthony Photography

From left to right: Tim Beam as The Ghost of Christmas Future, Tracy Dolinar as the Ghost of Christmas Present, Mark Mandenberg as Jacob Marley, and Alison Simmons as the Ghost of Christmas Past. Seated is Keith Mino as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Nov. 27-Dec. 5

Every holiday season, there are countless stage versions of the Charles Dickens' holiday classic, "A Christmas Carol." This year, Lansing's Riverwalk Theatre will present the story — but with a musical twist.

Riverwalk's revamped production is adapted by director Tom Ferris, a board member for the theater and veteran of local theater scene. Ferris's version attempts to add elements of humor and music to the introspective story.

"Over the years, I have seen many different versions of this story. Whether it was on stage or a film, with live actors or cartoons, I just always felt like people had a real connection to this tale," Ferris said. "But I also always thought it needed a little something. The themes in the story can be so adult — it really made me wonder if there was something different we could do."

One challenge facing many productions of "A Christmas Carol" is trying to make the story more family friendly for holiday audiences.

"Well I have never really thought that Charles Dickens wrote with much humor in mind," Ferris said. "Sure, the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his moral quandaries is a holiday classic, but I wondered, 'What if Jacob Marley was a song and dance man? What if Tiny Tim put all of his

emotions into a song?'"

This is not the first time Ferris has adapted Dickens' holiday classic for the stage.

"When my son was attending grade school in Grand Ledge, the school was planning to do a holiday performance of 'A Christmas Carol.' The administration knew of my involvement with the Riverwalk Theatre and asked if I would help with the production," Ferris said.

He jumped into the project with both feet, trying to make a school auditorium look like the streets of London and teaching students collections of Christmas songs for the performance.

"I knew I wanted to do something different, so we began to add scenes where children would be singing actual Christmas carols," Ferris said. "We added dancing scenes, sight gags and pretty much anything to make the production a little more kid friendly."

After the success of the school performance, Ferris began thinking about a full stage production of his adaptation.

"I had such a great time helping to put their show together, it was fun to work with my son and people were responding really well to the show," Ferris said. "I knew Riverwalk would be having their season selection committee meetings soon, so I

decided to pitch my idea for one of the holiday slots."

Adding a musical element, Ferris said, added a degree of difficulty to casting the production.

"I figured it would take time to find performers that would fit exactly what we wanted," Ferris said. "Thankfully, our auditions were packed. It ended up being rather difficult to decide on a final cast list. Everyone who auditioned did such an amazing job, but I feel like we have to best cast of individuals for what we wanted to do with the show."

Ferris feels that "A Christmas Carol," written over 170 years ago, still carries a message that is relevant today.

"When Dickens was writing at the beginning of the industrial revolution, there was a sense of responsibility," Ferris said. "People needed to work together, to protect one another. This is something I would really wish to see brought back, especially now when there is so much turmoil in the world. We all deserve some joy this holiday season."

"A Christmas Carol"

Riverwalk Theatre
7 p.m. Friday,
Nov. 27; 2 p.m.
and 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 28;
2 p.m. Sunday,
Nov. 29; 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4; 2
p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
\$8/\$6 children
228 Museum
Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

— KEVIN MCINERNEY

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. NOV 27TH

Wally Pleasant

WALLY PLEASANT AT THE AVENUE CAFE

Friday, Nov. 27 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. 21+, \$5, 9 p.m.

Singer/songwriter Wally Pleasant entered the local music scene while attending Michigan State University, and his first early-'90s demo sold 5,000 copies. After the release of his 1992 debut, "Songs About Stuff," Pleasant became a fixture in the East Lansing music scene. Soon after, he toured the country and his proper albums hit CMJ's Top 20. His quirky, stripped-down acoustic tunes like "Small Time Drug Dealer" and "Denny's at 4 a.m." fused witty lyricism with a blasé, Jonathan Richman-style delivery. Through the '90s, Pleasant released a string of albums on the Miranda Music imprint. His latest release is 2004's "Music For Nerds & Perverts." Pleasant has been featured on national shows like "Acoustic Café" and "The Dr. Demento Show," and has scored press in Billboard and the Wall Street Journal. Friday, Pleasant plays the Avenue Café; sharing the bill are Icy/Dicey, Hawks & Snakes, the Deans and the Tiny Murderers.

TEQUILA COWBOY OPENS DEC. 3

Thursday, Dec 3 @ Tequila Cowboy Bar & Grill, 5660 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing.



THUR. DEC 3RD

Tequila Cowboy

For Lansing folks who stay faithfully tuned into WITL and CMT, a new local hangout will surely get your spurs jinglin' and janglin'. The country music-themed Tequila Cowboy Bar & Grill, located in the Lansing Mall, hosts its grand opening Dec. 3. The Lansing bar is the chain's third location. Tequila Cowboy's flagship bar opened on Broadway Avenue in downtown Nashville in early 2012, and it opened its second bar in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014. Aside from drinks, dancing and dining, the bar plans to host national and regional country acts. The 18,000-square-foot venue fills the space formerly set aside for the never-opened Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill, which was evicted over the summer after it failed to finish construction or pay rent.

ANYBODY KILLA AT MAC'S BAR

Saturday, Nov. 28 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$12 adv., 8 p.m.



SAT. NOV 28TH

Anybody Killa

Anybody Killa, real name James Lowery, has been a stalwart on the Insane Clown Posse's Psychopathic Records roster since his 2003 LP, "Hatchet Warrior." The horror-core rap disc peaked at No. 4 on the Billboard Top Independent Albums chart. Last month, the 43-year-old masked rapper dropped his sixth album, "Shapeshifter," the Detroit-based artist's first proper full-length since 2010's "Medicine Bag." Since Lowery's 1995 debut, his gritty, gangster-rap storylines have combined dark humor with imagery from his Native American heritage —with many shout-outs to Detroit, marijuana and Faygo soda along the way. Saturday he returns to Mac's Bar; opens at the all-ages show are Big Hoodoo, the Havknotts and Bigg Hugg & Grimm. Fans of Esham or the Geto Boys might want to check out this show.

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Punksgiving, 9 p.m.		Wally Pleasant, 8 p.m.	Fresh Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistar, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Alistar, 9 p.m.	Tenants, 5 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Bobby Standal, 8:30 p.m.	Rush Clement, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.		
Darb's, 117 S. Cedar St.				Greg Smith, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.				
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke w/Jamie, 9 p.m.		DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.	DJ Fudgie, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	Blue Haired Bettys, 9:30 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Glamhammer, 9 p.m.	The Rotations, 8 p.m.	The Hot Mess, 9:30 p.m.	Sloan, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Steve Cowles, 5 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				
Third Base Sports Bar, 13623 Main St.				Thrift Shop Party, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Night Before Thanksgiving, 8 p.m.			
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	From Big Sur, 8 p.m.			Anybody Killa, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.			From Big Sur, 9 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Jim Shaneberger Band, 8 p.m.	
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Kathy Ford, 7 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		Full House, 7 p.m.	Bobby Standal, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Smooth Daddy, 7 p.m.	Dirty Helen, 7 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.		Frog and the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog and the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.		Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Nov. 25-Dec. 1

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "We are torn between nostalgia for the familiar and an urge for the foreign and strange," wrote novelist Carson McCullers. "As often as not, we are homesick most for the places we have never known." I'm guessing that these days you're feeling that kind of homesickness, Aries. The people and places that usually comfort you don't have their customary power. The experiences you typically seek out to strengthen your stability just aren't having that effect. The proper response, in my opinion, is to go in quest of exotic and experimental stimuli. In ways you may not yet be able to imagine, they can provide the grounding you need. They will steady your nerves and bolster your courage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The Pekingese is a breed of dog that has been around for over 2,000 years. In ancient China, it was beloved by Buddhist monks and emperors' families. Here's the legend of its origin: A tiny marmoset and huge lion fell in love with each other, but the contrast in their sizes made union impossible. Then the gods intervened, using magic to make them the same size. Out of the creatures' consummated passion, the first Pekingese was born. I think this myth can serve as inspiration for you, Taurus. Amazingly, you may soon find a way to blend and even synergize two elements that are ostensibly quite different. Who knows? You may even get some divine help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Author Virginia Woolf wrote this message to a dear ally: "I sincerely hope I'll never fathom you. You're mystical, serene, intriguing; you enclose such charm within you. The luster of your presence bewitches me . . . the whole thing is splendid and voluptuous and absurd." I hope you will have good reason to whisper sweet things like that in the coming weeks, Gemini. You're in the Season of Togetherness, which is a favorable time to seek and cultivate interesting kinds of intimacy. If there is no one to whom you can sincerely deliver a memo like Woolf's, search for such a person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some people are so attached to wearing a favorite ring on one of their fingers that they never take it off. They love the beauty and endearment it evokes. In rare cases, years go by and their ring finger grows thicker. Blood flow is constricted. Discomfort sets in. And they can't remove their precious jewelry with the lubrication provided by a little olive oil or soap and water. They need the assistance of a jeweler who uses a small saw and a protective sheath to cut away the ring. I suspect this may be an apt metaphor for a certain situation in your life, Cancerian. Is it? Do you wonder if you should free yourself from a pretty or sentimental constriction that you have outgrown? If so, get help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted," wrote Leo author Aldous Huxley. That's the bad news. The good news is that in the coming weeks you are less likely to take things for granted than you have been in a long time. Happily, it's not because your familiar pleasures and sources of stability are in jeopardy. Rather, it's because you have become more deeply connected to the core of your life energy. You have a vivid appreciation of what sustains you. Your assignment: Be alert for the eternal as it wells up out of the mundane.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In their quest to collect nectar, honeybees are attuned to the importance of proper timing. Even if flowering plants are abundant, the quality and quantity of the nectar that's available vary with the weather, season, and hour of the day. For example, dandelions may offer their peak blessings at 9 a.m., cornflowers in late morning, and clover in mid-afternoon. I urge you to be equally sensitive to the sources where you can obtain nourishment, Virgo. Arrange your schedule so you consistently seek to gather what you need at the right time and place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Are you willing to dedicate yourself fully to a game whose rules are constantly mutating? Are you resourceful enough to keep playing at a high level even if some of the other players don't have as much integrity and commitment as you? Do you have confidence in your ability to detect and adjust to ever-shifting alliances? Will the game still engage your interest if you discover that the rewards are different from what you thought they were? If you can answer yes to these questions, by all means jump all the way into the complicated fun!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I suspect your body has been unusually healthy and vigorous lately. Is that true? If so, figure out why. Have you been taking better care of yourself? Have there been lucky accidents or serendipitous innovations on which you've been capitalizing? Make these new trends a permanent part of your routine. Now I'll make a similar observation about your psychological well-being. It also seems to have been extra strong recently. Why? Has your attitude improved in such a way as to generate more positive emotions? Have there been fluky breakthroughs that unleashed unexpected surges of hope and good cheer? Make these new trends a permanent part of your routine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): From the dawn of civilization until 1995, humans cataloged about 900 comets in our solar system. But since then, we have expanded that tally by over 3,000. Most of the recent discoveries have been made not by professional astronomers, but by laypersons, including two 13-year-olds. They have used the Internet to access images from the SOHO satellite placed in orbit by NASA and the European Space Agency. After analyzing the astrological omens, I expect you Sagittarians to enjoy a similar run of amateur success. So trust your rookie instincts. Feed your innocent curiosity. Ride your raw enthusiasm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Whether or not you are literally a student enrolled in school, I suspect you will soon be given a final exam. It may not happen in a classroom or require you to write responses to questions. The exam will more likely be administered by life in the course of your daily challenges. The material you'll be tested on will mostly include the lessons you have been studying since your last birthday. But there will also be at least one section that deals with a subject you've been wrestling with since early in your life — and maybe even a riddle from before you were born. Since you have free will, Capricorn, you can refuse to take the exam. But I hope you won't. The more enthusiastic you are about accepting its challenge, the more likely it is that you'll do well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): For \$70,000 per night, you can rent the entire country of Liechtenstein for your big party. The price includes the right to rename the streets while you're there. You can also create a temporary currency with a likeness of you on the bills, have a giant rendition of your favorite image carved into the snow on a mountainside, and preside over a festive medieval-style parade. Given your current astrological omens, I suggest you consider the possibility. If that's too extravagant, I hope you will at least gather your legion of best friends for the Blowout Bash of the Decade. It's time, in my opinion, to explore the mysteries of vivid and vigorous conviviality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Are you available to benefit from a thunderbolt healing? Would you consider wading into a maelstrom if you knew it was a breakthrough in disguise? Do you have enough faith to harvest an epiphany that begins as an uproar? Weirdly lucky phenomena like these are on tap if you have the courage to ask for overdue transformations. Your blind spots and sore places are being targeted by life's fierce tenderness. All you have to do is say, "Yes, I'm ready."

Out on the town

from page 28

drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

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

One on One Life Coaching. Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Tripper's Comedy Club. 9-10:30 p.m. \$5 Subject to change or cancellation. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.

MUSIC

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

Ukulele Workshop. Bring or borrow an instrument. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. marshallmusicweb.com.

Thursday, November 26

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

Karaoke. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$23. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Friday, November 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1-3. French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4), 10:30 a.m. (0-2) & 5:15pm (ages 4-6). \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

EVENTS

Holidays in Mason. Parade, games and tree lighting. 6 p.m. FREE. Courthouse Square, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Mason. (517) 676-1046, masonchamber.org.

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

Michigan Native American Art and Crafts Holiday Open House. Works of art for sale. 1-5 p.m. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road Okemos. (517) 349-5777.

See Out on the Town, Page 31

FRIDAY, NOV. 27 >> MASON HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Lansing's Silver Bells is over, but the sounds of festive parades and fairs are still ringing in Mid-Michigan. Mason celebrates the holidays Friday with its own holiday parade, light show and an assortment of activities for all ages. The Santa Band provides background music during the lighting of the grand tree at Courthouse Square at 6 p.m., immediately followed by a Christmas light parade from Bond Park to Courthouse Avenue. Games, food and drinks are available at the square, as well as crafts and activities for kids. Santa Claus makes an appearance at the Mason Museum at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Storefronts and homes throughout the downtown area will add to the glamour and glitz with their own decorations as part of Mason's Light up the Town campaign. 6 p.m. FREE. Courthouse Square, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Mason. (517) 676-1046, masonchamber.org.

Out on the town

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Kids Skate. First 25 get free hot dog, pop. 6-8 p.m., ages 13 and under. 8-11 p.m., ages 14 and up. \$8. Skate City Roller Rink, 905 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$35. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Nutcracker. Performance by Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan. 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

A Christmas Carol. Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre,

228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, November 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Gymnastics for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 3-3:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 977-7096.

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

Zumba for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 2-2:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 721-1868.

MUSIC

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

Deacon Earl @ Lansing City Market. Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

EVENTS

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

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UU77c.

LEGO Mystery Challenge. All ages welcome. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 32

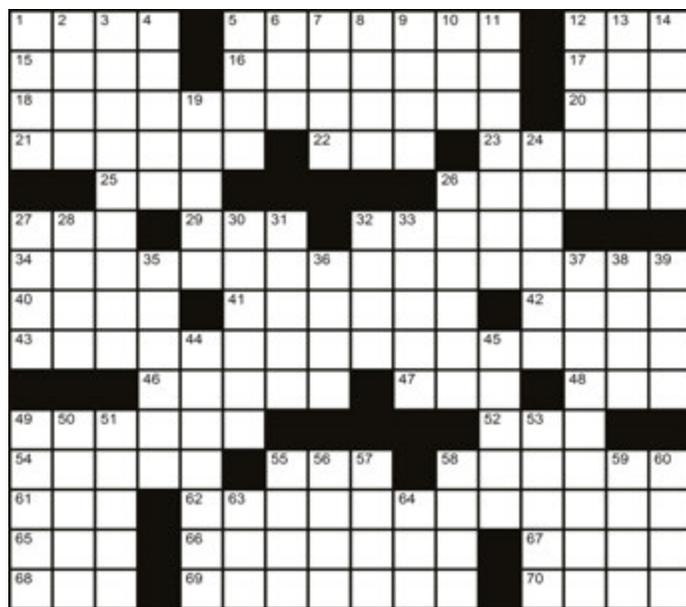
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Flour Power" — bake it a good one.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Watch chains
- 5 "I Love a Rainy Night" country singer Eddie
- 12 ___ deferens
- 15 Farmer's measurement
- 16 Team with the football
- 17 "Bravo, bull-fighter!"
- 18 Flour sorters that form patterns?
- 20 Pack member, for short?
- 21 This evening, in ads
- 22 "___ me, that's who!"
- 23 Go over some lines?
- 25 "Well, lah-di-___!"
- 26 "LOSER KEEPS ___" (billboard seen before the U.S.-Canada gold medal hockey game of 2014)
- 27 Particle in a charged state
- 29 I, in Munich
- 32 Borneo ape, for short
- 34 Motors that are better suited for flour mills?
- 40 Test giver's call
- 41 Dormant
- 42 Kunis of "Black Swan"
- 43 Giant bodies of flour and water that won't rise?
- 46 Marshmallow holiday candies
- 47 "I don't wanna know about your infection" initials
- 48 Elly May Clampett's pa
- 49 Check to make



- sure
- 52 Annual MTV bestowal
- 54 "Help!" actor Ringo
- 55 Turntablists, familiarly
- 58 Bout before the main event
- 61 Dye holder
- 62 The next batch of flour being from the same common grain as the last?
- 65 Cherry discard
- 66 "Wait, let me wash up first!"
- 67 Rain hard?
- 68 Like some winks and grins
- 69 Like some poker games
- 70 Naysayer's view
- 7 Lifelong pals, less formally
- 8 ___ noire (bane)
- 9 Gospel singer Andrews
- 10 Co. that introduced Dungeons & Dragons
- 11 Mic check word
- 12 Some English homework, casually
- 13 Writer Munro
- 14 "Against the Wind" singer Bob
- 19 Principle of good conduct
- 24 Current government
- 26 Paperback publisher named for a small fowl
- 27 "It ___ laugh"
- 28 Psych suffix
- 30 Pursued
- 31 Approach for money
- 32 Pitcher Hershiser
- 33 Stopwatch button
- 35 "(Don't Fear) The ___" (1976 Blue Oyster Cult hit)
- 36 White-tailed
- coastal birds
- 37 Stealthy-sounding (but subpar) sub-prime mortgage offering
- 38 "Waiting For the Robert ___"
- 39 Anti-DUI gp.
- 44 Top-five finish, perhaps, to an optimist
- 45 Joie de ___
- 49 Invitation replies
- 50 Net business, as seen in crosswords but not in real life
- 51 Ramshackle
- 53 "A.I." humanoid
- 55 Cope
- 56 Actress Gertz of "The Neighbors"
- 57 Cherry discard
- 58 "Ahem" relative
- 59 "Down ___" (Nine Inch Nails song)
- 60 1551, to ancient Romans
- 63 Insurance option that requires referrals
- 64 "___ said before ..."

FRIDAY, NOV. 27 >> MICHIGAN NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

If you're looking to avoid the crowded department stores this Black Friday, a local alternative can be found at the Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos. Native American art from local and national tribes is available at the center's gallery and gift shop. Friday's event will highlight unique gift options, including hand-crafted beaded tree ornaments. Children are invited to make their own peanut butter pine-cone craft to put in the backyard for bird and animal neighbors, and there is a seasonal card-making station with supplies provided. The center also has educational materials to give visitors a chance to learn about the culture and history of local Native Americans. 1-5 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27-29 >> 'THE NUTCRACKER' AT CHILDREN'S BALLET THEATRE

Sugarplum fairies take the Wharton Center stage this weekend as the Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan presents a holiday classic, "The Nutcracker." Under the direction of choreographer Gregory M. George, the young dancers waltz, gallop and pas de deux to Tchaikovsky's beloved score. Originally performed in 1892, "The Nutcracker" has become a holiday classic since its revival in the 1960s. This is the Children's Ballet Theatre's 35th annual performance of the work. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets from \$14. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

SUDOKU

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

INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 32

Out on the town

from page 31

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 3 and 8 p.m. \$25 at 3/\$28 at 8. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Nutcracker. Performance by Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan. 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

A Christmas Carol. Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 2 and 4:30 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, November 29

EVENTS

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

Wonderland of Lights. Light show at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-2710, ow.ly/UUF7c.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Comic Book Artist. Children of all ages can come up and sharpen their artistic skills. 3-5 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan

Ave., Lansing.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, cadl.org.

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

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 2 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Nutcracker. Performance by Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan. 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$14.

Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.
A Christmas Carol. Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 2 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, November 30

EVENTS

BabyTime. 0-24 months. Meeting at church. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

French Club. French listening, speaking practice. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Scratch Coding Club. Learn how to use Scratch

2 and create animations. 7-8 p.m. FREE, registration required. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Ask the Lawyer @ MSC. By appointment only. 9:30 a.m.-noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Tuesday, December 1

EVENTS

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Opening. AIDS memorial quilt squares on display. 9-5 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-2730, museum.msu.edu.

Altered Tour: Broad Art Museum. Historical tour of MSU area. 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Dinner with the Doc. Dinner and health discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd. Lansing. (517) 321-8568, totalhealth-fitness.com.

Sporcle Live! Trivia. Team based. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

After-School Teen Program. For teens in grades 6-12. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

ELPL Guest Barista Day. \$1 from each drink sold will be donated to ELPL. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Biggby (Lake Lansing), 3499 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1-6 >> AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT AT MSU MUSEUM

In honor of World AIDS Day Tuesday, and to bring attention to those impacted by HIV and AIDS, the MSU Museum is displaying pieces from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, one of the world's largest ongoing community projects. The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, comprising over 48,000 3-by-6-foot quilted squares, was started in 1987 as a way for family, friends and lovers of those impacted by AIDS to honor the lives of their loved ones. Today, the squares are displayed all over the country, bringing viewers closer to the human reality behind the numbers and statistics. Two blocks from the quilt will be on display in the MSU Museum's entry hall throughout the week. Other blocks can be viewed online at aidsquilttouch.org. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. FREE, donations welcome. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1 >> ALTERED TOUR: BROAD MUSEUM

The main focus of an art museum is, of course, the art. But the Altered Tour series at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum gives guests the chance to experience the museum from a non-artist's point of view. Scholars and experts from a wide variety of fields are invited to discuss works in the museum from their own perspective, adding in relevant cultural, scientific and historical perspectives. In Tuesday's tour, Stephen Terry of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing explores the grounds around the Broad, using archived photos of the area to compare the past with the present. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

F	O	B	S	R	A	B	B	I	T	T	V	A	S		
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T	O	N	I	T	E	S	E	Z	T	R	A	C	E		
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S	L	Y		N	O	L	I	M	I	T		A	N	T	I



HOLIDAY CATERING



(517) 267-4201
200 N. Washington Square
www.mediterancafe.com

Out on the town

from page 32

Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

Overeaters Anonymous. Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

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

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 5:15 p.m. (0-2) \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

MELT Hand and Foot. Class to release body tension. 6-7 p.m. \$12. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240, ow.ly/UUokk.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. Weigh-in 6:30, meeting 7 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Terese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

Transgender Support Group for Parents, Guardians, and Families. Safe discussion space. 7:15-9 p.m. FREE. Call for location. (517) 927-8260

MUSIC

Giving Tuesday Ukulele. Musical events fundraiser for music education. 4-7 p.m. FREE. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-4025, ow.ly/UUoxP.

Hugh Masekela and Larry Wallace. Jazz greats perform. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$53/\$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble, Chamber Choir, and Campus Choir. 7:30-9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

ARTS

Art and Ale. Art lesson and one beer covered. 6-8 p.m. \$30. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org/artandale.

Wednesday, December 2 EVENTS

Winter Wine and Stein. Casual drinks at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$35/\$30 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222,

potterparkzoo.org.

Suits and the City December Holiday Event. LGBT professional networking event with white elephant fundraiser. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. gaylansing.org.

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Starting a Business. Course for business planning. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcMichigan.org.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2. French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Aux Petits Soins-Travel bugs 2. French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Story Art Time. Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

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

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

ARTS

BroadPOP Studio. Getting crafty with concrete.

2-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

MSU College of Music: Tuba Euphonium Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Lansing Matinee Musicale December Meeting.

"Rejuvenating Rachmaninoff" and "Christmas in More than Three Minutes." 10:30 a.m. FREE/\$15 with lunch. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-9495.

THEATER

A Fisherman's Wife. Reading of new play by Purple Rose Theatre. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. purplerosetheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2 >> WINTER WINE & STEIN AT POTTER PARK ZOO

After the success of the zoo's summers after-hours events, Potter Park Zoo is bringing Wine & Stein back for a winter encore. Local restaurant and beverage vendors offer a wide variety of food and drink options for guests as they stroll through the zoo's Wonderland of Lights display. Holiday music will be provided, and the zoo's animal residents will be on display. Tickets are available online until 3 p.m. the day of the event and at the door until 7 p.m. Attendees must be 21 or older. 5-8 p.m. \$35/\$30 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222, potterparkzoo.org.

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ



KYLE MELINN
MIRS



SUSAN DEMAS
Inside Michigan Politics



ZACH GORCHOW
Gongwer



JOE DISANO
Disano Strategies

THIS WEEK
2016 ELECTIONS



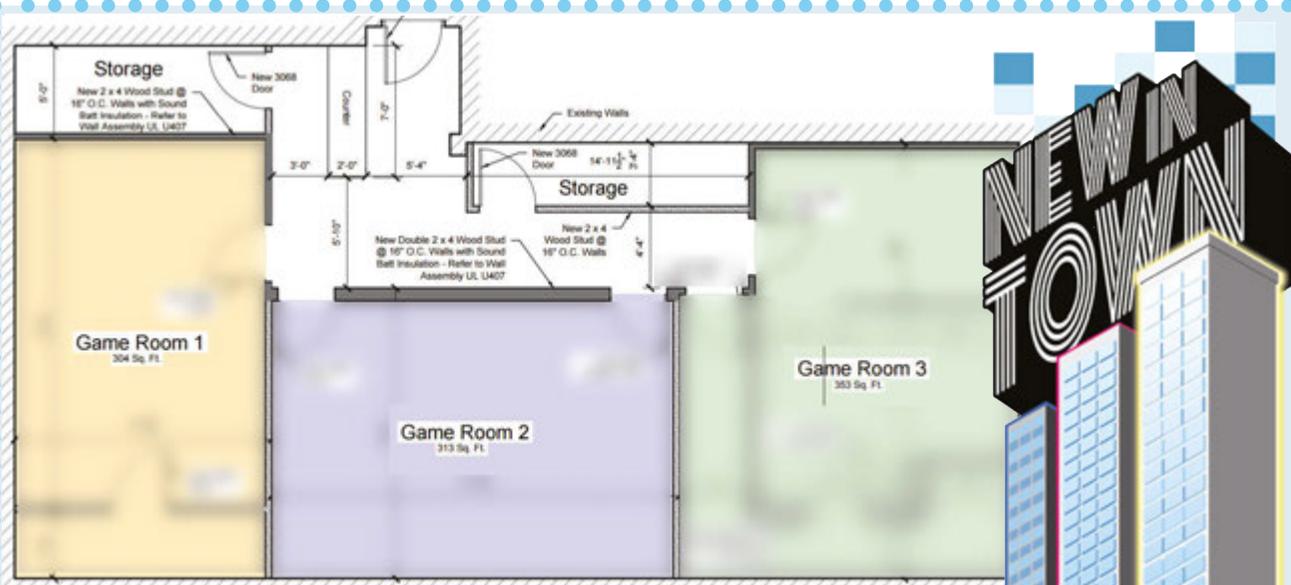
MY18TV!
10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

NEXT WEEK!
NEW TIME
10:30 A.M.

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING
7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2 >> 'A FISHERMAN'S WIFE' WITH PURPLE ROSE THEATRE

Lansing plays host to Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre Wednesday for a special one-night production. The Chelsea-based group is borrowing a stage from Riverwalk Theatre for a staged reading of "A Fisherman's Wife." The play explores one man's relationship with his beloved wife and his wish for a reality different from the one he faces. The reading is the first public performance of the work, which was penned by veteran playwright Timothy Mason, perhaps best known for his musical adaption of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." An audience talkback session will follow the show. 7 p.m. FREE. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (734) 433-7782, purplerosetheatre.org.



ESC THE ROOM/ARCADIA ALES

Courtesy Image

Entrepreneur Matt Ao recently received approval from the East Lansing Planning Commission for ESC the Room, a three-room entertainment concept based on escape challenges.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Generally speaking, if you happen to find yourself trapped in a small room with five other people and forced to solve a series of logic puzzles in order to escape — a process which may or may not involve wriggling through a narrow, secret passageway — you're probably either a character in a "Saw" movie or you're about to wake up in a cold sweat. Either way, it hardly seems like an experience you'd want to relive, let alone employ as a means of recreation.

But just as roller coasters capitalize on our primal fear of heights, a new entertainment business model uses natural human aversions to enclosed spaces and timed quizzes to appeal to a specialty audience using a relatively new concept: escape rooms. It's an idea that's growing in popularity around the world — and by next spring, there could be one in East Lansing.

ESC the Room received its first approval last week from the East Lansing Planning Commission.

"I was in China last year, and some of my cousins took me to an escape room," said Matt Ao, founder of ESC the Room. "I thought it was a great idea, and we

had a lot of fun. When I got home, I found out there were some here (in Michigan), but there were none in the Lansing area. So I started thinking."

Ao, 23, is a software engineer at **TechSmith** in Okemos. A startup business he was involved with fell apart a few months ago, which is when he decided to open an escape room in Greater Lansing.



Ao

"I thought it might be tough because of the safety (aspect), but I was confident I could pull it off," Ao said.

An escape room involves a small team of people who are locked in a space and must work together to find a way out within one hour. Of course, for safety reasons, the room can be vacated immediately in case of emergency. Sometimes

escaping is a matter of figuring out a computer password using clues within other clues. Other times, it's a series of interconnected puzzles

that leads to a key. It can even involve a scavenger hunt that requires collaboration between two groups who can't see each other and who have different sets of information.

"There are so many ways you can go with it," Ao said. "There's not really a danger in running out of (ideas)."

ESC the Room will consist of three separate puzzle rooms, which range in size from about 300 square feet to about 350 square feet. Each room will have a theme — one will be a walk-in closet, one will be an office space and one will be a bomb shelter — which will have various degrees of difficulty. Ao says about 95 percent of teams should be able to get out of the closet, about 75 percent should be able to escape the office, and about half should be able to solve the bomb shelter. Ao is working with an architect to design each room — including the construction of secret passages. The facility will take over the space formerly occupied by **What Up Dawg?**, 301 M.A.C. Ave. in downtown East Lansing.

"I did my undergrad at MSU, so I know downtown East Lansing pretty well," Ao said. "Even if it's only popular with 1 percent (of the local population), it will still bring in enough people to be profitable. I could have found a much cheaper place if I'd picked a place outside East Lansing, but I think this will do very well downtown."

Ao also pointed to the popularity of escape rooms in Asian countries, noting that MSU's sizable Chinese student population could bode well for ESC the Room. He said he'll likely charge about \$20-\$25 per person and estimates it will cost about \$20,000 to build out the space. ESC the Room could open as early as March if he receives final approval by Jan. 5.

"There aren't a lot of moving pieces when it comes to building this kind of business," Ao said. "It's not like running a restaurant, where you have to keep track of inventory. It's just a matter of constantly coming up with new puzzles so people will want to come back and try again."

Eastside Ales

News dropped this week that the new brewery that will be built at the site of a former PNC Bank in Lansing's east side will be a mid-Michigan branch of Battle Creek-based **Arcadia Ales**. The brewery will be a partnership between Arcadia and Urban Feast, the restaurant group behind downtown eateries **Troppo** and **Tavern and Tap**. No start date for construction has been announced yet.

November 19 - December 20, 2015

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by Tom Mula

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Motown meds

Detroit shop features quality marijuana, sleek decor

As a medical marijuana advocate, I tour the state of Michigan looking for the best products and services available at stores, provisioning centers, safe access points — or whatever other name they prefer to go by. Currently, the highest concentration of shops is in Detroit, with just over 220 in the city limits. From what I've seen, the city also has the most diversity of stores in the state.

I've visited shops that were so gross that I didn't even sit in the chairs, while others that were so great that I wanted to spend the day in there. I've walked through metal detectors, been asked to raise my shirt above my belt line and even been fingerprinted to get marijuana. I've been in shops that made me feel safe and shops that increased my anxiety.

One dispensary where I always feel safe is PÜR, which doesn't look out of the ordinary until you enter the building. As I walked through the doors, I was greeted by a security guard. It was very professional. I noticed he was monitoring cameras and watching the cars in the parking lot. Later I learned that he also offers to walk patients to their cars at the end of the visit.

PÜR
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday
16738 E. Warren Ave.,
Detroit
(844) 478-7842

The décor has a modern vibe, and I immediately noticed the shiny, sleek lines and neon blue lights. I walked past a decorative built-in glass wall panel with water peacefully streaming down and came to a seating area with a service counter where checked in.

Once in the queue, I had a chance to check out the amenities of the waiting room, a large, clean area that was inviting and peaceful. It was very comfortable and featured a well-stocked snack area with a few of my favorite munchies: hot dogs, chips, popcorn and fountain drinks. While waiting for my turn, I was able to scan the shop's marijuana menu.

Once my paperwork was verified, I was escorted through a locked door into the green room — which, in this case, was actually blue. It was large enough for four budtenders behind the counter, each with enough space to provide a reasonable level of privacy.

The trendy décor carried through the back room as well, and everything had clean, sleek lines and blue lights. It reminded me of a popular smartphone store.

Review

THE GREEN REPORT



STEVE GREEN



Steve Green/City Pulse

PÜR, a medical marijuana dispensary in Detroit, features a clean, sleek interior accented by blue neon lights.

Even though PÜR is large and looked commercialized on the surface, I was pleasantly surprised to find that several patients were greeted by their first name — a personalized touch I don't see often.

Although the edible selection was a little weak, it was conveniently displayed on shelves that were accessible by both the patient and the budtender. From the shop's selection of 20 herb strains, I decided on three: Maui, Headband and White Fire OG.

I enjoyed all three strains, but my top choice was the Maui, which was every bit as delightful as its namesake island. The

distinct tropical smell and hint of pineapple flavor had me feeling like I was in Hawaii — minus the ocean breeze. This sativa strain surprised me with its great flavor and smell despite its \$10 per gram price point.

Considering such a pleasant experience, I was surprised I hadn't heard more about PÜR before. This is definitely a great shop for medical marijuana users in the Detroit area.

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

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TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2015 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, *The Pulse*. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to [facebook.com/lansingapp](https://www.facebook.com/lansingapp) or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download. *Bon appétit!*

TOP 5 SANDWICH/DELI

#1 JERSEY GIANT

Lansing-based chain specializing in giant sub sandwiches (See web site for more Greater Lansing locations)
3700 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 323-6800
jerseygiantsubs.com
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#2 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 316-2377
soupspooncafe.com
7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#3 JIMMY JOHNS

Sandwich chain known for its "freaky fast" service and delivery (See web site for more Greater Lansing locations)
134 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 485-3300
jimmyjohns.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

#4 SAMUEL MANCINO'S ITALIAN EATERY

Sandwich shop known for its baked grinders
401 N. Clippert St., Suite B, Lansing
(517) 351-7492
mancinosoffrandor.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#5 STATESIDE DELI

City Pulse readers love the pastrami sandwich at this New York-style deli
3552 Meridian Crossings Drive, Lansing
(517) 853-1100
statesidedeli.com
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday



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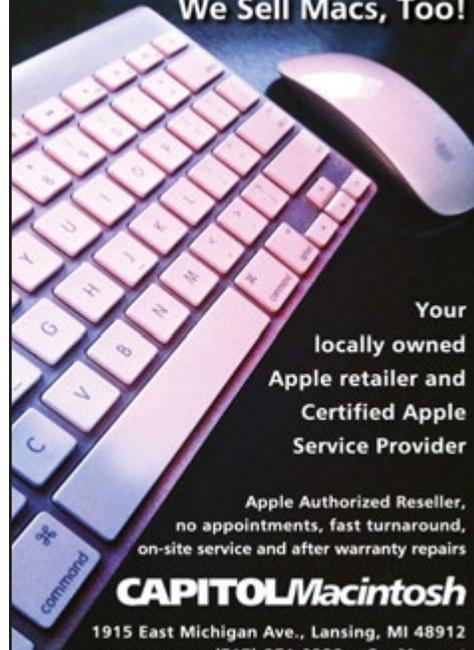
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